

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

Addendum to William Mitchell VAS716

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. 29 Jan 2020.

[The following are from [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

[pp 24-26]

To his Excellency David Campbell/ Governor of Virginia.

A Petition was presented to the Executive of Virginia a few years past by the heirs of William Mitchell dec'd. late a Captain of Marines in the Navey of Virginia, in the War of the Revolution, for bounty land for his services. This Petition was rejected, on the grounds of his resignation of his Commission of Capt in the Marine Corps, some time in the year 1776. It is true, he did resign, and it is equally true that about fifty of the Officers of the Navey resigned their Commissions in 1777 and 1778 at least one half of these resigned Officers have received bounty land for their services. There is no doubt, there was satisfactory proof of the services of these Officers otherwise, the Executive would not have allowed them bounty land.

Your Excellency is reminded of the well known fact, which is proved by the Navey Journals, that the Officers of the Navey were often transferred from Vessel to Vessel, and from one service to another, and particularly that the Officers of Marines were often transferred to Commands of Vessels belonging to the Navey, or to the Land service. When these transferes were made, it became proper that the transferred Officer should resign his Commission in the Navey, or the Marine Corps, in order that his place might be filled by another. He entered immediately, without being one moment not of Service upon his duties in his new station. This accounts for the fact, that many Officers of the Navey, who resigned early in the War, received their Land Bounty. They finished their service of three years, or during the War on land, or in a different stations from that in which they began.

It is believed, this was the case with Captain Mitchell. The proof of his services after the resignation of his Commission is unquestionable.

William Stroud (a highly respectable Witness) has said that Mitchell was in service as Captain on Board the Brig Liberty in 1783, and had been in service at least four years. Major Griffin's evidence proves that he was in service at or about the Seige of York. Henry Buchanan says the same in substance as M. Griffin, and states in addition, that Mitchell was there in service as Captain in the Navey.

Your Petitioner now files additional evidence which shews that Wm Mitchell was in the service as Captain in 1778 and 1779 and was in some way connected with the Ship Tartar.

Your Petitioner respectfully refers your Excellency to the former petition and evidence above spoken of as well as to the additional evidence now filed and ask's a reconsideration of the case and that Land Bounty may be allowed for the services of the said Capt William Mitchell for three years services as Captain in the State Navey.

And your Petitioner will ever pray &c &c

L O Donington[?]/ Agent for the Heirs

[pp 27-28]

Extracts from the Council Journal July 1776 to 30th May 1777

page 245: In Council Nov'r. 25th 1776

“On the recommendation of the Navy Board – It is ordered that a Commission issue to Lieutenant Thomas Meriwether appointing him Captain of the Marines in the room of Captain William Mitchell who has resigned. Also that a Commission issue to John Shields appointing him first Lieutenant in the room of the said Meriwether”

In Council July 11th 1777
page 304

“Ordered that a Warrant issue to Captain William Mitchell for one hundred and seventy nine pounds four shillings upon account for the purpose of recruiting his quota of men for a company of Regulars in the service of this State. Bond requested acknowledged and ordered to be filed”

November 15th 1778 – page 358

“A Warrant was issued upon the Treasurer for three hundred pounds payable to Capt. Wm. Mitchell upon account as Recruiter Master to York Garrison”

Council Journal 13 November 1782 (page 298)

“The Auditors are directed to issue a warrant on the Contingent Fund for twenty eight pounds, eight shillings in favor of Mr. Benjamin Grayson in payment at the rate of eight shillings per diem for his troubles in superintending the Flag vessels [see endnote] at Birdshole”

Also a warrant on the same Fund for thirty two pounds sixteen shillings in favor of Captain William Mitchell for like services at York”

May 9th 1782 – page 144

“Letters were writ to his Excellency Count Rochambeau Commodore Barron [James Barron VAS1949] & Captain William Mitchell on the subject of the regulations entered into yesterday relative to Flags of Truce coming addressed to the State

“Letters 1st Decr. 1781 to 30th Sept’r 1782”

page 147.

