

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John Tupman R104

Virginia State Navy/ VA Half Pay

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 27 April 2022.

State of Kentucky } SS

Adair County }

On this 7th day of July 1834 personally came before the undersigned a Justice of the peace in and for the County of Adair a^d William Settles Sen'r aged Sixty nine years in August next who being first duly sworn according to law deposed and saith that in early life previous to the Revolutionary War he was acquainted with John Tupman, then a resident of Westmoreland County State of Virginia, he continued his acquaintance with said Tupman up to the year 1798 he states that he lived near said John Tupman, during the war and he knows that said Tupman was in the Navy of the United States during the war that is he knows so far as this, that said Tupman was absent and from report he said Tupman was in the Navy as a Sailing Master in the Virginia line, in the war of the Revolution; this affiant never saw said Tupman on board any vessel but this was the common & universal report and it was never contradicted or doubted, and after the close of the war this affiant often heard said Tupman speak of his services in the navy during the war of the Revolution and was as he stated was once taken prisoner, by the British; he further states that in the month of April in the year 1798 he the said John Tupman, went on board of a vessel bound for the West Indies [West Indies]; that from report the vessel was cast away and the said John Tupman with the balance of the crew was lost, This affiant further states that said Tupman left a wife who has long since departed this life also William Tupman now a Resident of the County of Adair State of Kentucky, and Nancy Tupman who afterwards intermarried with Benjamin Settles, that by him she had four children, to wit Louisa who has intermarried with John Clark, & also Matilda who has intermarried with Thomas Smith Emely who has married Thomas Stubbs also Sally who intermarried with Lonsey Stubbs these are all the heirs now living of said John Tupman he further states that the said Nancy Settles has departed this life leaving the a^d children her heirs. he further states That said Tupman made no will that is he never heard of his having left any – he knows that Benjamin Settles administered on said John Tupman's estate and no will was ever mentioned or spoken of. he further states that said Tupman left no children but the two before named, but William and Nancy and from his own knowledge he left no other legal heirs he further states that he cannot state the time of said Tupman's death but knows he saw him in 1798 in the month of April But how long he lived after that time he cannot state the loss of the vessel was not mentioned for sometime thereafter Subscribed & sworn to the day & year a^d

William Settles Sr.

June 22, 1847

I certify that I have examined the claim of the administrator of John Tupman, deceased, who was a Sailing Master in the State Navy of Virginia. It appears that Tupman served until the reduction of that Navy in 1781, and that he died in the year 1801. The claim is provided for by the act of July 5, 1832. I therefore certify that Henry Northup [Henry Northrup] as administrator of said Tupman is entitled to half-pay under said act at the rate of one hundred and fifty two dollars and eight cents per annum from the 31st of December 1781 to the first of January 1801. commissioner of Pensions

Approved/ Secretary of War.

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

Leeds Town March 30th

Sir/ Please to Call on the Auditors for my certificate for ye Land due me for serving in the Navy as a Captain

William Saunders [R89]



This is to certify that John Tupman served in the Navy as a Master for 3 years.



Please to deliver the Certificate for ye Land due me to Mr John Decker you'l much Oblige Y'r
[undeciphered]



[The following are from Virginia Half-Pay records on fold3.com.]

Tuesday the 6th day of October 1778

Ordered that Mr Deforest deliver Jno Tupman three Barrells of Bread for the use of the Manly [Manley] Galley. From page 481.

Monday 7th day of December 1778.

Ordered that the keeper of the public store deliver Augustine Drake one quire of paper, and one hand saw file for the use of the Manley Galley, and to John Tupman twelve pounds of sugar and six pounds of coffee for the use of the warrant Officers on Board the said Galley on his paying for the same From page 515

Thursday the 28th day of January 1779.

Ordered that the keeper of the Public Store deliver John Tupman six pounds of Spanish bacon, six pounds of twine, a lead line and Compass for the use of the Manley Galley. From page 538.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is truly copied from the Naval Journal. I further certify that the first time the name of John Tupman appears on said Journal is the 6th Oct. 1778. And that it does not appear when he was appointed Master.

Given under my hand at the Auditors Office Richmond this 12th day of May 1847.

Jas. E. Heath Aud Va.

