

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters](#)

Virginia documents pertaining to Charles Thomas VAS4694  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[From [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#). The file also includes a copy of the last will and testament of Charles Thomas. The Captain Thomas of the *Hero* galley is unknown to me.]

[In the following abstracts, the Captain Thomas who commanded the *Protector* galley and *Hero* galley was John Thomas (R100), not Charles Thomas.]

Journal of the Navy Board

Tuesday the 13<sup>th</sup> day of August 1776

A Letter Wrote to Capt Thomas the Manager at the Rope Walk at Warwick directing him to furnish the Brig Northampton with Cables and other articles. From page 35.

Saturday 31st August 1776.

Ordered that Capt Charles Thomas furnish Capt James Cocke of the Brig Raleigh with such Cordage as may be necessary for the purpose of Rigging the said Brig. From page 49.

Thursday 24th October 1776.

Letters Wrote to Capt Isaac Younghusband Captain Charles Thomas Lieut Thomas Pollard [VAS229] and Lieut Jacob Valentine, From page 90.

Wednesday 18 June 1777.

Ordered that a Warrant issue to Capt Charles Thomas for one thousand pounds, upon Acct. to purchase Negroe's for the use of the Public Rope Walk. From page 237.

Monday the 18<sup>th</sup> day of January 1779.

Ordered that Mr Goodson deliver Capt Thomas ten Barrells of Pork and a Barrell of Brandy also three hundred weight Bacon for the Hero Galley. From page 532.

Wednesday the 20 day of January 1779.

Letters of Instructions were written to the Commanding Officer of the Hero Galley and Capt John Thomas of the Protector Galley. From page 533.

Thursday the 21<sup>st</sup> day of January 1779.

Ordered that Mr. Eaton be requested to deliver Captain Thomas fourteen Barrells of flour for the use of the Hero Galley. From page 534.

Wednesday the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of March 1779.

Several Letters from Captains [Eleazer] Callender and Thomas were received read and filed. From page 559.

Journal of the Navy Board. Beginning March 6<sup>th</sup> 1779.

Friday the 16th day of April 1779

Ordered that a Warrant issue to Capt Charles Thomas for nine thousand pounds on acc't. to purchase Hemp and other necessaries for the use of the Public Rope Walk. From page 19.

Thursday the 20<sup>th</sup> day of May 1779.

Ordered that a Warrant issue to Captain Charles Thomas for eleven thousand pounds to purchase necessaries for the use of the Navy of this Commonwealth. From page 40.

Journal of the Navy Board 1776

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December 1776.

John Thomas is recommended to his Excellency the Governor and the Hon'ble the Council as a proper person to be appointed first Lieutenant of the Protector Galley, in the room of Robert Zewell who hath resigned. From page 126.

Wednesday April 16th 1777.

Ordered that Mr Deforest the Baker deliver to Lieut Thomas twenty Barrels of Bread, for the use of the Protector Galley. Also five Barrells of Bread to Captain James Markham [R72] for the use of the Page

Galley. From page 206.

Saturday May 10th 1777.

Ordered that the Keeper of the Publick Store deliver Lieut Thomas six pounds of Seyne-twine for the use of the Protector Galley. From page 218

Tuesday the 25<sup>th</sup> day of August 1778.

Ordered that the keeper of the Public Store deliver to Lieut Thomas for the use of the men on Board the Protector Galley eighteen and a quarter yds of cloth; twenty eight yds of Linnen, twelve shirts, eight pair of Stockings, seven pair of shoes and eleven hkfs, on his paying the same. From page 454.

Wednesday the 20<sup>th</sup> day of January

Letters of Instructions were written to the Commanding Officer of the Hero Galley, and Capt John Thomas of the Protector Galley. From page 533.

