

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Virginia documents pertaining to Robert White VAS4451
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

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

To The Executive

The Heirs of Robert White pray an allowance of Bounty Land for his services in the State Navy for three years as a midshipman.

Certificates of credibility of all the witness in this case are filed in the case of William Massey [sic: William Massie VAS517] Respectfully Ves Ellis Atty for the heirs

The deposition of Elkanah Andrews [S6507] aged about sixty six years who being duly sworn says he well knew Robert White in the Revolutionary War – that said Robert White was a midshipman in the galley called the Diligence in which this deponent served & that s'd Robert White served as a midshipman during the whole time the s'd galley was in service & until she was dismantled & her crew discharged.
[Accomack County, 20 June 1831] Elkanah hisXmark Andrews

The deposition of Robert Russell Sen'r. [W5753] aged about 72 years & who being duly sworn says he was intimately acquainted with Robert White before & after the War of the Revolution. This deponent enlisted in the 9th Virginia Regiment & served about 3½ yrs including his imprisonment & on his return to Accomack County the s'd Robert White was on board of one of the galleys & remained in service as a midshipman till the galleys were dismantled & their crews discharged. This deponent dont know at what time s'd Robert White enlisted on board of s'd Galley but he does know that he remained on board & in service till discharged. Robert Russell Sr. hisXmark
[Accomack County, 14 Sep 1831]

The deposition of William Welburn Sen'r [S7856] aged about 70 years who says he was well acquainted with Robert White in the Revolutionary War & afterwards – that said White was a very active intelligent man & this deponent understood he was a midshipman on board of one of the Virginia State galleys. This deponent knew him perfectly well & has good reason to believe & is in fact confident that he served in the navy as aforesaid till the galleys were dismantled & then was discharged.
[Accomack County, 30 Nov 1831] [signed] Wm Welburn

The affidavit of John Bull Sen'r who states that Robert White was a midshipman in the State Navy of Virginia whilst the galleys which were built in this County were in service & till they were dismantled & their crews discharged. [signed] John Bull Senior
[Accomack County, 27 Jan 1832]

1832 May 25 Rejected J. F. [Gov. John Floyd]

The deposition of James Thornton senr [S41253] aged 78 years who testifies that he knew Robert White during & after the Revolutionary War – that said White was a Midshipman on board the galley called the Diligence & served from the time said galley was first manned until she was dismantled which this deponent thinks was nearly four years. the said Robert White was a near neighbour of this deponent.
[Accomack County, 23 July 1832] James Thornton sr. hisXmark

The deposition of Washburn Mathews aged 69 years who being duly sworn says he was well acquainted with Robert White – that Robert White was a very active & intelligent man – that this deponent has always

understood from general report & the common understanding of the neighbourhood that he entered the Navy when the galleys were first built on this shore & remained in service till the galleys were laid up but this deponent does not know that fact of his own knowledge. I know the said White's character for Valor & patriotism he cannot doubt that he rendered all the services in his power.

[Accomack County, 24 July 1832]

[signed] Washburn Mathews

The deposition of Starling Collings of lawfull age who being first duly sworn saith that he was well acquainted with Robert White a Midshipman in the Diligence Gally during the revolutionary War, that the said Robert White was a very active officer on board of said Gally and that this deponent believes the said White enlisted on board of said Gally when she went into the service, and continued on board of said Gally untill she was regularly discharged, and this deponent believes the said White served on board of said Gally from three to four years, for this deponent was raised and lived in the same neighborhood of the said White at the time.

Starling Collings hisXmark

[Accomack County, 28 July 1832]

The affidavit of Elkanah Andrews who served aa [part missing]tion, & who being called upon to explain the true meaning of his former deposition in regard to Robert White testifies, that according to the best of his recollection & belief the galleys Accomack & Diligence were manned in the Spring of 1777 and were laid up in the winter of 1780 & 81 – he thinks that all the men were enlisted first for three years, but most of them remained in service til the gallys were laid up. He says that he was intimately acquainted with Robert White who enlisted on board the Diligence when she first entered the service & continued in service till the galleys were dismantled which this deponent verily believes was considerably upwards of three years. This deponent has no hesitation in saying that Robert White was in service as a midshipman as long as any officer of the galleys & more than three years.

Elkanah Andrews hisXmark

[Accomack County, 30 July 1832]

The deposition of James Davis [S8281] aged nearly 70 years who says that he began to serve in the militia under Capt Thomas Marshall about the year 1778 as soon as he was 16 years old & that he kept guard on the sea side near Chingoteague [sic: Chincoteague] regularly in his turn during nearly all the war, and after that year – that the galleys "Accomack" & "Diligence" were in service a year or more before he began to do military himself & he verily believes that they went into service in the Spring of 1777 & that they were laid up sometime during the winter of 1780 & 81 – and he has no hesitation in saying they were in service upwards of three years & nearly four years. This deponent was intimately acquainted with Robert White who was raised near this deponents fathers house & he recollects perfectly well that Robert White enlisted on board the galley "Diligence" about the time she first went into service & that he remained in service as a Midshipman until s'd galley was laid up. Robert White was a very active & intelligent man & this deponent always understood that he was a good officer.

