

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Virginia documents pertaining to William Wood VAS5083
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

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

To The Executive of Virginia

The memorial of Rebecca Culpepper, William B. Collins, Martha Peters, and Mary Jones heirs at law of William Wood who was a pilot in the State Navy during the Revolutionary War. Your memorialist state that they are informed, the said William Wood entered the Navy in the year 1776 at the town of Hampton, and served on board of a Vessel belonging to the State Navy, called the Tempest and served as they believe for three years, he was in service as they understand on board the Tempest in the month of December 1779. That the said William Wood died without being married and without issue, and left two sisters viz Rebecca Culpepper, and Elizabeth Collins. That Rebecca Culpepper your memorialist is now living in Cambden [Camden] County North Carolina. That Elizabeth Collins the other sister, died leaving your memorialist William B. Collins, Martha Peters and Mary Jones her children and heirs at law all of whom are residents of the town of Portsmouth in the County of Norfolk. They believe that they are entitled to military Bounty Land for the services of the said Wm Wood pilot as aforesaid in the Revolutionary War and they therefore pray the executive to consider this their memorial and allow unto them the Bounty Land they may be entitled to for the services of the said Wm Wood pilot. They therefore humbly submit this their memorial

Signed Wm. B. Collins

Rebecca herXmark Culpepper Martha Peters Mary Jones

[Certified in Norfolk County, 24 Aug 1835]

Elizabeth City County to wit,

I do hereby certify that George Hope appeared before me a justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid and made oath, that when he was very young there were three sisters, viz. Rebecca, Patsey, and Elizabeth Wood, who were neices of the mother of the said George Hope, who all at different times resided in his father's house. He remembers often to have heard them speak of their brother William Wood, who was then as he understood from his sisters far from home at sea. He thinks this he heard a year or more before the close of the war or about 1780 or 1781. That he believes the said William Wood never returned home, but died as he heard (at the time above mentioned) some of his relations say on board of a vessel of the small pox. That William Wood was evidently a waterman and he believes was a pilot. Given under my hand and seal this 19 day of Dec'r 1836. R. S. Banks JP

Norfolk County to wit

I do hereby certify that Celia Sewart [sic] personally appeared before the subscriber a justice of the peace in ad for the County aforesaid and made oath, that she was well acquainted with Wm. Wood. That during the Revolutionary war the said William Wood was attached to an armed Vessel belonging to the Americans, and that the Vessel was at different times up Nansemond river at a place called Knotts Creek, and that the said William Wood at the time of the war was a pilot on board of the vessel as she understood and verily believes. That the said William Wood left three sisters Rebecca, Patsy, and Elizabeth Wood. That the said William Wood while engaged in service of the Navy courted one of the nieces of this deponant Celia Stewart and was engaged to be married to her, but he did not return out of the service, having died as She believes in the service the neice to whom he was engaged to be married was named Julia Jackson, but the marriage was not consumated having died as this deponant believes in the service of his country. that she believes Doct. John Lyon [R66] was attached to the same vessel, as he used to accompany Wm Wood when he came to see her neice Julia Jackson given under my hand and seal this 3rd day of February 1837. [signed] H. Wilson J.P.

Report on the claim of the heirs of William Woods a Pilot, in the state Navy, for bounty land for his services.

To the Governor/ Sir;

The claimant has not presented any proof of his claim.

The following facts appear from the navy Journals & navy Papers viz.

That Wm Woods was Pilot, on board the Tempest in the years 1778 & 1779. The navy Journals shew him in service as Pilot, from Feb'y 27, 1778 to Oct 30 1778 (see large Navy Journal pages 360 - 416 - 439 - 444 - 469 - 496).

The navy Papers shew him in service from Sept 9 1779 to Dec'r 30 1779. (see memoranda for Sugar & [undeciphered] &c &c "Return of Spirit" &c and memorandum of "necessaries for officers" on board the Tempest" coming down to Dec'r 30, 1779 – among the Papers of the Tempest Vol. 1 navy Papers.) Wm. Woods thus appears to have been about 2 years in service, on board the Tempest. The above mentioned papers are all the Papers of the Tempest which have been preserv'd, and Wm. Woods appears to have been in service on board that vessel, during the whole time, for which we have any authentic accounts of that vessel. It is probable, the statement of the claimant in the Petition which has been fil'd, is true – that he the said Woods enter'd the navy in 1776 at Hampton, & served 3 years, as Pilot. The Seamen, in the state navy enlisted for 3 years, & the officers were bound, at least, for that time, to serve in their different stations.

The Journals of the navy do not shew, that Wm. Woods left the service before the end of the war. It is possible he was taken prisoner in the Tempest, when she fell into the hands of the Enemy, (I believe) in 1781.

Believing that William woods probably servd his full term of 3 years, as Pilot, I reported this claim good, in the year 1833 (see "a list of officers of the state navy" &c doc. 33. p. 17. in the Journal of the House of Delegates Session 1833-34.) I think, there are good grounds for presumption in its favor.

There has not been any allowance of bounty land, heretofore, to Wm. Woods, for his services, as Pilot.

The above reported facts are all, which I have it my power to report, in relation to this claim

Respectfully submitted/ John H Smith Com'r &c

August 27, 1833