

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

Pension Application of Thomas Dance R2643

VA Sea Service

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Virginia } S.S.

Count of Halifax }

On this 25th day of May 1833 personally appeared before me Samuel Painter a Justice of the peace in the County of Halifax In the State of Virginia Thomas Dance Sen'r. a Resident of Halifax County State of Virginia aged Seventy five years last September who being first duly sworn according to Law, doth on his Oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the Benifit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated

To Wit. I enlisted under Capt. [Henry] Stratton commander of the Schooner Alliance Belonging to the State of Virginia embarked at bull Hill and partly fitted out for a cruise from thence set sale for Richmond & there took in her Load, from thence set sale for sea, after geting to sea, she was Captured after a contest of 4 or 5 hours by Capt. Pickett a British commander of the privateer sloop, whale bone [Whalebone, see endnote] were set on shore the same day after being taken. Captain Stratton returned to Richmond and took command of another Vessel, and was fitted out for sea and started; got as low down as Williamsburg and were waiting some time to get and oppertunity to pass the enemies Blockadeing Guardion but whilst Lying at Williamsburg your applicant obtained leave to go home. whilst on furlough there was an oppertunity offered for the Vessel to get to sea & the Capt. set sale and she was taken also as the Capt. informed me – this enlistment was made to the best of my Recollection In the year 1780 the month or day cannot be Recollected, nor the term of service precisely, but to the Best of my recollection I think I served three Months aboard of the vessels – Recd no written discharge that I recollect of, if any, it is lost for this tour of duty

In the year 1781 The month nor day Recollected, but in the warm season were Drafted in the service, and marched under Capt. Mosely [sic: Moseley] (subalterns not Recollected) from the County of Chesterfield, Va from thence crossed James River at Surly-Hundred [sic: Shirley Hundred], thro' the County of Charles City to Williamsburg there joined the main army commaned by General [Thomas] Nelson the Colo. nor Redg't. not recollected entered the service as a private but whilst in the service after joining the main Army I served as orderly Serg't. Continued under this appointment a short time and was then made and assistant Commasary and Continued In that appointment untill discharged, 2 months of this time or tour was employed in the two latter stations the other month as a private making the term of service three months, and were then discharged, at Blackwater and if in writeing I don't recollect; & if so it is lost In the year 1781 soon after Returning from the above tour last mentioned I was detail'd and ordered By Colo Banister of Dinwidie [John Banister of Dinwiddie County] to go and approach as near the army of the Enemy as possible and get such Information as cou'd be practicable the strength of the Army. This your applicant started from the County of Dinwidie and went into Brunswick there got Information from a Esq. Jones who had obtained a certificate from two British deserters of the strength of Lord Corn Wallis's [sic: Cornwallis's] Army was furnished with the Necessary papers and carried & Delivered them to General Lafaette [sic: Lafayette], then stationed at the City of Richmond – Occuping a time of 10 days to the best of Recolection paying my own expenses during that time

Where, and In what year were you Born?

Ans'r. In Dinwidie County Va. In year 1757.

Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

“ none that I know of, if any I can't tell where it is

Where were you living when call'd into Service; where have you lived since the Revolutionary war, and where do you now live

" In Chesterfield County State of Virginia, In Dinwiddie, Brunswick, Nottoway, Mecklenburg, & Halifax Counties, I now live in Halifax

How were you called into Service; were you drafted, did you volunteer or were you a substitute? and if a substitute for whom

" a Volenteer enlistment, and drafted

State the Names of some of Regular officers who were with the troops where you served; such Continentinental and Malitia Redg'ts. as you can Recollect and the general Circumstances of your service An'r. General Nelson. (Redg'ts not recollected) as a marine private) Serg't. & Commissary &c.

Did you ever receive a discharge from the service; and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

" If any discharge I do not recollect, and if so they are lost

State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood and who can Testify as to your character for veracity, and their belief of you services as a soldier of the Revolution – Robert Nelson and Pleasant Wall

This applicant has no documentary evidence whereby he can prove his services and that he knows of no person whose testimoney he can procure, who an testify To His services except the affidavit of Capt. John Stratten, hereto annexed a Brother To Capt. Henry Stratton with whom he served – believing that he was captured By the British privateer Whale Bone

He Hereby Relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension Roll fo the agency of any state or (if any) only on that of the agency of the State of Virginia

[signed] Thos Dance Sr

NOTE: According to E. M. Sanchez-Saavedra, *A Guide to Virginia Military Organizations in the American Revolution*, the schooner *Alliance* was captured off the Virginia capes on 16 July 1779.