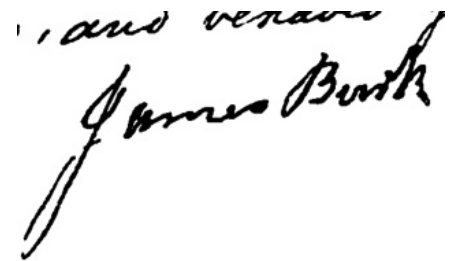


Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

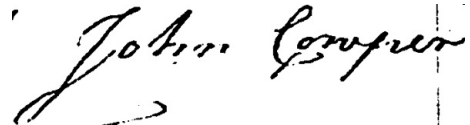
Virginia documents pertaining to Caesar Terrant VAS4686
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

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

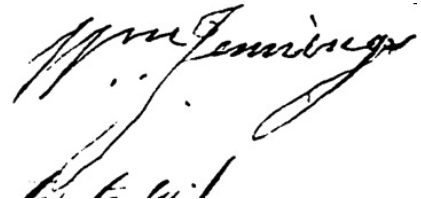
I James Burke [James Burk S6649] do make Oath that I was well acquainted Caesar Tereant Pilot of the Boat Patriot in the Virginia State Navy, that said Caesar, was in the service when I entered it, as Pilot of said Boat, and remained in it when I left it, as [undeciphered word] as I recollect, that I entered the service in 1778 and was discharged 1781. Said Caesar during the Action between Comodore Taylor [Richard Taylor S25873, Oct 1778] and a British Privateer at the south of the Cape of Virginia steered the Patriot during the whole of the action, and behaved gallantly
March 3^d 1831

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Burke". Above the name, there is a faint, partially legible phrase that appears to be "I, and veran".

I John Cowper [VAS1568] do make oath that I was intimately acquainted with Caesar Terrant, Robert Dobson [R36], John Gibson [R52] (Gunner) Joe Ranger [Joseph Ranger S7352] (Seaman) Pluto [VAS220] a (seaman) & [name lined through and undeciphered] who were in the Virginia State Navy after the seige of York Town in Virginia under the command & Comodore James Barron.
EC.C March 3^d 1831

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Cowper".

I William Jennings [S5615] of the County of Elizabeth City, and State of Virginia, do hereby Certify that I was well acquainted with Casar Terrant who was a Pilot in the Virginia State Navy for he steered the armed schooner called the Patriot Commanded by Com'r Barron [James Barron VAS1949] in the whole of the engagement between the Patriot and a British privateer of [off] the Capes of Virginia in which engagement Com'r Taylor was wound by getting his thigh broken. he the said Casar Terrant entered the service in the year 1776 or 1777 and remained in said service untill the capture of York town [19 Oct 1781] and behaved gallantly during all his service in the revolutionary war given under my hand & seal this 30 April 1831

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wm Jennings".

The Petition of the Heir of C. Terrant Respectfully states –

That her father Caesar Terrant was in the Navy of Virginia as she has been informed, during the whole war of the Revolution. But she has as yet, been unable to obtain any other evidence than that of Mr. James Burk and Mr. John Cowper. Their affidavits, however shew he was in service more than three

years.

Mr. Cowper says he was intimately acquainted with him, and that he was in service after the Capture of York. And Mr. Burk says C Terrant was in service when he entered it in 1778 and remained, as well as he recollects, in service, when he Burk left it. Now said Burk entered the service in the Beginning of 1778 as will appear in evidence among his own [undeciphered] on which he recently obtained his land in addition to what he had previously obtained. Connecting this fact with the statement of the two witnesses, and it is shown that Caesar Terrant was very nearly four years in service. He was a Pilot and in the action in which Commodore Taylor was wounded, steered the Vessel & behaved gallantly. Your Petitioner prays an allowance of the Land Bounty due for his services. Thos. Green for the Petitioner.

NOTE: The following is from Burgess, Louis Alexander. *Virginia Soldiers of 1776*. Vol. 1. (Richmond, VA: Richmond Press, 1927), 1219-1220.

Council Chamber Aug. 1, 1831. The heirs of Caesar Tarrant are allowed [Land Bounty] for his services as a Pilot for three years in the Va. State Navy. P. V. Daniel, Lieut. Gov. (Note. Caesar Terrant was a negro.)

Elizabeth City Co. 20 Mar., 1831. Richard Rowland was sworn in open court and deposed that he was well acquainted with Caesar Terrant, a free man of colour who served in the State navy as a Pilot; that he died leaving one child, Nancy Terrant born of a free woman.

Certified that Nancy Terrant is heir at law of Caesar Terrant. Teste true copy. W. Armistead, Clerk; attest, Samuel Watts, Pres. Judge, 30 Mar., 1831.

Abstract of the will of Caesar Terrant. "I, Caesar Terrant of Elizabeth City Co., Town of Hampton give to my wife, my house and lots, household goods, and balance of money after my debts are paid; after my wife's death, my houses and lots to be sold and one half of proceeds to be applied toward the purchasing of my daughter Lyddy's freedom; the other half to my daughter Nancy. If one half not enough to purchase my daughter Lyddy's freedom, I give all to my daughter Nancy; should she die without heirs, then all my property shall go toward the purchasing of my daughter Lyddy; if there be a balance, I give it to her and my son Sampson." He appointed William Brough as his Extr. Signed, Feb. 19, 1797. Witnesses, John and David Hicks, Thomas Chisman, and John Russell.

The will was proved Elizabeth City Col. court, Sept., 1797. Teste, Merritt Moore, clerk. Copy teste, W. Armistead.