Corporation of Fredericksburg to wit [May 1847]

Personally appeared before me R. B. Semple Major and ex-officio Justice of the Peace for the Corporation aforesaid in the state of Virginia Elizabeth Murray a witness of credibility who being duly sworn according to Law deposeth and saith that her late father William Saunders was a Captain in the Virginia State Navy in the war of the Revolution – that John Tupman a relative of her late Mother's was an officer also under her late father. His rank she does not know. That after the Revolution he pursued a sea-faring life and was lost at sea – the precise time she does not know – leaving a widow named Patty and two children William and Nancy as his only heirs at Law. That his widow Nancy [sic] died shortly after her husband. That after her death her children William and Nancy (who had intermarried with Benjamin Settles) left the state of Virginia and moved to the state of Kentucky. Since that time she knows nothing of them. That during the Revolution her late Father and John Tupman resided in or near Leeds town in Westmoreland County in this state [signed] Elizabeth Murray

A Grant issuing to James Standard and Esther Wake formerly Esther Standard heirs at law of George Standard Dec'd William Wake and Saml Brants asee [assignee] of Alice Tupman Nancy Settles late

Nancy Tupman and Benj Settles heirs at law of John Tupman Dec'd for 666 $\frac{2}{3}$ acres on the 9th June 1815, lying in Green County on the west side of Russells Creek Issuing [undeciphered] &c Entered 5 Aug 1784. Surveyed 28 March 1874 w[arant]t 213.

A Grant issuing to John Tupman on the 22 Apl 1796 for 1000 acres lying in the Military District Beginning at the South East corner of Capt Jno Haddons Survey of 1000 acres No 189 on the waters of Russells Creek
James Robertson BL Off/ By E A Maundy DR

John Tupman was a Sailing Master of the Va State Navy, he drew land for a service of three years – this it will be discovered by an examination of the list of warrants issued by Va. to her officers that four fifths of the Va State line officers and of the Navy who have received half pay, the record for the issue of their land warrant is for three years service notwithstanding many of them served seven or eight years.

John Tupman is first found on the Naval Journals on the 6th of October 1778 but without any rank affixed to his name. Accompanying the claim is an unofficial memorandum of the vouchers on file in the Council Chamber on which his land Bounty was allowed. If deemed necessary those two documents will be procured, officially signed.

From the 6th of October 1778 to the 5th Nov'r 1781 when the legislature of Va passed an act for disbanding the Navy &c "all save and except" the look out boat Liberty is three years and one month wanting one day. (The full pay of a Sailing Master for the period is \$938. The accompanying certificate of the Auditor of Va (See No 1) of the settlement of John Tupman's account shows that he received as balance of pay \$881.29¢ being \$56.71 only less than his full pay from 6th of October 1778 to 5th November 1781 when disbanded also accompanying (See No. 2) is a certificate of the Auditor showing that there is no evidence that John Tupman was in service after 1782. And it surely cannot be expected that the party shall prove he was not in service after that time. (See No. 3) is deposition from King George County Va showing the death of the widow and who the heirs are, And also the certificate of the Clerk showing when the widow admin'rd and that there has been no administration in the estate since, also showing the marriage of Benj'a Settles one of the securities to the administratrix and Nancy Tupman. (No 4) is the deposition of Mrs Murray the only child of Capt. Saunders and a relative testifying in substance to the same facts of the substance of the deposition taken in King George County Va. with the further statement that Tupman was a relation and served under her father, and that his widow did not long survive her husband, they do not affix the period of his death, this being impossible, it is therefore left with the Commissioner to decide upon a suitable time say 3, 6, 9 months or even to 1st of January 1801. It is understood that his voyage was to the West Indies. (No 5) is a letter from the Register of the Land Office at Frankfort Kentucky, showing that Wm. Tupman and Nancy Settles and Benjamin her husband, occupied and sold part of the land granted John Tupman as a Sailing Master of the Va State Navy.

NOTES:

In the pension file of Thomas Bonnewell (R10) is a document entitled "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," which lists John Tupman as "Mas'r."

The pension file of John Tupman includes a warrant for 1000 acres of land surveyed 11 Aug 1785, issued to Tupman by Isaac Shelby, Governor of Kentucky.