

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Mitchell VAS712

vsl 11VA

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]

Gloucester County [Virginia] to wit

This day personally appeared before me Joel Hayes a Justice of the Peace for the said County William James and made oath that he was well acquainted with Thomas Mitchell who was a Carpenter's Mate and that he served in that capacity on board the Brig *Liberty*¹ commanded by Captain Thomas Lilly and remained in the Service on board the said Brig for about three years until the time of his enlistment had expired and then returned to private life. That he died in the County of Gloucester in the year 1796 leaving a daughter Ann now Ann Ripley the wife of John Ripley his only heir now residing in the County of Mathews. Given under my hand and seal this 5th of August 1835

S/ Joel Hayes, JP

Report on the claim of the heirs of Thomas Mitchell deceased late a Carpenters Mate in the State Navy, for bounty land for his services

To the Governor

Sir,

It has been proved by one witness, that Thomas Mitchell was, in the war of the Revolution, Carpenters-mate, on board the Brig *Liberty* commanded by Captain Thomas Lilly; and that he served in that capacity about three years, until the tour of his enlistment had expired; and then returned home to Gloucester County, where he died in the year 1796 (see the affidavit of William James).

The name of Thomas Mitchell appears twice on the Army Register, as a Sailor, and once as a soldier of the State line – (See Army Register of the State line.)

¹ *Liberty*. ND1:410, Eller:174, 181, 184, ship, Capt Outram, loaded in York River with tobacco from VA merchants to go to Europe, 1775, later purchased for defense of the York River, Capt Thomas Lilly.ND4:204, 569, 672, ND6:1409, VA cruizer for York River, Cpts George Goosley, Thomas Lilly, active in 1776.Eller:201, disposition unknown. Eller shows a sloop, a schooner, and a brig, all named *Liberty*, in the VA Navy, plus the sloop re-rigged as a schooner and named *Hornet*. There is one extra vessel below.Silverstone:20.

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

Liberty. Coggins:102, ND4:672, ND5:1298, ND6:245, 728, 1227, 1409, ND7:994, brig in VA Navy, 1776, Capt George Goosley, and Capt Thomas Lilly, brig remained in commission until 1787.ND9:210, ND10:728, 917, in 1777 Capt Thomas Herbert.VANavy:154, it captured British ship *Jane*, armed vessel *Ida and Ann*, ship *Portland*, and vessel from Ireland *Liberty*. Coggins:100, VANavy:163, ND7:850, 1053, sloop in VA Navy, 1776-77, Cpts Walter Brooke and William Ivey. It captured the British vessels, *Lark*, *Oliver*, *Susannah*, and the sloop *Speedwell*. The *Liberty* was re-rigged as the schooner *Hornet*. C34.Silverstone:20.Coggins:102

Bounty land has been heretofore allowed to Thomas Mitchell a Sailor, of the State Navy – viz. – 100 acres – and 100 acres of land for each have been allowed to two soldiers of the Continental line named Thomas Mitchell.

It appears from the Army Register, that there were two Seaman in the State Navy of this name. But one has received [the image of this document cuts off at the bottom thereof at this point]

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for three years on board the Brig *Liberty*. I have not seen any proof, furnished by the records & documents relating to the Navy, of the Services of a carpenters-mate named Thomas Mitchell, nevertheless, the claim may be good, for the bounty land of a carpenters-mate.

Respectfully submitted

John H Smith, Commissioner &c

August 24, 1835

To his Excellency Littleton W Tazewell, Governor of the State of Virginia

The Memorial of John Ripley and Ann his wife who was Ann Mitchell sheweth that they have been repeatedly informed by those who were well acquainted with Thomas Mitchell the father of your female memorialist and they believe it to be true never having heard it contradicted that the said Thomas Mitchell at some time during the Revolutionary War (the particular time they have not been informed of) enlisted in the Virginia Navy for the term of three years and served on board the Brig *Liberty* commanded by Captain Thomas Lilly in the capacity of Carpenters mate if not to the full end term of his enlistment as long as his services as such [one or more words too faint to discern] that he did not resign his appointment or dessert the service that the said Thomas Mitchell resided in the County of Gloucester to the time of his death and he & his wife both died on or near the same time suddenly he dying intestate leaving your female memorialist his only heir then about nine months old. They further state they know of no individual living that was in the Virginia Navy during the Revolution or so they believe there is one in the said County of Gloucester for the County of Mathews where they now reside they therefore rely on the affidavit here filed as the best evidence they can obtain board of their claim for bounty land in consideration of the services of the said Thomas Mitchell which they pray your Excellency to allow them.

S/ John Ripley, X his mark

The Deposition of Isaac Smith² aged 78 years who being duly sworn deposeth and saith that he was well and intimately acquainted with Thomas Mitchell carpenters mate in the Virginia State Navy that the said Thomas Mitchell did entered the service in 1776 under command of Captain Robert Tompkins on board the *Henry*³ Galley and served as [several words too faint to discern] sometime in the year of 1779 having served three years & upwards in said Navy and I believe he served in the said Navy until the end of the war, but I know within my own knowledge that he did serve over three years; as stated above in said Navy. Given from under my hand and seal this 9th day of January 1839

S/ Isaac Smith

² This MAY be the same man as [Isaac Smith S11427](#)

³ *Henry*. Coggins:102, VANavy:157, M:389, ND5:938, ND7:1061, ND8:446, ND9:869, ND10:628, ND11:1159, 1166, galley in VA Navy, 1776-79, Capts Robert Tompkins, Joshua Singleton, and Wright Westcott, dismantled in 1779. C64. <http://www.awiatsea.com/Other/Hough%20List%20H-I.html>

Isaac Smith