

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Ross Mitchell VAS711

vsl 12 VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/19/13

[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 [rejected pension records in the Library of Virginia](#)]

I Jane Massenburg Certify that I was well acquainted with Ross Mitchell he having married my Sister. I have every reason to believe he was employed in the service: I lived with him at the time, it was always understood he was employed as a Pilot and part of the time on board of the French Fleet: but having never seen him on board any armed Ship I can only certify to the best of my belief. I do not recollect when he was first employed, but verily believe he served to the end of the war. He left three Children: John, Helen and Ross. Ross was drowned while an apprentice. John married one Sally Pastens [?, could be Partens], and has a daughter now living by the name of Susan Mitchell. Helen married Isaac Smith of Princess Anne and is now living in Princess Anne County. Given under my hand at this place this 25th day of June 1832.

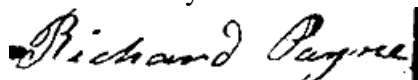
S/Jane Massenburg, X her mark

[Attested in Elizabeth City County Virginia on the date above]

I Richard Payne certify that I knew Ross Mitchell that he was a Pilot, that he was employed in the Public service as early at least as 1777, that he was one of the Pilots sent on board the French Fleet, And that he continued in the service till after the Siege of Little you York. I further certify that Helen Smith formerly Helen Mitchell is one of the Children of the said Ross Mitchell.

Given under my hand at Hampton this 25th day of June 1832

S/ Richard Payne



[Attested in Elizabeth City County the date above.]


I knew Mr. Ross Mitchell the pilot, during the revolutionary war, and for some considerable time after, but have no distinct knowledge of his services in the State Navy, the pilots generally were held subject to the call of the state authorities, and performed various duties in the line of their profession, and I have no doubt that Mr. Mitchell shared largely in those arduous perils which this class of our citizens were so frequently called on, to expose themselves to. On one occasion, I knew that he conducted a privateer Ship longing to Mills Cooper Esquire called the *Marquis Lafayette* from Nansemond River to sea, and passed through Hampton road at a time when there were three and twenty sail of English men of war lying there. This was considered as an extraordinary feat, and gained for Mr. Mitchell the highest reputation, but I am sorry to add that he never received for it, one cent, which was attributed to a difference of opinion between himself and Mr. Cooper as to the value of the service. The Ship was fortunate and made many

prizes, annoying the enemy greatly at Charleston South Carolina and other parts of the coast.

S/ James Barron

I Elizabeth Jones certify that I knew Ross Mitchell that he will was employed in the Public service as Pilot during the Revolutionary War, that after the French Fleet arrived, he was sent on board said fleet was at the siege of York. After the siege of York, he was still employed, and went out the Capes of Virginia And as I understood to Rhode Island. I further certify that Ross Mitchell left three children, John, Helen and Ross. Ross was drowned while an apprentice, John married one Sally Pastens and has a child now living Susan Mitchell. Helen married one Isaac Smith and is now living the widow of said Smith in Princess Anne County. Given under my hand this 25th day of June 1832.

S/ Elizabeth Jones



[Attested in Elizabeth City County the date above]

[Ann Hix of Elizabeth City County gave an affidavit very similar to that given by Elizabeth Jones above and on the same date. The only fact she adds is that Susan Mitchell, the child of John Mitchell is now living in Norfolk. She gave her affidavit on June 25, 1832. She signed her affidavit with her mark.]

I Jeremiah Cain certify that I knew Ross Mitchell who was a Pilot of the revolutionary War. I further certify that the aforesaid Ross Mitchell was employed on board Captain Richard Barron's¹ Vessel of the Virginia Navy, and occasionally was ordered on board the French Fleet, one of which he carried out of our waters; and further certify that the said Ross Mitchell was so employed until the conclusion of the War. Given under my hand this 25th of July 1832

S/ Jeremiah Cain, X his mark

[attested in Norfolk Borough July 25, 1832]

¹ BARRON, RICHARD VA Captain, Virginia Navy : Richard Barron was a resident of Elizabeth City County, Virginia, and brother of JAMES BARRON. [Stewart, 148] He was a Captain of Virginia Militia, and was assigned to the Virginia Navy [Sloop] *Patriot* on 4 March 1776. With James Barron of the Virginia Navy [Sloop] *Liberty* he recaptured the British Transport Ship *Oxford*. On 11 September 1776 he and James Barron were ordered to protect transport vessels taking troops down Chesapeake Bay to the Virginia Capes. [NOAR, 17] Barron was Captain, Virginia Navy and assigned to the Virginia Navy Brig *Jefferson*, from 1778-1780. On 11 October 1780 he was given leave to go to the West Indies to recover his health. His will was proved on 28 April 1791. [Stewart, 148]

<http://www.awiatsea.com/Officers/Officers%20B.html>