

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

Virginia documents pertaining to James Vaughan and Humphrey Temple VAS4807
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

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

Application of the Heirs of James Vaughan mate Brig Thetis for Bounty Land. The evidence adduced is that of the records of the Auditors office a copy of which is herewith exhibited shewing that said Vaughan was first mate of the Brig Thetis one of the ships of the Virginia Navy. By reference to Navy Journal page 450 it will be seen that the Brig Thetis was built and named. Hen. Statues [sic: Hennings Statutes] at Large Vol. 10 page 247 it will be seen that the Thetis was among the retained vessels of the navy. James Vaughan was taken prisoner in May 1782 and parolled and of course is to be considered as having served to the end of the War, as decided by the Court of Appeals in the case of "Markam & the Commonwealth" [sic: James Markham R72 and VAS488]. The case of Humphrey Temple [Humphrey Temple] 2nd mate of the Thetis depending). on the same principles & also present for Bounty Land.

A. A Chapman for the heirs

His Excellency would confer a favour by considering and deciding the above cases as soon as he conveniently can.

A. A. Chapman

There is no evidence in these cases to shew length of service. Claims rejected

D. Campbell [Gov. David Campbell]

1838 May 7 Rejected

[The handwriting in the following document is extremely poor.]

Norfolk, May 15th 1838

To his Excellency Gov. Campbell,

I avail myself of the permission accorded me by your Excellency, to [undeciphered word] a brief argument in the cases of James Vaughan and Humphrey Temple.

The one was first, the other second mate of the Brig Thetis a vessel of the state navy, which was retained in service by express act of Va Legislature.

The evidence filed is, that both were taken prisoners in May 1781. The only points [undeciphered] are 1st as to the time of entering the service & 2nd what was the time of leaving & the circumstances under which their service terminated.

1: on the first point, I respectfully suggest that the time of entering the service & the length of the service are rendered immaterial by subsequent [undeciphered] circumstances – [undeciphered] be admitted that these are cases in which they served for a single week or even day, would entitle the soldier or [undeciphered] to his Bounty, as for example when a man entered the service & died immediately. The dying in service removes the necessity for 3 years service. So when one has enlisted & become supernumerary in a month afterward, this circumstance amounts to a constructive service & dispenses with the usual requisite of 3 years service. Being taken prisoner, in [undeciphered] the case, is strictly analogous to death in the service or to being supernumerary. And being parolled is just as strong a circumstance to dispense with the usual service of 3 years. In either case, the performance of 3 years service was impracticable and is therefore a stronger case than that of the supernumerary. The correctness of this [undeciphered] is borne out by the fact that several officers &c who were returned on the same roll as prisoners of war, among them I will list Capt. James Markham & Lt. Jno Hardyman [John Hardyman R14719] & Lt. Wm H. Parker [William Harwar Parker R82] have rec'd their Bounty Land and their half pay under a decision of the Court of officers in the cases of Markham and Lilly [Thomas Lilly VAS923], which decides that being taken prisoner is equivalent to being supernumerary or serving to the end of the war. If these positions be correct, it is immaterial at what time the service was entered, just as it would be

immaterial to know when a man entered the service who had died in it. The only point would be in such a case, did he die in the service. And so in the cases of the present applicants, it is sufficient to know that they were actually on board the Thetis.

[The letter continues for several pages, not transcribed.] [signed] Jos. Segar

19 May 1838

The heirs of James Vaughan are allowed bounty land for a service of three years as a mate in State Navy
Humphrey Temple the same D. Campbell

NOTE: The file includes a record showing that Humphrey Temple was paroled on 7 May 1782 by the
Commissary General of Naval Prisoners.