

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Virginia documents pertaining to John Patterson VAS4098
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

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

Philadelphia 27th March 1834

I do certify that I was intimately acquainted with John Patterson, Esq'r., who entered the Naval Service of the State of Virginia, soon after the Siege of York, and continued in it until the close of the revolutionary war.

My impressions are that Mr. P. joined the army of the revolution, early in the war, and served both in the Northern and Southern campaigns, and that he entered the navy as a Midshipman and acted as my father's [Commodore James Barron VAS1949] Secretary. During his Service in the latter capacity I became intimately acquainted with him the result of which acquaintance was a mutual attachment to each other – this is a fact well known to hundreds of persons now living. He was a brave and zealous patriot and a worthy and ardent friend.

[Commodore] James Barron [W12264]



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, RICHMOND, August 12th 1834

The Heirs of John Patterson are allowed Land Bounty for his services as a Midshipman in the State Navy for the War but it does not appear that he was either first or 2nd Midshipman The Register will issue a warrant accordingly, if not heretofore drawn/ ATTEST, Jno B Richardson

To the Executive of Virginia

The memorial of the undersigned respectfully represent, that some time in the year 1834 as one of the Representatives of the late John Patterson of Mathews County of Virginia, he presented to your honourable body the claim to land bounty founded on the revolutionary services of the said John Patterson was a Midshipman in the Navy of Virginia in the war of the revolution. That on the 12th August of the same year the claim was allowed, but in such a manner as to preclude the issuing of a warrant for that quantity of land, to wit two thousand six hundred & sixty six $\frac{2}{3}$ acres, which your memorialist, thinks he will be able to shew by additional evidence he was justly entitled to.

Your memorialist begs leave to ask that a reconsideration of the case may be awarded him and that the case be recommitted to the commissioner on revolutionary claims in order that he may have an opportunity of exhibiting his proofs in support of the fact, that the said John Patterson did rank as a first Midshipman so late as the 5th of April 1783. In addition to other evidence of this fact which he hopes and believes he will in a short time be able to procure he will now refer to a book labeled "Papers concerning the State Navy vol. first Executive department No. 3." this paper is a "Pay Roll of the Marines & Seamen [part missing from bottom of page] The authority of this document is believed to be beyond doubt, and exhibits at the head of the Roll the name of "John Patterson Midshipman and C.K. [clerk?]" which will more fully appear by an inspection of the aforesaid pay Roll.

Your memorialist respectfully submits whether the facts of the late period at which John Patterson is thus by the record shewn to have been in service, coupled with the impressing fact that he is the only Midshipman named as then in Service and Commodore James Barron do not irresistably lead to the conclusion that he must have ranked as a first Midshipman and consequently entitled to the largest land bounty ever drawn by officers of that rank. Our memorialist begs leave very respectfully to ask, that this case may receive such distinction as may conduce to right and justice.

[Henrico County, 16 June 1835]

Very Respectfully Chris. Tompkins

Philadelphia 19th June 1835

I do certify that I was intimately acquainted with John Patterson Esqr. who joined Hampton soon after the siege of Yorktown, and when Dabneys [Charles Dabney R13624] legion was reduced or disbanded, he was transferred from the land to the naval service of the state of Virginia, and was appointed a midshipman, and acted as my fathers clerk.

I was intimate with Mr Patterson from the time of his first appearance at Hampton, until his death and always believed as I do now that he was a midshipman entitled to all the pay and emoluments that other midshipmen received, nor do I recollect of ever hearing of more than one grade of midshipmen – but I can not believe that Mr Patterson would have accepted an appointment of an inferior character, if such a grade had existed.

James Barron

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "James Barron". The signature is written in dark ink and features a prominent, sweeping flourish at the end of the name.