

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Alexander Massenburg (Mapenburg)¹ R16060

f6VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

3/14/13

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

[Note: There are no documents of any substance in this file. There is one letter dated May 28 1852 sent from John Gammel, Administrator of the estate of Massenburg, to J. E. Heath, then the Commissioner of Pensions in which Gammel makes reference to depositions given in the case by a Mrs. Paine, but those depositions are not in the file. There is nothing in the file that indicates where the substantive documents might be located.]

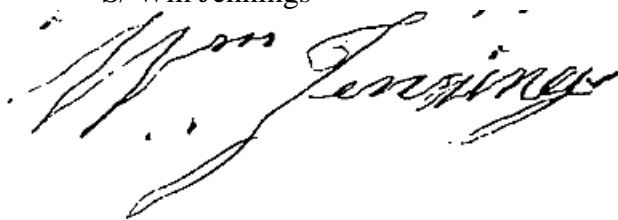
[From [bounty land records in the Library of Virginia](#)] 13-page file

The Heirs of Alexander Massenburg who was a Midshipmen in the State Navy of Virginia, in the War of the Revolution; respectfully submit their claim for Land Bounty to the Executive; and beg leave to refer to the Report of the "Commissioner" John H Smith Esquire, in support thereof.

I William Jennings² of Hampton aged eighty-two years, do hereby certify that I served as a Seaman in the Virginia Navy in the Revolutionary War and knew Alexander Massenburg of Hampton both in and since said War. – Said Massenburg served as first midshipmen on board the *Liberty* a vessel of the Virginia Navy in the Revolution. I cannot state the exact time of his service, but have no hesitation in stating that he served more than three years, and until the *Liberty* was taken from out the Service.

Given under my hand this 26 day of June 1835.

S/ Wm Jennings



Monday 21st of October 1776

Ordered that a warrant issued to Alexander Massenburg for nineteen pounds four shillings for his wages on Board of the Brig *Liberty* to the 5th next as per certificate of Captain Lisley [?].

¹ Va Half-Pay See N. A. Acc. No. 837—Virginia State Navy Alexander Massenburg Y S File Va. Half Pay

² [William Jennings S5615](#)

From page 86

The foregoing is hereby copied from the Manual Journal.

Given under my hand at the Auditor's office Richmond this 16th day of January 1840

S/ Jas. E. Heath, Aud.

The affidavit of Commodore James Barron³ of the United States Navy made before me a Notary Public duly commissioned & qualified

The Affiant being duly sworn stated that he was well acquainted with Alexander Massenburg of Hampton Virginia – that the said Massenburg was a Master in the Virginia Navy during the Revolutionary War. This Affiant does not certainly know when the said Massenburg entered the service, but his impression is that from 1779 until the close of said War, the said Massenburg served as a Master –

The affiant also states – that he was well acquainted with George Coray he was a Midshipmen in said service and served as such until the close of said Revolutionary War.

S/ James Barron



State of Maryland City of Baltimore, to wit

On this 12th day of March in the year of our Lord 1838 before me the subscriber one of the Justices of the Peace in and for the City of Baltimore personally appeared Armistead Cully⁴ who being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God deposeth and saith that he entered in the service of Virginia in the early part of the Revolutionary War in Captain William Smith's Company and he was afterwards transferred to the Virginia Continental command by Charles Tomkies [Charles Tompkins?] and took part in the Siege of York when Cornwallis surrendered [October 19, 1781] to the American troops, the deponent was born in the County of Mathews in the State of Virginia and was brought up to the business of a ship Carpenter which he followed until his removal to the City of Baltimore in the year 1818, or thereabouts, and his residence has continued here ever since, the deponent was well acquainted with Robert Cully who was an older brother of his, he served in the State Navy of Virginia on board of the Brig *Liberty*⁵ as the chief Carpenter, which vessel was first commanded by Captain Thomas Lisly

³ [James Barron W12264](#)

⁴ FPA S8270

⁵ There were a number of vessels by that name at different times in the Virginia Navy, including: *Liberty*.

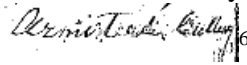
Coggins:102, ND4:672, ND5:1298, ND6:245, 728, 1227, 1409, ND7:994, brig in VA Navy, 1776, Capt George Goosley, and Capt Thomas Lilly, brig remained in commission until 1787. ND9:210, ND10:728, 917, in 1777 Capt Thomas Herbert. VANavy:154, it captured British ship *Jane*, armed vessel *Ida and Ann*, ship *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*. C34.Silverstone:20.Coggins:102

Liberty.

ND5:1051, ND6:1479, ND7:1196, ND8:1016, VANavy:152, boat, sometimes schooner-rigged, Capt James Barron, which captured in 1776 the British troop transport *Oxford* and the British sloop *Dorothy*, and in 1779 the British tender *Fortunatus*. Coggins:102, ND10:40, 325, 628, ND11:1171n, armed boat in VA Navy, Capt James Barron, 1776, 1777. Dandridge:186 shows a schooner. ND5:758, C305, one *Liberty* Capt was Richard Taylor, VA Navy, Mar 1776. .C198, another *Liberty* Capt was Alexander Masinburg/Massenburg of VA, Jul 1776. Eller:201, sold in

[Thomas Lilly] afterwards by Captain George Rogers when she was captured by a British Cruiser and carried to Halifax, the said Robert Cully was on board of her at the time as Carpenter and did not return from captivity until about the year 1780. Among the officers attached to said Brig with whom this deponent was well acquainted at the time of his capture were Alexander Massenburg of the Town of Hampton who was a Midshipman, and Doctor Joseph Harrison the Surgeon of the said Brig – the said Rogers and Harrison died in prison, Massenburg subsequently served in the Henry Galley commanded by Captain Robert Tompkins, he thinks as master – The Brig Liberty was a large man of war Brig and mounted several guns probably as many as 18.

S/Armistead Cully

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Armistead Cully". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name "S/Armistead Cully".

[copy]

[Note: the report of Commissioner Smith is not in the file]

1789. Possibly Paullin:518, served 1776-1777.

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

⁶ His signature was taken for his pension application as the above was a copy of the original affidavit.