I William DuVal [S8362] of the County of Buckingham Virginia do certify that I lived in Henrico County near Richmond & in Richmond more than fifty years & about Seven Miles above Warwick on James River, that Capt Charles Thomas I always considered as a Captain in the Navy of Virginia. that from his knowledge in Naval affairs, & his Judgment as to Military Stores, that he was detailed by the proper Authority of the State, in the Revolutionary War, to attend to Warwick to superintend the publick Rope Work at Warwick, as a Gentleman Officer in whom our Executive had full Confidence in as a Man of Judgment as to Naval Stores, & well acquainted with such Cordage & Cable Rope as suited our Navy. I had a good Opinion of Capt Charles Thomas. I can't say how long he continued as an officer at Warwick I believe he continued there untill the Spring of 1781 at which time Arnold, Philips & Lord Cornwallace [Benedict Arnold, William Phillips, and Lord Cornwillis] destroyed our Public Vessels &c.

December 7<sup>th</sup> 1833



Virginia At a Court held for Norfolk County the 20<sup>th</sup> day of January 1834.

The Court doth certify upon the evidence of Samuel Hays, that James Thomas, John Thomas, Ann Cooper, Nancy Beerman, Susan Carney, Martha Jane Bernard and Henry Thomas are the only heirs at law of Capt Charles Thomas who was an officer in the Revolutionary War.

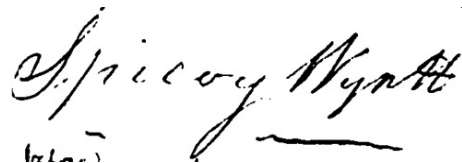
Copy Teste Wm. H Wilson

I Wright Carney of the County of Norfolk and State of Virginia do hereby Certify that I have always understood and believed that my Father Wright Carney was a native of s'd County of Norfolk and always understood that according to the family Register my Father if now living would be about seventy five years of age. That he has been dead three years the coming May; that I have heard my Father when speaking of the events of the Revolutionary War and the persons engaged therein mention Capt Charles Thomas as a person whom he well knew as having command of a Vessel in the Navy during the Revolution, and also of the hostility of the British and Tories toward Capt Thomas and other prominent individuals in his neighborhood when the British [undeciphered word] many and unsuccessful efforts to take the s'd Capt Charles Thomas and of their burning his house and destroying his property. That my Father the said Wright Carney at the time of making these statements had the faculties of his mind perfect, and was fully capable of [undeciphered] a correct relation of the events of which he spoke, and [undeciphered word] that his statements were corroborated by the report of others, and that I knew [several undeciphered words] now living in this part of country who could likely testify from their own personal knowledge as to the services of the said Capt. Thomas in the Revolutionary War.

Given under my hand this 25 day of February 1834. [signed] Wright Carney

I Spievy Wyatt [S6456] of the County of Norfolk do hereby certify that I was well acquainted with Wright Carney Sen'r late of this county, that we went to the same school, that he was man of respectable family and always sustained a fair character for veracity and correct deportment. That the said Wright Carney in the days of the Revolutionary War, was mostly in the merchant service, in what was called Letters of Marque sailing out of James River. That after the war he settled in Norfolk County not far from Capt Charles Thomas' residence. I do further certify that I was also well acquainted with Wright Carney the son of s'd Wright Carney Sen'r, and that the son was a man of respectable standing and veracity. That as to Capt Charles Thomas' services in the Navy during the Revolution I cannot speak from personal knowledge, I at this time having been engaged in the land service, and not becoming acquainted with s'd Cap Thomas until after the War, and then I only saw him occasionally, he dying a few years after the War. Yet from occasional conversations with s'd Cap Thomas and other circumstances, my impression is that he was in the naval service. I know of no person now living who I think could probably give testimony from personal knowledge as to Cap Thomas' services in the Revolution. Wright Carney Sen'r above named who died a few years since I should have considered as most apt to be acquainted with Cap Thomas' services, both from his (Carneys) early employment in going to sea, and his afterwards settling not far from Cap Thomas' residence. Given under my hand at Portsmouth Va this 29 day of Novem 1834.

Witness/ Wm. F. Wright/ Jno. Talbot

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Spievy Wyatt". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the witness text.

The Heirs of Capt Charles Thomas dec'd in presenting their claim before the Executive of Virginia, for his services in the War of the Revolution, respectfully beg leave to present the following views in reference to their Claim. By the Navy Journals it seems that Cap Charles Thomas is spoken of as Cap. of the public Rope Walk at Warwick; that he not only was required to furnish Cable and Rope for the Vessels of the War, but was to receive and purchase provisions, and Stores of different kinds, frequently having the expenditure of large sums of money involving considerable responsibility See an entry on Navy Journals 24 May 1779 a Warrant for £11,000 to purchase necessaries for the use of the Navy of the Commonwealth also other entries of like import.

