

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

Pension Application of Thomas Bonnewell R10

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 10 Nov 2011.

[The following is described in a cover letter as “extracts of a letter of enquiry in relation to an application for Pension &c made by the heirs of Thomas Bonnewell for his services as Sailing Master in the Revolutionary war.”]

New Richmond Clermont Co. Ohio Feb. 5th 1855

Hon A. Ellison Dr. Sir/ I will according to promise give you all the information concerning the claims of the Heirs of Thomas Bonnewell to a pension for Military services performed in the Revolutionary war that I can obtain, It seems the one you are on the track of is another man of the same name as his estate was administered on by another person who had already rec'd in part the pension due the other person. This Thomas Bonnewell was a com[issione]d Lieutenant a Salling Master during the Revolutionary war from the town of Nancock Eastern Shore of Old Virginia had one of his vessels – (disremembers the name)destroyed by the Tories – served during the 8 years war & about the year AD 1800 Moved to near Augusta Kentucky His fathers name was John, his Brothers were, James, John, Charles, Arthur & Smith. Two of the brothers, James & John served under the said Thomas Bonnewell on the same vessel as uncommissioned officers & rec'd their Pensions for the same. [See endnote.] Owned & Built his vessel on Proctors Point Va. was stolen from him by the Tories & never recovered. Sold his farm in Va. to John Revel & moved out West to Augusta Ky as before stated 1800. After his Dec'e his Estate was administered on by Nathaniel Stokely & Nehemiah Matthews, altogether different persons & in a different place from the case mentioned in your letter – hence there must be a mistake by getting the wrong Person of the same name but who must have been only a private or held an office of lower grade by the am't of Pension Drawn – which is verry likely as there was a private of the same name & from the same section of country – hence likely the mistake. His Case was first taken up by Thomas Bailey of Acomac Co. Va. who gave them [“him” interlined] assurance of getting his pension but who died before securing it the case next went into the hands of John Wise of Va. & then transferred to Mr Robbins – all Virginians & the main evidence was John Warrington of Va. lately Dec'd. who served with the said Thomas Bonnewell during the Rev'y War. (Their Vessel was named the Rogella) After they came out west their case was put into the hands of General Gaines of Cincinnati Ohio Gaines was so shure of their obtaining the pension that he offered his services for a stipulated compensation provided he obtained it & in which he seemed confident of success & gave the heirs his obligation, – Gaines Died before obtaining the object & his obligation was taken by the Heirs & placed in the hands of Alonzo Knowles (lately Dec'd.) of Felicity Ohio where it remains if not destroyed) to this day.

The heirs of Thomas Bonnewell were Rosanna P. Young of New Richmond O., Nancy A. Matthews near Feesburgh Ohio, Margaret Colburn & Amelia Craymor St. Louis Mo. & Henrietta Stokely's Heirs Ohio. The Depositions of the Heirs were taken at Georgetown Brown Co. Ohio about the year A.D. 1832 or 3. The above facts are all that I can obtain that I think will be of any service in obtaining afore'd pension – but if there is anything yet untold that will be of any service I will send it – I am verry much obliged to you for your trouble – hope you will succeed in tracing it out as the Patriots of the Revolution at least earned & should have some com'n. for sacrificing, life, property &c for the good of their country. Please excuse my hasty letter & remember our humble ser't. in the Distr'n. of Public Document, also my Brother in this Place M. A. Stinchfield wish the same favor Yours Truly D. L. Stinchfield P. M.

[The following is certified as having been copied from “an original document bound up in 1st Vol. of 'Papers concerning the State Navy'” on file in the office of the Commissioner of Revolutionary Claims in Richmond VA. Letter-number combinations in brackets refer to pension applications.]

A List of necessaries wanting out of the public store, for the Officers on board the Ship Tartar –
for two months, from 25th Nov'r. 1779 to 25th Jany 1780 —

Names	Stations	Tea lb	Coffee	Leaf sugar	Brown sugar	Rum
William Saunders [R89]	Captain	1	4	6	24	7½
William Parker [R82]	Lieutenant	½	2		12	5½
John Sharpless	Surgeon					
John Tupman [R104]	Mas'r.	½	2		12	5½
Samuel Willson [Samuel Wilson R108]	D[itt]o.	½	2		12	5½
Darmon Darby	Pilot	½	2		12	3½
John Rydman	Gunner	½	2		12	3½
William Smith	Boatswain	½	2		12	3½
William Mays [possibly W18491]	Carpenter	½	2		12	3½
James Green [W7563]	Midshipman	½	2		12	3½
Martin Shearman	D'o.	½	2		12	3½
Ben' n. Taylor [Benjamin Taylor]	D'o.	½	2		12	3½
Gaven Summerson	D'o.	½	2		12	3½
Rob't. Ferguson [Robert Ferguson]	Surg'ns Mate &	½	2		12	3½
William Chowning [William Chewning]	Clerk	½	2		12	3½
Rob't. Carson [Robert Carson]	Surg'ns Mate	½	2		12	3½
John Carter	Steward	½	2		12	3½
	D'o.	8½	34	6	294	66

William Saunders
Memo: Endorsed "Req'n. for the Officers
of the Ship Tartar 1779" &c &c

Ja's. Jones [James Jones] }
Wm. Nelson [William Nelson] }
Geo. Lyne [George Lyne] }

NOTE:

I could find no pension application for another Thomas Bonnewell (or similar name) referred to as a pensioner in the above letter. Nor could I find a pension application for his brother, John Bonnewell or similar name. There was an application (S42626) by a James Bonwell of Accomack County, whose pension was for service in the Continental Army rather than in the Virginia Navy.

"Thomas Bonewell" is listed in Virginia Naval records as Sailing Master aboard the *Diligence*. "Tho. Boneywell" was listed as a sailor aboard the *Manley*. I could find no record of a vessel named the *Rogella* or similar name. Ken Kellow suggests that the vessel was a row galley, and that the type of ship was misinterpreted to be the name. Both the *Diligence* and the *Manley* were galleys that could be propelled by oars.