

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

Pension Application of Robert Tompkins R102 VA Sea Service/ VA Half Pay
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 6 April 2022.

Norfolk Nov'r. 7th 1791. I do hereby certify that Robert Tompkins Commanded the Henry Galley in the service of this State during the late war & died in the said service having served above three years.

John Lurtey [John Lurty, pension application R65] a Capt. in the State Navy Virginia

[The following five documents are with the pension application (R2636) of Christopher Tompkins, son of Robert Tompkins:]

I Henry Buchanan [S37807] aged 71 years do hereby certify that I was well acquainted with Capt. Robert Tompkins of the Navy who formerly resided in the county of Gloucester, & in the neighborhood where I was raised & know that he enlisted & entered the State service as a Captain of a Galley, during the Revolutionary war sometime during the year 1776, that when I enlisted & went to the south during the said war in 1778, he was then in service & continued in the Navy, until the British Fleet came up in York River which was in August 1781, which prevented the Gallies from rendering any effectual service. I cannot recollect what were the periods of his enlistments, but presume it was for & during the war, that after he had served in the war as stated above, he returned to his farm in Gloucester, on Severn River & there remained until he died.

Henry Buchanan

[8 Oct 1833]

I William Stroud [S6166] aged 81 years do hereby certify that I was acquainted with Robert Tompkins formerly of Gloucester and know that he enlisted at an early period of the war in the state service. That he was of the Navy & a Captain & commanded one of the Gallies belonging to York River. I do not recollect for what length of time he enlisted, or how long he served, but know that he was engaged in service for some considerable length of time. After the war I understood that he returned to the county of Gloucester where he remained until he died

Wm Stroud

[16 Oct 1833]

I Howard Hobday aged 68 years of the county of Gloucester do hereby certify that I was well acquainted with Capt. Robert Tompkins formerly of said county & know that early in the Revolutionary war (perhaps as early as 1775 or '76) he enlisted in the State service, & served as Captain in the Henry Galley for & during the said war – after the said war he returned to the said county & there lived until he died

Howard Hobday

[4 Nov 1833]

I Caleb Jenkins [S8757] aged 75 years of Glo. [Gloucester] County do hereby certify that I was well acquainted with Capt. Robert Tompkins & Lt. Christopher Tompkins his son & know that they each enlisted in the State service in the Revolutionary war as early as 1775 or 76 & served in the Navy on board one of the Row gallies [sic: row galleys] belonging to York River for & during the war – Robert as a Captain & said Christopher his son as a Lieutenant – said Christopher removed to Hampton & there I believe lived until he died. They each belonged to Glo. when they enlisted

Caleb hisXmark Jenkins

[5 Nov 1833]

Mathews Court house Novm. 5th 1842

Sir herein enclosed you will find the papers relating to the claim of Robert Tompkins and Christopher Tompkins who served in the Revolutionary war. If the powers of attorney and Affidavits are not in form to get the half pay of the said Robert Tompkins and Christopher Tompkins I should be glad if you will please send me the true forms. There is a Gentleman here from your city (Washington) by the

name of William C. Clammack who is taking powers of attorney from persons whom cannot be the lawfull heirs of Robert Tompkins nor Christopher Tompkins as herein enclosed you will find the heirship of the same satisfactory proven before the Court. the said William Clammack has got powers of attorney from the heirs of Thomas Morris dec'd. who served in the Revolutionary war. I am the Administrator of Thomas Morris dec'd. and have powers of attorney from the said heirs and petitioned before congress for several years back. They appear to be dissatisfied because I have had the claim in adgitation so long and have got nothing for them yet
Yours respectfully &c./ John Borum
J L Edwards Esqr./ commissioner of pensions

Pension Office/ November 23d 1842

Sir, The papers in support of the claim of the heirs of Robert Tompkins have been examined and filed. It appears from these papers as well as other evidence in this Office, that he died while in the service. The act of the 5th of July 1832, under which the claim is presented, provides for those cases only in which the Officer served to the end of the war, or who became supernumerary under some act of the Legislature for reducing the military or naval establishment. As Tompkins died in the service, no half pay can be allowed under the above mentioned act. He was not entitled to Bounty Land from the United States. In relation to any claim for scrip, you must make enquiry of the Commissioner of the General Land Office.

Captain John Borum,/ Mathews C. H./ Virginia

[From [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

Thursday June 6th 1776.

A Warrant to Capt Robt. Tompkins pr £150 upon acct. to pay the Carpenters employed on his Galley in Glouster & other expences.

Ordered that Captain Tompkins, be permitted to take 2 eighteen pounders [cannons] now lying at York Town for use of his Galley.

