

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Bounty Land Warrant information relating to Mathew Nightingale VAS422

vsl 2VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/19/13

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

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

This is to Certifie that Mathew Nightingale Inlisted with me the 10th day of September 1776 to serve in the Navy as Boatswain for the term of three years, which time he served [indecipherable word]¹ and faithfully and is hereby discharged. Given under my hand this 10th day of September 1779

S/ John Thomas Capt.
Protector Galley

Copy

May 16 1784 I do hereby authorize Mr. Saml. Blackwell to Receive my Land Warrant [one or more indecipherable words]² my land

S/ Matthew Nightingale, X his mark

Test

Saml. Blackwell, Junr.
Edward Downing

[From [rejected pension records in the Library of Virginia](#)] application by heirs 1837 15 pages

Council Chamber June 30th 1784

I do certify that Mathew Nightingale is intitled to the proportion of Land allowed a Boatswain of the State Navy for three years service –

Benjamin Herring

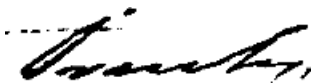
Thomas Meriwether

A warrant for 200 acres Issued to Matthew Nightingale July 1st 1784 –

I certify the above to be a true copy from record, and that no other warrant has issued for the same services

April 4, 1831

W. [illegible signature] 3rd Off'c

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Petition for bounty land

The Heirs of Matthew Nightingale – boatswain State Navy

The facts, in this case, are – Mathew Nightingale's name is on the Army Register as boatswain – a certificate issued to him on the 12th day of April 1794, for £122.14 the balance of his full pay due for his services as boatswain prior to January 1st 1782.

Mary Mason, a respectable witness, has given her affidavit – in which she says that Mathew Nightingale entered the service as Boatswain on board the *Protector* Galley, commanded by Captain Thomas – She does not remember how many years he served; but is certain that he was in service before the year 1781, and continued in it, until the end of the war.

In June 1784 bounty land was allowed to Nightingale as Boatswain, for a service of three years. The evidence on which the Executive order for bounty land was made, does not accompany the Petition I presume, it is on file in the Executive [image cut off at the bottom at this point]

[next page]

1st day of July 1784, for 200 acres of land: and the present Register of the land office has certified that no other warrant has issued, for the service of the said Nightingale.

The Heirs say – they are entitled to 2466 2/3 acres of land in addition to the 200 acres, for which a warrant has already issued.

The Military land warrant Books in the Land Office, show that in very many instances Boatswains have received 2666 2/3 acres of land for service of three years. It has been the practice of the Executive to allow that quantity of land to Boatswains. This practice may have been [indecipherable word or words]³ on reason & law. I do not say, that it was not. But, I must say, that I have never seen any reason, or law, which authorizes the allowance of as much bounty land to a Boatswain, or Gunner, or Carpenter, or Sailmaker, or Steward, or Cook, in the [image of the document cut off at the bottom] as is allowed to a Lieutenant in the land [image again cut off at the bottom and no longer legible from this point]

[next page]

the time being. The Gunner, Boatswain &c were not commissioned officers. I do not know that they were warrant officers. The [indecipherable word]⁴ of relative rank prescribed by the Navy Board in 1776, cannot be understood as placing Boatswains &c on an equality (as to bounty land) with Lieutenants in the land service. It cannot be understood as giving them any higher rank than that of noncommissioned officers. The land bounty laws of the State do not give them any higher rank.

It, therefore, seems to me that Boatswains are entitled to bounty land, as noncommissioned officers, & not as being in any higher rank.

It is for your Excellency to decide whether the past practice of the Executive Department will (in at least the appearance of conflict with the Law, & the Rule of Relative rank established by the Commissioner of the Navy) furnish sufficient reason for allowing to a Boatswain in the Navy, the bounty land of Lieutenant in the land service.

Respectfully submitted
John H Smith, Commissioner

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I hereby Certify that I was well acquainted with Matthew Nightingale of Northumberland County in the State of Virginia that he entered on board Row Gally *Protector* No. 1 Commanded by Captain Thomas during the Revolutionary War as a Boatswain but I do not recollect how many years he Served but I am certain that he entered prior to the year 1781 & Served until the end of the War.

Given under my hand this 23rd June 1834

S/ Mary Mason, X her mark

[Note: the petition filed by the heirs does not name them and asserts the position that Matthew Nightingale as boatswain as a warrant officer of the Navy was entitled to the quantity of land allowed a Lieutenant in the land service.]