

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Bounty Land Warrant information relating to Anthony Morrison VAS761

vsl 4VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

7/19/13 rev'd 12/3/13

[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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

[From bounty land records in the Library of Virginia]

### Petition for bounty land

Anthony Morrison Seaman S. Navy

I have found an Anthony Morrison among the seamen of the Ship *Gloster* [*Gloucester*<sup>1</sup>] in November 1777 (see Navy Journal page 310).

The law required that the enlistment of seamen should be for three years – He, therefore, enlisted for three years – the seamen in the State Navy hardly ever deserted, and very few were discharged, as unfit for duty.

I have reported Anthony Morrison entitled to land for a service of three years in the State Navy. That report was made six months ago, and it is probable, I cannot now refer to the evidence on which I then acted.

If in truth, I had no more evidence before me, then is above offered, I should have reported the claim good, upon that evidence.

Respectfully submitted  
John H Smith, Commissioner &c  
May 19<sup>th</sup> 1834

To his Excellency  
Governor Tazewell

Sarah Morrison begs leave to represent that she is the only heir at law of Anthony Morrison late a Seaman in the State Navy during the Revolutionary War & that she believes the said Anthony was entitled to bounty land for his services aforesaid, as she has often heard him say he had never received his land, as all those who served with him had either died or removed from the County so that he was at a loss where to obtain evidence to establish his claim. Since the said Anthony's death, she has been informed, that his claim has been acted upon favorably by J. H. Smith Esquire the Agent for the Commonwealth, in his lists at 51 pa. 15 to which she refers the Executive & humbly prays that an order will be forth with issued for the full allowance of land made to seamen for similar services.

Respectfully submitted  
S/ Sarah Morrison, X her mark

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<sup>1</sup> *Gloucester*. Coggins:102, VANavy:161, ND11:1163, ship of the VA Navy in 1777-79, Capt Thomas Lilly.C336, VA Navy Capt Thomas Whiting, Apr 7777.Dandridge:186, 187, used as a prison ship, beginning in 1780.Silverstone:20.Paullin:406, added to Navy in 1777. <http://www.awiatsea.com/Other/Hough%20List%20G.html>

Lancaster County  
April 7<sup>th</sup> 1834

[Note: C. Leon Harris adds: *I recently came across a 1942 paper in the Journal of Negro History (<http://www.latinamericanstudies.org/slavery/JNH-7-1942.pdf>) with a list of African American veterans, which I have been checking. The list includes Anthony Morrison, a seaman from Lancaster County whose application VAS761 you transcribed. The 1820 federal census confirms that "Antho Morrison" of that county was indeed head of a family of free persons of color: 1 male under 14, 1 male over 45, and one female over 45.]*

[Note: Morrison is also listed in Bobby Gilmer Moss and Michael C. Scoggins. *African-American Patriots in the Southern Campaign of the American Revolution*. Blacksburg, SC: Scotia-Hibernia Press, 2004 at 165]

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Lancaster County legislative petition's [From [Digital Library of Virginia](#) ]

#### Revolutionary Claims

Form of a declaration to be made by the non-Commissioned officers, musicians and privates For the purpose of obtaining the benefits of the act entitled "An act for the relief of certain surviving officers & soldiers of the Army of the Revolution approved on the 15<sup>th</sup> May 1828

I Anthony Morrison of the County of Lancaster & State of Virginia do hereby declare that I enlisted in the Navy soon after the Commencement of the Revolutionary War under Capt. Thomas Pollard<sup>2</sup> for & during the war & continued in its service until its termination – that the said Pollard transferred me to Capt. Lilly [probably Thomas Lilly] of the Navy in the Ship *Gloucester* & I was a cook on board said ship – that I was transferred on board the *Northampton* Brig Capt. Elliott [perhaps George Elliott, Junior]<sup>3</sup>. And I also do declare that I received a discharge, which has been lost. And I further declare that I was not, on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May 1828 on the Pension list of the United States – & I have neither received any land or money from the United States or state of Virginia since my discharge.

Witness my hand this 1<sup>st</sup> day of February in the year 1832

Witness

S/ George W Downman

S/ Anthony Morrison, X his mark

Before me George W Downman a justice of the peace in the County of Lancaster & State of Virginia personally appeared this day John Kimm and Richard B Hutt of the said County persons known to meet as credible witnesses, who did severally make oath that Anthony Morrison by whom the foregoing declaration was subscribed is generally reputed & believed to have been in the Navy during the Revolutionary war, in manner as therein stated. Witness my hand this 15<sup>th</sup> day of February 1832

S/ George W Downman

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<sup>2</sup> [Thomas Pollard R17132](#) & [Thomas Pollard VAS229](#)

