PAYROLL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA NAVY SHIP *PROSPER*
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

The following payroll is transcribed from the Robert W. Gibbes Collection of Revolutionary War Manuscripts (S213089) in the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, available online at http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/onlinearchives/ViewImage.aspx?imageNumber=S21308900050001000 0a.jpg&recordId=175140

The payroll is not dated, but the latest date on it is 14 March 1776. The *Prosper*, formerly a merchant ship, was outfitted in November 1775 with eight 12-pounder cannons, seven 6-pounders, and four 4-pounders. Capt. Simon Tufts was to command the ship, but on 14 December 1775 William Henry Drayton volunteered to take command in spite of the fact that, in the words of Col. William Moultrie, "he was no sailor, and did not know any one rope from another." During her brief existence the *Prosper* helped drive British ships out of Charleston Harbor and guarded Fort Johnson on James Island. She was soon deemed unfit for service, however, being difficult to maneuver with her burden of guns. In June 1776 the guns were removed, and the South Carolina government ordered her sold at auction. Thirty of the crew were transferred to the *Comet*, and ten to the *Defence*.

The original document from which the payroll is transcribed is written on both sides of a single sheet. The writing is not very clear, and an upper corner is missing, resulting in the loss of data for nine men. [?] indicates an undeciphered or questionable word. Not transcribed here are six columns in the original with the following headings: Bounty Due, Cash Rec'd, Wages & Bounty Due, Cash due the Capt'n., Cash due the Purser, Ballance of wages Due. In brackets I have given names in full, alternative spellings, and numbers of pension applications where appropriate.

In the first part of the payroll the heading and nine rows of the first five columns are missing. The first column apparently shows the day of the month on which the crewman entered service. The month is missing but is most likely January 1776. The fourth column apparently shows the duration of service in months and days. The fifth column apparently shows the wages per month in pounds, shillings, and pence.

Some of the abbreviations in the payroll are as follows:
Carp'rs M'e: Carpenters Mate
Mast'r: Master (probably Sailing Master)
Mid'n: Midshipman
Ord'y: Orderly
Q'r Mas'r: Quarter Master

REFERENCES:
American War of Independence - At Sea: South Carolina Navy Schooner *Defence*.
http://www.awiatsea.com/sn/SC/Defence%20South%20Carolina%20Navy%20Schooner %20Brigantine%20[Tufts%20Pickering].html
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O'Kelley, P. *Nothing but Blood and Slaughter*, Vol. 1. Booklocker.com. 2004. p 57.

	Name	Rating			
	Andrew Sempson [Andrew Simpson]	Seaman	2	23	21
	John Patterson	Seaman	2	23	21
	Jam's Dunlop [James Dunlop]	Seaman	2	23	21
2	Wm Rose [William Rose]	Seaman	2	23	21
3	Wm Wilkins [William Wilkins]	Seaman	2	22	21
4	Mr Jn'o Richardson [John Richardson]	Mast'r	2	21	40
5	John Grose	Seaman	2	20	21
	Jam's Murray [James Murray]	Carp'rs M'e	2	20	
6	Dan'l Jn'o Franling [Daniel John Farling]	Seaman	2	19	21.0.0
	Wm Derrick [William Derrick]	Seaman	2	19	21
	Jam's McCormick [James McCormick]	Seaman	2	19	21
	~~Jn'o Hudson [John Hudson]~~	~~Carp'r [?]~~	2	19	
	Jos'h Wey'm Luther [Joseph W. Luther]	Seam'n	2	19	21
	Neal McCullom	D'o	2	19	21
7	Mic'l East [Michael East]	Seaman	2	18	21
	Morris Russell	Seaman	2	18	21
	Nic's Tucker [Nicholas Tucker]	D'o	2	18	21
	Mr Beck	Mid'n	2	18	
	John Lambert	Cox'n	2	18	21.0.0
9	Jos'h Andrews [Joseph Andrews]	Seaman	2	16	21
	Pet'r Bachelleor [?; Peter Bachellor]	D'o	2	16	21
	Jam's McLane [James McLane]	Armour	2	16	
10	Cha's Loyd [Charles Loyd]	Seaman	2	15	21
	John Anderson	D'o	2	15	21
	John Douglass	D'o	2	15	21
	Fran's Wallace [Francis Wallace]	D'o	2	15	21
	Wm Budge [William Budge]	D'o	2	15	21
	George Graves	D'o	2	15	21
12	Sam'l Woodard [Samuel Woodard]	D'o	2	13	21
	Jervis Williams	D'o	2	13	
	John Morris	Carp'rs [?]	2	13	22
	Rob't Chambers [Robert Chambers]	D'o	2	13	
	Phillip Deykins	Seaman	2	13	21.0.0
	Jn'o Wiett [John Wiett]	Q'r Mas'r	2	13	
16	Godf'y Pringle [Godfrey Pringle]	Mid'n	2	9	
	John Siver	D'o	2	9	
	Cha's Smith [Charles Smith]	Ord'y	2	9	15
	Jam's Riley [James Riley]	Ord'y	2	9	15.0.0
	Wm Cotteman [William Cotteman]	Gun'r [?]	2	9	
	Rob't Cowan [Robert Cowan]	Carp'r [?]	2	9	28.0.0
17	Jn'o Harford [John Harford]	Ord'y	2	8	15.0.0
18	Tho's Green [Thomas Green]	Ord'y	2	7	15
19	Jas Hood [James Hood]	Mas'r at Arms	2	6	
	Wm Wall [William Watt]	Taylor	2	6	
	Ja's Hedden [James Hedden]	[?]	2	6	
	Cha's Penny [Charles Penny]	[?] Mate	2	6	
20	Jn'o Aron [John Aron]	Ord'y	2	5	15.0.0
	Rich'd Cooper [Richard Cooper]	Armourers Mate	2	5	
	Ber'd Grenwich [?; Bernard Grenwich]	Car'r [?]	2	5	28.0.0

21	Corn's Coffin [Cornelius Coffin]	Seaman	2	4	21.0.0
22	Mr Bennett	Mid	2	3	
23	Dan'l Connelly [Daniel Connelly]	Ord'y	2	2	15.0.0
24	Jam's Carter [James Carter]	Ord'y	2	1	15.0.0

[Other side]

Entry 1775	Soldiers Names	Months on Board M D		Wages p Month
Nov 23 To Feb 26 1776	Dan'l Briggs [Daniel Briggs]	3	11	
D'o	Jn'o Seely [John Seely]	3	5	
D'o	Aron Williams	3	5	
D'o	Pat'k O Kelly [Patrick O'Kelly]	3	5	
D'o	John Neil	3	5	
Jan 5 76 To Feb 26	Jam's Smith [James Smith]	1	24	
	People that Came from Georgia with Lieut't Sherman and Exchanged for Soldiers			
1776		M	D	[?] £ S
Jan 6 to Mar 8	John Hudson	2	5	[?] 15.0.0
Jan 19 to Mar 8	James White	1	20	D'o 15.0.0
Jan 24 to Mar 14	Steph'n Christopher [Stephen Christopher]	1	21	D'o 15.0.0
Jan 21 to Mar 14	Sam'l Kenny [Samuel Kenny]	1	21	D'o 15.0.0