

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Virginia documents pertaining to Richard Servant VAS4403
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

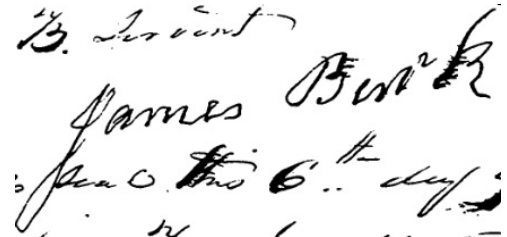
[From bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia.]

The affidavit of John Bushel eighty five years of age taken this 16th day of December 1828 before me Wm Hope a Justice of the Peace in and for the County of Elizabeth City who being first duly sworn on the holy Evangelist of Almighty God deposeth and sayeth,

That he was well acquainted with Richard Servant and knows he was an Officer in the State service during the revolutionary war, but what particular vessel he was attached to he does not distinctly recollect and of what grade he knows not.

John hisXmark Bushel

Elizabeth city county to wit. This day personally appeared before me J.P. James Burk Jn'r [James Burk S6649] and made Oath that he knew Rich'd Servent well, that he was in the war of the revolution and served in an armed vessel and lost his life at or about Cape Henry in defence of said vessel. That his body was brought to Hampton and buried. He left an only son Rich'd B. Servent



Rich'd Servent
James Burk Jn'r
Sworn to this 6th day

Given under my hand and seal this 6th day of Nov'r 1830. Geo. Burk J.P.

Elizabeth City County to wit

This day personally appeared before me Wm Jennings Sr [William Jennings S5615] and made oath that he knew Lieut. Rich Servant well and that he was in the war of the revolution and was killed by the Enemy at Leanhaven Bay [sic: Lynnhaven Bay] near the Capes of Va and was brought to Hampton and buried by the honours of war He farther stated that Leiut. Servant left one son Rich'd B Servant his only heir at law. he sinse dyed leeving Rich'd B Servent Sam'l B Servant Rob't Servant Eliza Servant & Ann W Servent his only heirs at law as witness my hand and seal this 9th day of Nov. 1830 Rob't Lively JP

J W Murdaugh on behalf of Samuel Servant and others the heirs of Richard Servant respectfully represents that said Richard Servant was commissioned a Lieutenant in the Virginia State Navy on the 24th of June 1777 and was killed in battle whilst in service as a Lieutenant The certificate of commission proves the fact of his having been an officer – and the certificates of Commodore Barron, Wm Jennings, James Burk & John Bushell prove that he was killed by the enemy whilst in service – and consequently became entitled to a Land bounty of 4000 acres. J W Murdaugh would suggest that the quantity of land allowed the Lieutenants has not been definitely fixed. In some instances 4000 acres have been allowed (see Lt George Chamberlayne [George Chamberlaine R23] Warrant No 751 & others) & in other cases only 2666²/₃ acres have been allowed being the same quantity allowed th midshipman & other warrant officers

Nov 18th 1830

J W Murdaugh

United States Navy Yard/ Gosport October 30th 1834

I do hereby certify that Richard Servant was a Lieutenant in the State Navy of Virginia, and further, that he was killed in an action with several British Privateers in Lyn Haven Bay, during the

revolutionary War.

I am the more confident in those facts, as he was my near relation (Cousin) and was brought up under the especial care of my Father, who was most affectionately attached to him.

James Barron [W12264]



[From [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

Saturday the 29th March 1777.

Richard Servant is recommended to his Excellency the Governor and the Hon'ble the Council as a proper person to be appointed first Lieutenant of the Boat Liberty.

The foregoing going is truly copied from the Naval Journal. page 200

Given under my hand at the Auditors Office Richmond this 22 day of December 1846

Jas E. Heath Aud

To the Executive of Va.

The undersigned, heirs of Rich'd Servant, a Lt. of the State navy respectfully represent that said Servant was commissioned a Lt. of the navy on the 27 March 1777, and died in the service. See certificate herewith filed, and papers on which bounty was originally allowed. Having died in the service, he became entitled to Land bounty to the end of the war Your petitioners therefore ask an allowance of bounty from March 29 7777 [sic] to the end of the war, subject to a deduction of the amount already rec'd.

Wm. R. Laws & others, heirs of Rich'd Servant dec'd

NOTE: The following is from Robert Armistead Stewart, *The History of Virginia's Navy in the Revolution* (1934; 1993 reprint Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co.) pp 55-56:

It was probably in this year 1778 that Lieutenant Richard Servant, nephew of Commodore Barron [James Barron VAS1949], lost his life heroically, as related in later years by his cousin, Capt. Samuel Barron [R6]: "Richard Servant, who had been 1st Lieut. of the armed boat Liberty, under Captain James Barron, was at the period of the incident on furlough and in command of an armed schooner belonging to the brothers James and Robert Barron and other persons, and he was killed in an action off Cape Henry, Virginia, after one of our most remarkably hard fights, but altho the force against him was ten to one—ten armed privateers to one armed merchantman-schooner of about eighty tons, he beat them all off until he so far entered our Bay as to run his vessel ashore about Crump's Hill or abreast of what is or used to be called the 'Pleasure House' (Lynnhaven Bay).

"Before he ran ashore he received his first wound in his right thigh, but as the bone was not broken he kept the deck and probably would have succeeded in his hope to reach Hampton, for he had gained the advantage of the Bay shore, and proceeded along in it only a few feet more than his vessel drew, but when the second shot struck him he knew his absence from the deck would tempt the enemy on board and then all would be lost. He ordered the vessel to run ashore, the militia came down, and drove the enemy off—several of his men were also wounded, and took him off and saved the property.

"The last ball went through his body and in two days after he died. His body was brought to Hampton and buried. A Captain Kemp commanded the Corps d honneur. I was present at his funeral and have not forgotten my tears, nor the bitterness of my feelings, for he was my favorite cousin, and I loved him dearly—he was handsome, amiable and much beloved."