

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Bounty Land Warrant information relating to Thomas Lilly VAS923

vsl 2VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

10/8/13

[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. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. 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 skills fail 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 material errors or omissions to my attention.]

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

These are to Certify the bearer hereof Captain Thomas Lilly served as a Captain in the Navy of this state from the date of his Commission until some of the 12 foots were sold & the Barge *Liberty*¹ which he Commanded was put in the [indecipherable word]² Department & there being more captains than Vessels he retired but did not to my knowledge resign his Commission & I further Certify that Captain Lilly did call on me in 1780 & 1781 to know if I had any Employment for him in the Navy as he considered himself an Officer & should obey my Orders whenever called on, that he attended the French Fleet at the reduction of York Town & gave [indecipherable word]³ Assistance in his Person [?]⁴, I know to my knowledge being personal the dates of the Siege.

Given under my hand this 19th April 1784

S/ Jas. Barron [James Barron]⁵

Copy

S/ Thomas Meriwether

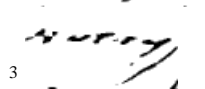
¹ *Liberty*. ND1:410, Eller:174, 181, 184, ship, Capt Outram, loaded in York River with tobacco from VA merchants to go to Europe, 1775, later purchased for defense of the York River, Capt Thomas Lilly. ND4:204, 569, 672, ND6:1409, VA cruiser for York River, Capts George Goosley, Thomas Lilly, active 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.

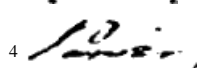
<http://www.awiatsea.com/Other/Hough%20List%20L.html>

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, Capts 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*. Silverstone:20. Coggins:102

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

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⁵ [James Barron W12264](#)

[the file documents also direct those interested to see the files of George Rodgers, 1833 and Capt. James Gray, 1850]

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

In Henrico Superior Court of law April 9, 1827

John Chowning Junior Administrator *de bonis non* of Thomas Lilly dec'd appl. [Appellant]

Against

The Commonwealth, Appee [Appellee]

Upon an appeal from a decision of the Auditor of Public Accounts, whereby the claim of the Appellant against the Commonwealth for half pay during the life of his intestate, who was a Captain in the Navy of this State in the revolutionary War was disallowed –

This day came as well the appellant by his attorney as the Attorney General for the Commonwealth who being fully heard it seems to the Court that the Appellant's Claim is not barred by the Statute act of limitations: and it appearing by the evidence on the fact of the Appellant which is filed in this cause, and admitted by the Attorney General to be read as such without objection, That the Intestate was a Captain in the Naval Service of this Commonwealth in the Revolutionary War, and that he continued to serve as such to the end thereof, the court is of opinion that the said Intestate was entitled to half pay during his life, and that the Auditor of Public Accounts erred in disallowing the claim thereof, presented to him by the Appellant. It is ordered that the Auditor of Public Accounts issue and deliver to the Appellant a Warrant on the Treasurer of this Commonwealth for the said half pay to wit from the 22nd day of April 1783, till the death of the said Intestate which occurred on the 1st day of April 1798. From this Judgment the Attorney General for the Commonwealth trade and appealed to the Court of Appeals, which is allowed; and by consent of the said Attorney General and the Appellant the evidence filed in this cause and read is to be copied and to make a part of the record.

A Copy

Teste: S/ J. Robinson, C. H. L. C.

Mathews County Court – February the 13th 1826

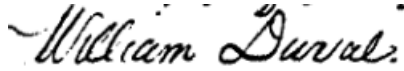
On the motion of John Chowning Junior (who intermarried with Elizabeth Lilly daughter of Thomas Lilly deceased) who made oath, together with Thomas Hudgins and Thomas Edwards his securities, entered into and acknowledged their bond in the penalty of eight thousand pounds conditioned according to law, certified as granted the said John Chowning Junior for obtaining Letters of Administrator *de bonis non* on the estate of the said Thomas Lilly deceased according to law.