Ordered that the Commissary of stores deliver Captain Tompkins 20 lbs twine pr use of his Galley

The foregoing is truly copied from the Journal of the Committee of Safety. (From page 122)

Given under my hand at the Auditors Office Richmond, this 25th day of January 1839.

Jas E Heath aud

The Petition of the Heir of Capt Robt Tompkins respectfully states.

That Capt. Tompkins was a capt in the Virginia State Navy in the Revolution and died while in service – his immediate Representative rec'd 4000 acres of land after the war, but was entitled to 5333 $\frac{1}{3}$ the proportion due a major which was omitted evidently by mistake yet the Register [of the Land Office], does not feel authorised to issue a warrent for the additional 1333 $\frac{1}{3}$ acres without the further advice of the Executive which is respectfully solicited.
Ann D Shirley by the atto. in fact Thos. Green

1831 June 6 Rejected

I Caleb Jenkins aged 73[?] years do here by certify that I was well acquainted with Capt Cieley Saunders [sic: Celey Saunders VAS4353] and Capt William Saunders [R89] formerly of this county, and know that very early in the Revolutionary war, I believe as early as 177[?] or 177[?], they both enlisted in the state service in the Navy. Capt William Saunders first commanded a Roe Galley [row galley] called the "Manly" [sic: *Manley*] but afterwards he commanded the ship "Tarter" [sic: *Tartar*] Capt. Cieley Saunders commanded the galley called the "Hero" They both of them served until the close of the war. When the British fleet came up York river in 1781 these gallies to [undeciphered word] the enemy were carried up Queen's creek, and the ship "Tarter" was carried some distance up the river
[6 Nov 1833]

I Thomas Hall [S16862] of the County of Mathews and State of Virginia , do hereby certify and Declare, that I was well acquainted with Capt. Robert Tompkins formerly of that part of Gloucester County called Kingston Parish, now constituting Mathews County. That the sd Robert Tompkins did command the ship Henry Gally of the Virginia Navy and that he was in active service as such during the Revolutionary War, as I always understood and believed. Given under my hand and seal this 29th day of April in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and thirty four.

Witness Wm B. Brownly

Thomas Hall

The Deposition of Isaac Smith [S11427] of the county of Mathews aged 78 or 79 years who being first duly sworn according to Law deposith and sayeth that he lived in that part of Gloucester county, Called Kingston parish (now Mathews county). that he knew and was well acquainted with Captain Robert Tompkins of the Virginia State navy before and after the war had commenced he [undeciphered word] the two Collines, and knows and Remembers perfectly well that the fleet of Lord Dunmore came past new point and up to [undeciphered] and that the Carpenters then on Military duty were put to work on Henry galley, which gally was after Launched under the Command of sd. Tompkins which was in the first part of June but the s'd Tompkins was superintending the s'd Gally two or three months before her Launch in June seventeen hundred and seventy six the s'd Tompkins lived near where the s'd Gally was built, the Deponent himself worked on the said Galley and hope to launch her is the Reason of his knowing so well the time specified above and that the s'd Galley was frequently in East River when the deponent [undeciphered] the s'd Tompkins in service. the deponent believes the said Tompkins served in the said Navy untill his death given from under his hand and seal this 5th day of February 1839.

Isaac Smith

The Deposition of Matthias Gayle [W7491] In his 77 years of his age who being first duly sworn deposeth and sayeth that he knew Captain Robert Tompkins who lived in gloucester county, Kingston Parish now (Mathews County at which Place the henry galley was built and launched which was in the last of May or the first of June seventten hundred and seventy six and that the said Tompkins was attending to her sometime be for she was launched; and then the s'd Tompkins took charge of her, and served in the said navy untill his death as the depoint all ways under and does verily believe given from under his hand and seal this seventh day of February 1839

Matthias Gayle

To His Excellency David Campbell Governor of Virginia

your petitioner one of the heirs of the late Captain Robert Tompkins, respectfully represents that his ancestor Robert entered the Naval service of Virginia as early as May 1776, that he continued therein untill his death which took place in or about the year of 1783

He further represents that said Tompkins has been allowed Land Bounty for a service of only six years when in fact as your petitioner is advised, He should have been allowed for a survice of seven years and six months – he therefore prays of your Excellency an investigation into this case, and begs leave to refer your Excellency to the papers originally filed, the report of the late Commissioner and to papers herewith filed and prays that additional land may be allowed and your Petitioner as in duty bound &c &c

James V Tompkins one of the heirs of Captain Robert Tompkins

Rejected March 25 1840. DC