

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

Virginia documents pertaining to Richard Mitchell VAS4026
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[From [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

The petition of William B. Mitchell and Frances B. Lemoine only heirs at law of Richard Mitchell decd. a Midshipman on board the Tempest during the Revolutionary war humbly represents that the said Richard never received during his life the land bounty to which he was entitled as midshipman aforesaid. They have often heard the said Richard their father say he was entitled to land from the Government which would one day or other, be available to your petitioners. Your petitioners have never since his death recd. any land or commutation pay on account of his service, as aforesaid. From an examination of the naval journal they find the name of Richard Mitchell enrolled in many different places shewing conclusively that he was a midshipman in the navy & they also find, that from a list of officers of the navy who are entitled to military land reported by John H. Smith Esqr that the said Richard is there mentioned to be entitled to land as a midshipman for three years. Your petitioners have not been able to ascertain upon what evidence Mr. Smith reported said Richard entitled, but presume, that evidence is still in his possession & if deemed necessary, in addition to what may be obtained from the naval Journal, can be procured.

Respectfully submitted by William B. Mitchell & Frances B. Lemoine

Feby. 1834

Petition for bounty land

The Heirs of Richard Mitchell Midshipman S. Navy

The navy Journals & Papers shew that Richard Mitchell was midshipman in the State Navy. They do not conclusively prove his service for three years. But there is a strong presumption of his having served at least that length of time; arising from the noting of him in the navy Journals & papers; and from the well known facts, that the midshipmen in the State Navy were appointed by the Captains, and that the papers of almost all the vessels belonging to the navy have been lost, or destroyed; and consequently it is very difficult to prove the time when a midshipman was appointed or left the service; also from the equally well known fact, that Commissioned officers in the navy never left the service, unless with good cause; the non-commissioned, or warrant, officers, and even the seamen, never left the service unless compeled to do so. I have seen proof of but four desertions from the navy. Therefore, in the absence of proof, that a mid's'n left the service; and where I have frequently seen him noticed in the navy Journals as midshipman, I have taken it for granted, that he served out the legal term of enlistment of the seaman which was 3 years. In the printed list of officers of the State Navy No. 5 I have Reported Richard mitchell entitled to land for a service of 3 years, as midshipman. Y'r Excellency is refer'd to that list.

To is Excellency Gov'r Floyd

Respectfully submitted/ John H. Smith Com'r &c