

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters](#)

Virginia documents pertaining to Joseph Harrison VAS3815
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[The following are from [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

To His Excellency David Campbell Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, [21 May 1838]

The Memorial of Catharine Harrison, Jno W Davis and Anne his wife, (formerly Temperance Anne Harrison, and Martha, widow, (formerly Martha Harrison) all of the County of Isle of Wight.

That your Memorialists are the descendants & heirs at law of Joseph Harrison who was a Surgeon in the Virginia State Navy, during the Revolutionary War, and who as they verily beleive was entitled to receive from the State of Virginia, the Land Bounty promised to an Officer of his rank for his services in the said war, and under the following circumstances. The said Harrison entered the Naval Service of Virginia at the commencement of the said War, and in the year 1778 or thereabout, was a Surgeon on board of the Brig Liberty belonging to the said Navy, which vessel was captured by the British, and the officers & crew were thrown into the British prison – that among the said prisoners was the said Joseph Harrison who never returned, but died a captive.

Your memorialists cannot state the precise period when the said Harrison entered the Navy there being no known witness to whom they could apply for certain information on this point. They are advised however that as he died in captivity in the service of Virginia he is entitled to receive land bounty for the whole war.

Your memorialists respectfully refer to the accompanying affidavits of Armistead Culley [Armistead Culley S8270] a worthy[?] of the Revolution, and of Robt. J. Leggitt, whose testimony proves that the said Harrison was a Surgeon of the Brig Liberty at the time of her Capture, & that both himself and the commander George Rogers died in prison. They respectfully pray that your Excellency will take this their memorial into consideration and accord them the necessary land bounty to which the services of their Ancestor entitle them.

[signed] Catharine Harrison John W. Davis Temprance A Davis Martha Gwaltney

Wednesday 9th October 1776.

Ordered, that a Warrant issue to Joseph Harrison for Ten pounds nine shillings & ten pence for Medicines furnished for the use of the Brig Liberty. From page 68.

The foregoing entry is truly copied from the Navy Journal.

Given under my hand at the Auditors Office Richmond, this 30th day of May 1838.

Jas. E. Heath aud'r

Norfolk Borough to wit [Feb 1838]

Before me M King Mayor of said Borough personally appeared Robert Jones Legget aged seventy three years or thereabouts who being duly sworn deposed and sayeth that in the early part of the war of the revolution deponent resided on Mill bank near Hampton [one or two undeciphered words] was familiarly acquainted with many of the officers of the Virginia State Navy, his Father James Legget having during the great part of the war acted as a Pilot and was employed as such on board of the French fleet during the siege of York. Deponent was also acquainted with many of the Officers of the Brigantine Liberty commanded by Captain Rodgers. She was captured by the British off Buckroe during the said war and carried as well as he remembers to New York where the officers and crew were thrown into Prison. Among the officers who died while prisoners were the commanding officer Rodgers and the Surgeon of the said Brigantine Liberty Doctr Joseph Harrison. Deponent shortly after the siege of York removed to his farm in Princess ann [sic: Princess Anne] and has continued to reside there ever since and further the deponent says not.

Robert Jones hisXmark Legget

State of Maryland City of Baltimore to wit

On this twelfth day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty Eight before me the Subscriber one of the Justices of the Peace in and for the City of Baltimore personally appears Armistead Cully who being duly sworn on the Holy Evangely of Almighty God deposeth and saith that he enterd in the service of Virginia in the early part of the Revolutionary war in Capt. William Smith's Company and he was afterwards transfered to the Virginia Continentals Commanded by Charles Tomkies [W6304] and took part in the Siege of York when Cornwallis surrendered to the American troops [19 Oct 1781]. the deponent was born in the County of Mathews in the State of Virginia, and was brought up to the business of a Ship Carpenter which he followed untill his removal to the City of Baltimore in the year 1818 or thereabouts, and his residence has continued here ever since. This deponent was well acquainted with Robert Cully who was an older brother of his. he served in the State Navy of Virginia on board of the Brig Liberty as the Chief Carpenter, which vesel was first commanded by Captin Thomas Lilly [VAS923] afterward by Captin Geo Rogers when she was captured by a British cruiser and carried to Halifax [Nova Scotia]. the said Robert Cully was on board of her at the time as carpenter and did not return from captivity until about the year 1780 among other officers attached to said Brig with whom this deponent was well acquainted at the time of her capture were Alexander Massenburg [R16060] of the Town of Hampton who was a midshipman and Doct. Joseph Harrison the Surjon of the said Brig. the said Rogers and Harrison died in Prison Massenburg subsequently served in the Henry Galley command by Captin Robert Tompkins [R102], he thinks as master. The Brig Liberty was a Large man of war Brig and mounted several guns probably as many as Eighteen.

Armistead Cully
14th March 1838