

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Bounty Land Warrant information relating to Thomas Masterson (Marsdon) VAS519 [ysl 5VA](#)

Transcribed by Will Graves

3/18/13

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

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

To the Governor of Virginia

The heirs of Thomas Masterson a midshipman in the Virginia Navy in the War of the Revolution beg leave to state that their ancestor entered the Navy very early and served three years as a midshipman without ever resigned –

John Lowery knew Thomas Masterson whilst in the Navy & states that he served at least three years. See his affidavit.

Mr. J. H. Smith has reported midshipman Masterson as entitled to Land bounty for three years service. See his report Doct. No. 33 p 7 No. 175.

They respectfully ask that the Land bounty may be allowed to them as the legal representatives of said Thomas Masterson.

S/ Thos. Green
pr. Thomas Keegan J
Att. for the Claimants

The Petition of the Heirs of Thomas Masterson Midshipman S. N. for Bounty Land.

There is a memorandum on the back of an old Navy Journal which is in the 1st Auditor's office, of officers on board sundry vessels of the State Navy – on which memo Thomas Masterson is named as midshipman of the *Tempest*¹ – February 6 1779.

He is also mentioned in the Navy Journal pp 432-434.

John Lowry, a respectable witness, says that Masterson (or Marsdon as he was sometimes called) was a midshipman in the State Navy, and served at least three years.

I have already reported this claim good for a service of three years.

Respectfully submitted
John H Smith, Commissioner &c
August 8th 1834

To Governor Tazewell

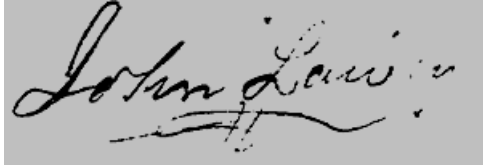
¹ *Tempest*.

Coggins:102, VANavy:162, 173, DaviesXX:143, 145, ND11:620, 806, galley in VA Navy, 1777-79, 20 guns, Capt Celey Saunders and John Markham, captured in May 1781 and destroyed. Dandridge:186 shows a VA ship, not a galley. Silverstone:20, ship. Paullin:411, VA ship sent to Chesapeake Bay, May 1780. Coggins:102.

<http://www.awiatsea.com/Other/Hough%20List%20T.html>

I certify that I was well acquainted with Thomas Masterson, commonly called Marsdon, in the revolutionary war – Said Masterson was a midshipman in the Virginia Navy in said war and served at least three years – the said Masterson resided on the Island in the lower part of Lancaster County and died many years since – His only heirs at law are Thomas and John Marsdon alias Masterson who now reside on said Island.

S/ John Lowry

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John Lowry", is displayed within a grey rectangular box. The signature is written in dark ink and includes a decorative flourish at the end.

[acknowledged in Lancaster County Virginia July 21, 1834]