A Copy

Teste: S/ Th. R. Yeatman, CMC

I William Duval of the County of Buckingham do hereby certify that I was acquainted with Captain Thomas Lilly and that he was a Captain in the Navy of the State of Virginia during the Revolutionary War. I know that he continued in the service until a very late period thereof. I never heard of his resigning his Commission or of his being removed but I do believe that he continued in service until the end of the War as made known by the Governor's proclamation in 1783. I further certify that the said Thomas Lilly in his lifetime considered himself entitled to his half pay for life.

S/ William Duval



[Acknowledged in the City of Richmond December 5, 1826]

I certify that on the 26 April 1780 for a military warrant No. 30194 5333 1/3 acres of Land was issued from this Office to Thomas Lilly for three years service as a Captain in the Virginia State Navy of the Revolution: & that no other land has issued from this office on account of the service.

S/ W. Selden, R. L. Off. July 31, 1832

In Council 3rd August 1776

Ordered that Commissions issued appointing Thomas Lilly Esquire Captain, Thomas Harcourt, first Lieutenant, and George Rogers, second Lieutenant of the Brig *Liberty*.

Extract from the Journal

Attested by JH Pleasants, A. C. C.

The affidavit of David Meade Randolph⁶ of York County, and State of Virginia, made and subscribed on oath before Thomas Griffin Senior Justice of Peace for the County aforesaid. This affirmant [sic] hereby avers that he was engaged in the military service in the war of the revolution of America, which served the United States from Great Britain. That he was much in the lower country during the said war – that he was well acquainted with Captain Thomas Lilly formerly of York Town, and knows that the said Thomas Lilly was in the naval service of the Country; and he verily believes and has always believed that the said Thomas Lily did serve throughout the war of Independence.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 3rd day of May in the year of our Lord 1826.

S/ D. M. Randolph



Petition for additional bounty land

The Heirs of Captain Thomas Lilly – S. Navy

The report of a Board of Officers – Com. James Barron – President – made May 13th 1784 (which is on file in the 1st Auditors Office) shows that Captain Lilly was commissioned January 14th 1776 – and that he was in service at the close of the war. He was in active duty during the war, as Captain of the Brig *Liberty* and comdt [Commandant?] of the *Gloucester* Galley – the Journals of the Navy board & Navy papers, prove his service throughout the war.

He has received 5333 1/3 acres of land – the proportion of a Major in the land service for three years – his heirs now claim the additional bounty of 1/6 for every year service over six years.

If the bounty should be allowed, it all to be in the proportion allowed by law to a major in the land service, and for a service from January 14th 1776 to the end of the war – deducting the 5333 1/3 acres already received.

Respectfully submitted

⁶ [David Meade Randolph S36252](#)

S/ John H Smith Commissioner &c
May 14th 1834

To his Excellency
Governor Tazewell

To the Honorable the Governor & the members of the privy Council of the State of Virginia –

The heirs of Thomas Lilly [indecipherable word or abbreviation]⁷ beg leave respectfully to represent that it appears by a Report of the Proceedings of a Board of Officers of which, door James Barron was President made on the 15th of May 1784 & on file in the Office of the first Auditor of Public Accounts that said Thomas Lilly was commissioned as a Captain in the State Navy as early as the 14th of January 1776 & that he was in service to the end of the war. They further represent that he was in active service throughout the War serving as Captain of the Brig *Liberty* & as Commandant of the *Gloucester*⁸ Galley & in other service as can be proved by the Journals of the Navy Board & the Navy papers of that time. He received 5333 and a 3rd acres of land the proportion of a Major in the land service for three years but your Petitioners deeming themselves entitled to the additional Land Bounty of 1/6th of the above quantity of Land for every year he served over 6 years & in the proportion allowed by Law to a Major in the Land Service for a period of service from the 14th of January 1776 to the end of the war deducting therefrom the said 5333 1/3 which was received [the document is cut off at the bottom thereof at this point]

⁷ *and*.

⁸ *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>