Now according to the usages of the Navy, public Ship yards and establishments to aid in fitting out Vessels have uniformly (as far as the Claimants have ascertained) been under the Superintendance of Officers in the regular naval service, large yards having a Commandant of the yard, a Cap and Lieut and smaller yards not so many Officers, and that over the Naval Hospitals in this Country and in England are under the Superintendance of Officers in the Navy.

The claimants think that reasoning from the usages of the Navy Cap Charles Thomas should be considered as a Captain in the Navy, and in this view of the subject they are strongly supported by the Certificate of Maj William Duvall, which states that he always considered Cap Charles Thomas an officer in the Navy. This is the Certificate of a highly respectable man, a public individual, a practicing Lawyer, living in the days of the Revolution, under the greater portion of the time, in and near Richmond convenient to the place where Cap Charles Thomas' services were rendered, well acquainted with him, and we may fairly presume also well acquainted with all or most of the Navy board. Maj Duvalls mental faculties are still good his memory [undeciphered word] and his knowledge extensive as to Revolutionary men and events; the Claimants humbly conceive his certificate ought to have much weight.

The fact of Cap Charles Thomas actually being an Officer in the Navy is supported by the Certificate of Wright Carney shewing his having command of a Vessel of war in the time of the Revolution and the destruction of his property by the British. This Certificate is traditionary in its character, and the Claimants will not be so presumptuous as to say what kind of evidence the Executive ought to receive in these matters Yet they will respectfully remark that concerning events of such long standing it is the only evidence that can be obtained in many instances. [several paragraphs not

transcribed]  
November 1834

[signed] O Bernard in behalf of his wife M J Bernard, James Thomas and others

1835 March 16 Rejected

Philadelphia 20th April 1837.

Dear Sir I have received your letter of the 21st[?] instant, and in reply beg leave to say, that no testimony that I can give in Captain Thomas's case can be of any service to you, but a reference to the circumstances which clearly proves that the Government of our State was in the habit of employing their Navy Officers, otherwise, than in actual commands afloat is established by abundant testimony in the cases of Captain Cox [John Cox S8223] of Gosport, and Captain Maxwell [James Maxwell R73] of Norfolk, and will serve as presidence to aid the claims of Captain Thomas's heirs.

I am Sirs Respectfully/ your obedient Servant  
James Barron [W12264]



Virginia

At a Quarterly Court held for Nansemond County the 12<sup>th</sup> day of November 1839.

The Court doth certify upon satisfactory evidence produced before it,

That Captain Charles Thomas who died in the County of Nansemond sometime between the month of May 1785 and the 11<sup>th</sup> day of June 1787, and who died after having made his last will and testament, which is of record in this Court, being admitted to probat on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of June 1787. That the said Captain Charles Thomas left seven children viz. John Thomas, James Thomas, Charles Thomas, Ezekiel Thomas, Tolvin Thomas, Lydia Thomas and Elizabeth Thomas. That John Thomas was the oldest son and oldest child of the said Captain Charles Thomas deceased, and that the said John Thomas died leaving six children as his heirs at law viz William, Lydia, James & John Thomas, and Ann Cooper, and [blank] Thomas the Christian name of the latter not known, that William, Lydia and [blank] Thomas the Christian name of the latter not known, all died without issue, leaving their brothers & sister, James and John Thomas and Ann Cooper their heirs at law – and that James Thomas son of the said John Thomas has died leaving one child named Elizabeth his heir at law. That James Thomas, Tolvin Thomas, and Lydia Thomas and Charles Thomas children of Captain Charles Tomas as aforesaid died without having married and without issue. That Ezekiel Thomas one of the sons of the said Capt. Charles Thomas deceased died leaving two children viz Martha J. Bernard and Henry Thomas. That Elizabeth Thomas married Ezekiel Powell & has died leaving two children viz Nancy Beaman and Susan Kelly.

[Another untranscribed application for bounty land was rejected on 25 March 1840.]