

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

Pension Application of Christopher Tompkins R2636 Martha Dameron VA Sea Service/ VA Half Pay
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 5 April 2022.

[The file of Christopher Tompkins also contains documents pertaining only to his father, Robert Tompkins, pension application R102. Transcripts of those documents are with the transcription of the file of Robert Tompkins.]

Virginia Sct.

I do hereby certify that Christopin Tompkins served during the late war, in the service of this State, as a Lieutenant on board the Brig Northampton under me & that he served in said service for three years and upwards Given under my hand the 7th day of Nov'r. 1791

John Lurtey/ Captain in the State Navy

[According to E. M. Sanchez-Saavedra, *A Guide to Virginia Military Organizations in the American Revolution, 1774-1787*, John Lurty was Captain of the *Northampton* from 1776 to 1780. Christopher Tompkins is not listed among the officers of the *Northampton*.]

I do certify that Christopher Tompkins was the heir of Robert Tompkins dec'd. and that said Christopher Tompkins died since the 1st. Jany. 1787 leaving children. Given under my hand the 7th of November 1791
Rob. Brough

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 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
[5 Nov 1833]

Caleb hisXmark Jenkins

[From [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia](#) in the file of Tompkins, Robert.]

I Howard Hobday aged 68 years do hereby certify that I was well acquainted with Lt. Christopher Tompkins formerly of this county and know that early in the Revolutionary war as early as 1775 or '76 he enlisted in the state services in the Navy, and served for and during the war as a Lieutenat under his father Capt Ro. Tompkins on board of the Henry Galley that after the war he removed to the town of Hampton and there lived until he died
[signed] Henry Hobday

[4 Nov 1833]

NOTES:

On 29 July 1837 Martha Dameron of Norfolk applied for a pension stating that she married Christopher Tompkins, who was a Lieutenant aboard the galley *Henry* in York River, commanded by Capt. Robert Tompkins. She stated that she was living in Hampton when she married him on 13 Mar 1783 while he was still in service, and she lived there until 1785, when she moved to Norfolk. She stated that Christopher Tompkins died in the fall of 1789, and in July 1796 she married Omaniforas Dameron, who died on 5 May 1799 "with the Decline." Her claim to a pension was denied on the grounds that the law under which she applied provided only for those who married before the termination of their husband's services, and Christopher Tompkins was said by Commodore James Barron to have resigned on 14 Jan 1779. On 12 Sep 1838 she applied under a later act, giving her age as 73.

The file includes the following:

"This is my Will –

I am concerned in a claim against the government of the U.S. for the services of my first husband Christopher B. Tompkins – Mr [John] Borum is presenting it.

I give (if my claim is received) five hundred dollars to my son in law Oney S. Dameron – to John Sharter (to be used by him as I have directed) one hundred dollars – To Corporation of Norfolk Boro: for the use of the poor of said Boro, one hundred dollars – and the balance to my son in law David Duncan (of Randolph Macon College) for his sole benefit.

Witness/ John Croel/ Ann S. Holt.

Norfolk. January 16, 1838./ Martha Dameron

[The will was probated on 29 Oct 1842, at which time it was stated that Martha Dameron had been dead more than three months. A letter from Oney S. Dameron states that she died in July 1842.]

A letter from the Pension Office dated 23 Nov 1842 states that a claim for half pay under the act of 5 July 1832 had been denied because that act provided only for soldiers who served until the end of the war, and a claim for bounty land was denied because the federal government granted bounty land only for Continental service.

On 26 Feb 1851 a Christopher Tompkins of Norfolk advised the Pension Office that persons unknown to him had inquired about claiming benefits for the service of his ancestor, and that he could prove his own heirship.