

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

Virginia documents pertaining to John Laws, Timothy Laws and William Laws VAS3877
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[The following are from [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#) indexed as Laws, Timothy. The file also contains copies of accounts of purchases by John Laws in 1777 and 1778.]

The Gov'r of Virginia

Your petitioner Dan'l Laws of the County of North'id [Northumberland] humbly, sheweth – That his uncles Timothy Laws and John Laws were in the state navy during the War of Revolution. That Timothy Laws was Gun: Mate [Gunners Mate] or Gunner and after being in service many years died in the service with the small pox a disease which he contracted at the siege of York [Yorktown 28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781]; John Laws was a Boat: Mate [Boatswains Mate] in the service and the Books of the ship Dragon by reference to them in 1779 will show the fact as your petitioner is informed by the oldest persons in this part of the country who knew him. The evidences in support of the claims above stated will, your petitioner is confident, be supported by the records of the Navy Journals. They who knew your petitioners uncles in service speak confident of the facts of service. Your petitioner for himself and brothers feel in duty bound ever to pray.

Daniel Laws

I hereby Certify that William Laws enlisted into the state Navy on board of the Defiance at a very early period of the war. he served his time out faithfully. The said William Laws died soon after peace was declared. he was in service several years. As before stated he enlisted early in the service and remained until after the battle of York Town in 1781.

Given under my hand sixth day March 1838 John S Kesterson

I John S Kesterson of Northumberland County State of Virginia in my seventy second year of my age do declare upon oath that I was a Citizen in said County during the war of the Revolution. That a family of Laws lived in s'd County at that time and their descendants ever since.

Timothy Laws was a Gunner or gunners mate when he died in service in 1782

William Laws his eldest brother was in the Defiance in the Commencement of the War and served his term of enlistment. He was at least three or four years in service. I have heard him say that he was five years in the Virg'a Navy

John Laws another brother of the said Timothy and William was in the service he the said John Laws was on board of the ship Dragon, he enlisted very soon in the state service on board the Dragon as boatswains mate and served his tour of three years. These three brothers were all in the service and Rerecord[?] will appraise; they were patriotic and performed, their duties, & deported themselves in such a manner as to merrit the respect of those under whose com'd they were

Given under my hand and seal this 6th March 1838 John S Kesterson

Monday the 6th day of September 1779.

Ordered, that a Warrant issue to Timothy Laws for seven hundred and thirty dollars as bounty for re-enlisting to serve in the Navy during the War.

The above is truly copied from the Minutes of the Board of War page 15.

Given under my hand at the Auditors Office Richmond this 28th day of March 1838.

Jas. E. Heath Audd'r

Necessaries for the Officers on Board the Ship Tempest.

Mens Names	Stations	Loaf Sugar	Brown Sugar	Coffee	Tea	Rum.
Celey Saunders	Capt	6 lbs	18		½	3¾ Gall's
Michael James [R47]	Lieut		18		¼	2¾
William Steele [R96]	D'o		18		¼	
John McNikal [John McNickle R74]	Surgeon		18			
Then follows sundry other names						
Timothy Laws	Gunner		18			

Note: The original paper is endorsed on its back Dec'r 30th 1779

The foregoing is a correct extract from a paper to be found in the 1st Vol. of Papers, Concerning the State Navey.

Given under my hand at the Auditors Office Richmond this 27th day of March 1838.

Jas E Heath aud

The cases of John & Wm Laws rejected

Bounty land allowed the heirs of Timothy Laws as a gunner in the State Navy for a service of three years [Gov.] David Campbell May 4 1838