James Davis hisXmark

[Accomack County, 23 Sep 1832]

The heirs of Robert White ask a reconsideration of their claim for Bounty land for said White's services for 3 years as a Midshipman in the State Navy. They present the following proof – [thee rest of this long letter summarizing the evidence below is not transcribed]

The affidavit of Jacob Sparrow [S7581] aged nearly 70 years who says that Robert White enlisted on board the Galley Diligence when she went into service and continued on board & in service till the s'd galley was laid up. This affiant thinks s'd galley was in service about four years – said White was a very active man.

Accomack County/ August 28 1832

[signed] Jacob Sparrow

For a synopsis of the acts of assembly in terms of service of the Accomack and Diligence galleys please

examine the papers of William Miles [VAS666]; which synopsis it is believed proves 3 years service of said galleys. 5 Oct 1832

The affidavit of Benjamin Russell Sr aged about seventy three years, who being duly sworn Certifies that he was born & raised on Guilford Creek near where the galleys Accomack & Diligence were built & manned & knew most of the officers & many of the men on board said galleys – that Robert White of this County entered the Diligence gally commanded by Capt Watson [Johannes Watson VAS2458] about the time she was manned & this deponent believes he continued in service till said gally was laid up – that whilst s'd galley was in service Thos Lumber [Thomas Lumber VAS997] a gunners mate of said galley married this deponents sister & he has a distinct recollection of said White's being in service as a midshipman with s'd Lumber & this deponent believes said what was is service the same length of time that said Lumber served.

[Accomack County, 3 Nov 1832]

Benjamin Russell hisXmark

This is to Certify, That it appears from a List in this Office of such Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia State Line, during the Revolutionary War, as settled their Accounts, and received Certificates for the balance of their Full Pay, according to an Act of Assembly, passed the November Session, 1781, that a Certificate issued on the 26 day of April 1785, in the name of Robert White as a Midshipman for £45.13.6, which Certificate appears to have been delivered to Col Cropper [John Cropper W3781].

Given under my hand at the Auditor's Office, Richmond, this 27 day of Dec'r 1832.

Jas E. Heath AUDITOR.

Accomack C H Va Jany 22^d 1833

Dear Sir [Wm. H. Richardson, Sec. of Commonwealth]. Will you be good enough to inform me whether the following claims have been entered on since 1st Jany.

towit Robert White Midshipman
Simon Stephens Seaman [Simon Stevens VAS1166]
Stephen Stephens Ditto [Stephen Stevens VAS1167]
William Mitchell Captain Navy [VAS716]
Eben Wimbro Seaman [Ebern Wimbrough VAS4452]
Edward Joynes Seaman [VAS1336]
William Miles Seaman [VAS666]
Shad Chance Qr. Master [Shadrack Chance VAS2950]
& oblige yr obt servt/ V. Ellis

1834 May 30 Rejected

To his Excellency Gov. [David] Campbell.

I respectfully ask a reconsideration of the Claim of Robt. White Midshipman. The claim has been twice or thrice rejected, solely on the ground that White's name is not found on the monthly pay rolls of the Galley in 1779, as will be seen by the names on the envelope. On this point, it may be remarked that not one half of the officers & seamens names of the Galley are on these rolls, because when the galleys were lying in the waters of Accomack (where they were always stationed) a large portion of the men were at home on parol with their families. The Accomack & Diligence galleys were built expressly to defend the Counties of Accomack & Northampton, as the act of assembly ordering them to be built proves. Whilst [part missing at bottom of page] those who were married were generally at home till some alarm was given, & then they flocked on board. A reference to the pay rolls will shew only 20 to 30 men in service at the dates of the rolls when there were about 70 belonging to each galley, nearly all of whom rec'd land. Beside, it is apparent that the lists are incomplete & only embrace 2 or 3 months. If my recollection serves me the following officers & seamen of these galleys do not appear upon the imperfect rolls referred to towit

Thomas Lumber gunner [VAS997]
Scarborough Bloxom Mid'n [Scarbrough Bloxsom W5842]
Levin Melson Carpenter [VAS338]
— Field Steward

Elk. Andrews Seaman (& witness)

Gordon Midcass Qr Master [Gordon Metcalf VAS655]

and more than 40 others are not found on said rolls & all of whom have rec'd bounty Land for their services in said galleys.

I beg leave to call the attention of the Executive to the report of the Com'r. of Claims on this case filed among the papers [not transcribed] & marked X as containing a conclusive view of the case. The Com'r. therein states that the name is not on the "imperfect" pay rolls but is on the army Register. He also says "I regard it as fully proved". there are 9 or 10 witnesses whose testimony is concurrent in favor of the claim, & the only defect ("not on the roll") is the same that exists in one half of the cases allowed.

May 12 1838

respectfully submitted/ V. Ellis/ for the heirs

15 May 1838 Bounty land is allowed in this case for a Service of three years as a midshipman in the State Navy D Campbell