Captain Wm. Mitchell/ Richmond May 22^d 1782

Sir, I have ordered the Flags now at Hampton road to York, where they are to lay till their [undeciphered word] is ready. You’l please to keep a watchful eye over them, and restrain them from going on shore but with your particular leave; and that only for either provisions, or wood. There are a number of Merchants & others come in those vessels, none of them must be permitted to land, nor any body to go on board to them but by your leave, and that you will be careful not to grant but to people you are well acquainted with, and who give their honor neither to carry or bring letters. I expect Mrs. Hubbard will be returning soon, if she does you must forbid her landing and inform the Captain bringing her that if he sets her on shore it will be a forfeiture of his vessel. I am &c

page 183.

Capt. Wm. Mitchell/ Richmond June 21st 1782

Sir, You’l please to permit Mr Daniel Neal to go on board the sloop Good Intent a Flag from New York and to take his passage for that port in the said sloop or any other vessel that shall be bound there; when he is once on board he is not to return to the shore. I am &c. B.H.

page 186

Capt. Wm. Mitchell/ In Council June 22^d 1782

Sir, If the Sloop Good Intent has not left York, you’l to give Mr. John Grogart leave to go to Mr. John Dixon’s in Gloucester there to remain for forty eight hours only & then to retain to his said vessell. If Mr. Grogart or any other of the Merchants should wish to return to New York by sea you’l please to suffer them so to do. I am &c B.H.

[p 31. The original of the following document puts the surname before the given name. Abbreviated given names are spelled out and the numbers of pension applications added in brackets.]

The following is a List of Officers of the Virginia State Navy who resigned their Commissions – The Rank of each Officer, and the dates of their resignation. They have all received Bounty Land.

Names	Rank	Dates of Resignations	Remarks	
Francis Bright [R16]	Capt	12 May 1778	Joined the Army	
Walter Brooke [R14]	Comm[odor]e	30 Sept “		
Philip Chamberlayne [VAS2946]	Capt	5 Dec’r 1777		
Byrd Chamberlayne [R22]	Lieut	20 Aug’t 1778		
William Christian	D’o	2 Feb’y 1779		
Alexander Dick [R13751]	Capt			
Henry Fleet [VAS3587]	Mid[shipman]	28 April 1779		
Argyle Herbert [VAS1500]	Lieut	29 “ ”		
John Hamilton	D’o	“ ” “		
Michael James [R47]	D’o	21 Aug’t 1778		
James Jarvis[?]	Comm[odor]e	25 June “		
Lewis Jones [W7904]	Lieut	2 Aug’t 1776		
Stafford Lightburn [VAS918]	D’o	12 May 1778		
Richard Lightburn [R63]	D’o	3 July 1779		
John Lurty [R65]	Capt	2 Aug’t 1776		
George Muter [VAS803]	D’o	2 July 1777		D’o D’o
James Maxwell [R73]	Comm[odor]e	25 July 1778		Became Navy Commissioner
Robert Milliner [VAS689]	Lieut	20 Aug’t “		
Richard Montague [R77]	D’o	10 July 1779		
Jesse Muse [VAS798]	Mid[shipman]	21 March 1780		
Thomas Pollard [VAS229]	Lieut	17 Dec’r 1777		
John Pettigrew	D’o	26 March 1779		
Daniel Richardson [R86]	D’o	1 July “		
Benjamin Rush	D’o	“ ” “		
John Sturdivant	D’o	24 April “		
William Stoll	D’o	2 Dec’r “		
Christopher Tompkins [R2636]	D’o	14 Jan’y “		
William Underhill [VAS2457]	Capt	24 July “		
Johannes Watson [VAS2458]	D’o	” “ ”		

NOTE: A flag vessel was apparently a ship traveling under a flag of truce. It appears that the flag vessels discussed in these accounts were employed in transporting merchants and other civilians attached to the British Army to New York City following Cornwallis’s surrender at Yorktown on 19 October 1781.