<sup>3</sup> ELLIOTT, GEORGE, JR. VA Captain, Virginia Navy George Elliott, Jr. was commissioned as a Captain in the Virginia Navy on 12 October 1776 and assigned to the Virginia Navy Galley *Safeguard*. [NOAR, 101-102] <http://www.awiatsea.com/Officers/Officers%20E.html>

[Reverse]

Free  
J. W. Chinn  
Antho: Mollisins [sic] Rev: Claim  
Robt. W. Carter  
of the House of Delegates  
Richmond Virginia  
December 14<sup>th</sup>, 1832  
Referred to Claims  
January 11<sup>th</sup>  
Com<sup>ee</sup> discharged & laid on table  
No petition nor resolution accompanying these papers

[Note: This file contains a letter dated March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1832 sent by J. W. Chinn<sup>4</sup> to Colo. Robt Carter in which the correspondent requests the aid of Carter in obtaining a pension for the veteran; the correspondent states that he believes the narrative given by the petitioner; that the petitioner is 100 years old and perhaps the oldest person in the County; that the petitioner has "no free children"; that if Carter is not able to obtain any relief for the petitioner, then Chinn will try to get some relief "here"[presumably in the US House of Representatives]. Because the handwriting is very challenging and subject to various interpretations in substantial portions thereof, I have elected not to transcribe it but to give the above summary in lieu thereof.]

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[Another file]

The affidavit of Thomas Kent before me a Justice of the Peace for the County of Lancaster & State of Virginia, this affiant states that Anthony Morrison enlisted in the naval service of Virginia in the Revolutionary war under Capt. Thomas Pollard of the said County of Lancaster that this affiant in the said Anthony Morrison were marched with many others to Williamsburg where the said Morrison was put on board of an armed vessel belonging to Virginia the name of the said vessel is not now recollected by this affiant & he believes that the said Morrison served until the end of the War & further this affiant saith not.

Given under my hand & seal this 1<sup>st</sup> day of December 1821  
S/ Jno. Hall, JP

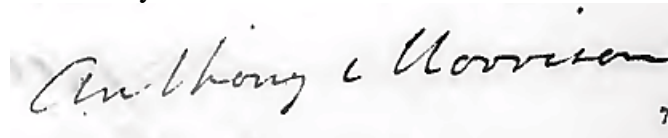
To the Hon. the Speakers & Members of the Legislature of Virginia in General assembly convened, your petitioner Anthony Morrison, Sheweth that when he was about forty years of age

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<sup>4</sup> CHINN, Joseph William, a Representative from Virginia; born at "Epping Forest," near Nuttsville, Lancaster County, Va., on November 16, 1798; was graduated from Union College, Schenectady, N.Y., in 1819; studied law at Needham, Va.; was admitted to the bar in 1821 and practiced in Lancaster County, Va., member of the State house of delegates 1826-1828; served in the State senate 1829-1831; elected as a Jacksonian to the Twenty-second and Twenty-third Congresses (March 4, 1831-March 3, 1835); chairman, Committee on District of Columbia (Twenty-third Congress); moved to Richmond, Va., where he resumed the practice of his profession; died on his estate, "Wilna," near Richmond, Va., on December 5, 1840; interment in the family burying ground at "Wilna."  
<http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=C000362>

he enlisted in the service of Virginia as a soldier in the Revolutionary War, under Capt. Thomas Pollard of the County of Lancaster & State of Virginia; that your petitioner was marched with many others by the same Capt. T. Pollard to the City of Williamsburg, where your petitioner by his own consent was placed on board of an armed vessel then in the State service commanded by Capt. Taylor; that he served his country faithfully for more than three years, when he was honorably discharged from the said service. Your petitioner is a man of colour [man of color], and one who has conducted himself with that propriety that ought always to characterize a good Citizen, laboring honestly to support himself without resorting to those pernicious & disgraceful practices to which too many persons of his description are in the habit of doing; always believing that should the time ever arrive when he could not work for his support, that the Gratitude of the Enlightened Representatives of that State for whose liberty & independency he fought & wasted as regards himself a part of the prime of his life would afford him an humble pittance for his support. Your petitioner has now arrived at the age of eighty-six years, his shattered & trembling lambs are now tottering over the grave & must soon expect to bid a final farewell to those sublunary blessings he bore a humble part in obtaining for himself & Country at large. There is but one individual now living who served with your petitioner so far as he knows, whose affidavit accompanies this petition together with the affidavit of Col. James Ball, many more of the latter description could have been obtained, but your petitioner refers to one of the Hon. Representatives from Lancaster for evidence of his good conduct heretofore & of his absolute need of assistance at present. Your petitioner therefore concludes by praying your Hon. body to grant him a small pension during his life & something for his present relief.

S/ Anthony Morrison

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anthony Morrison". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background. There is a small number "7" written at the bottom right of the signature.

November 30<sup>th</sup> 1821

[Note: An affidavit dated November 29, 1821 given by James Ball appears in this file but the image is so faint as to render it largely indecipherable.]