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Bounty Land Warrant information relating to William Mitchell VAS716

[vsl 31VA](#)

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/20/13


[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](#)]

[p 5]

The affidavit of William Stroud¹ who says he was very well acquainted with Captain Mitchell of Yorktown who served on board the ship *Liberty* commanded by Captain Lilly, in the time of the Revolutionary War – that he recollects distinctly the capture of an [indecipherably faint word] vessel by said Brig *Liberty* & the sale of her cargo in 1782 at which time said Mitchell was in service as Captain of Marines on board said Brig & he also knows the fact that said Mitchell had been at that time in service at least four years on board of said Brig in that capacity.

S/ Wm Stroud, Sr.



[Attested in 1832 in what looks like Williamsburg November 19th, but the location and month is very unclear and faint.]

[p 7]

I have heretofore given a certificate concerning Captain William Mitchell of the Virginia Navy in the Revolutionary War. In addition to what I have stated, I can further say that I was in the habit of seeing said Mitchell at my Father's house in his uniform towards the latter part of the War. Captain Mitchell belonged to the Brig *Liberty*.

York County to wit This day Major Thomas Griffin made oath to the truth of the above statement before me a Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid
March 16th, 1832 S/ Jno. R. West, JP

[p 8]

Williamsburg 5th November 1778

Ship *Tartar*

per record Navy Board

26 yards Flannel 18/ £3.8.0

For Bandages for the use of the Wounded belonging to the *Tartar*

Rec'd by Wm Mitchell

[attested April 27, 1838 as a true copy of records found in the Auditor's Office in Richmond]

¹ [William Stroud S6166](#)

[p 11]

Auditor's Office December 29th 1837

I certify that in an account or an old Navy account Ledger in this office under the head of "General account of Marines" commencing July 1776 was the following entries to wit –

by 26 – To Captain William Mitchell for amount of pay roll from 29 March last to 16 th instant on this day settled	£271.3.14
October 24 To Captain William Mitchell for amount of pay roll from the 16 th of July to the 15 th instant on this day settled	£436.11.10
November 2 – To William Mitchell for Bedding & clothing furnished his Company of Marines	£53.14.6
November 19 – To Captain William Mitchell for amount of pay roll from 15 th October the 15 th instant as this day settled	£141.16.2
to ditto for amount of disbursements as per account this day settled	£8.2. 7 ½

I further certify that on the same book in an account with Thomas Lilly Captain of the Brig liberty all the following charges to wit –

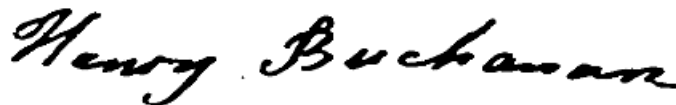
1776 November 23 warrant of the Treasury to Captain Mitchell	£21.0.0
1777 February 13 to ditto – ditto	£240.0.0

[Certified as true copies by the Auditor in his office in Richmond]

[p 22]

I certify that during the Revolutionary War, I knew several officers attached to the [one or more indecipherable words] of the Virginia Navy having been occasionally on board the Row Gallies & other Vessels among the officers I knew were Captain Robert Tompkins, Captain Lilly, Saunders & Captain William Mitchell of York Town of whom the latter served on board of one of the vessels belonging to the Virginia Fleet – which frequently cruised in the York River. I cannot say how long these officers continued in service having been then only occasionally when I went on board of the galleys & ships – but I have a distinct recollection that Captain William Mitchell was in the service in the Virginia Navy of them Revolutionary War at the time of the Siege of York at which I was present – I do not know how long said Mitchell served in said service before the Siege – nor how long afterwards.

S/ Henry Buchanan²



[Attested in York County Virginia March 6, 1832.]

[pp 24-6: mostly illegible, split image of what appears to be the petition filed seeking bounty land]

[pp 27-8: more split image documents.]

[page 31 is a copy of a list of Virginia State Navy officers who resigned their commissions and

² [Henry Buchanan S37807](#)

received land bounties. The list is only partially legible so I decided not to try to decipher it, hoping that a more legible version will turn up sooner or later.]