

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of William Dunford R37 VA Sea Service VA Half Pay
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

Thursday the 28th day of May 1778.

Ordered that William Dunford Master of the Henry Galley, and Ambrose Arnando [VAS1102] gunner thereof be discharged from the same, they having complied with the terms of their Enlistments.

The above is truly copied from the Naval Journal page 405.

Given under my hand at the Auditors Office Richmond this 4th day of June 1851.

G. W. Clutter/ Act. Auditor

[A 12 Dec 1837 letter by the attorney for the heirs states: "That these officers were in many instances so discharged [on 28 May 1778], and subsequently (and in many cases immediately) reentered the service is well established."]

[Much of the federal pension file consists of copies of the following documents from the Library of Virginia. The first are from [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia](#).]

To his Excellency, the Governor of Virginia

We, the undersigned memorialists, pray an allowance of Bounty Land from the State of Virginia for the Revolutionary services of our ancestor and uncle William Dunford; we declare that we have never received a warrant for the Bounty Land promised the said William Dunford on the part of the State of Virginia, nor do we believe that he ever received it or transferred his claim to it in any manner whatsoever – Your memorialists are too young to speak of the Revolutionary services of their uncle, of their own knowledge, but have understood from old persons in this neighbourhood, (South Quay) where the said William Dunford lived before the Revolutionary War, that he entered the service in the Virginia State navy, probably as a Master, on board one of the gallies, in the early part of the Revolution, and did not return home until the year 1780 or '81.

We believe from what we have heard, that the said William Dunford served in the State Navy during the Revolutionary War, not less than three or four years, and accordingly ask an allowance of Bounty Land for his services. – In support of this claim we beg permission to file the depositions of Solomon Whitfield [pension application S18281] and Amos Dildee [Amos Dilday (Dildee) S6794], two Revolutionary pensioners of the United States, which depositions accompany this memorial.

Witness

[two illegible signatures]

[18 Sep 1834]

William hisXmark Dunford

David Dunford

Polly herXmark Rogers

The deposition of Amos Dildee, who is a Revolutionary pensioner of the U. States, says, that he was well acquainted with William Dunford of Nansemond County, Virginia, before the Revolutionary War – that said William Dunford, in the early part of the Revolution, entered the service as I have understood, in the Virginia State Navy, but in what capacity he served, I am unable to say – The said Dunford returned from service about the same time that I did, which was in the year 1780 or '81. I also certify that the said William Dunford was the Uncle of David Dunford and William Dunford of this County, and of Polly Rogers of Gates County, N. Carolina, who was formerly Polly Dunford, and that these three are his heirs at law. Sworn to and subscribed this 17th day of September 1834.



The deposition of Solomon Whitfield, of the County of Nansemond and State of Virginia, aged seventy-five years, who is a Revolutionary pensioner of the United States, says, that he was well acquainted with William Dunford of this County and State, before the Revolutionary war and about the close of the war when he died; that said William Dunford, in the early part of the war, and as well as I can recollect, in the year 1776 or 1777, entered the service in the Virginia State Navy on board one of the gallies, (name not now recollected) and was gone from the County about f[?] years; that said William Dunford and myself only lived seven or eight miles apart, and before his death which I think took place about twelve or eighteen months after he returned from the service, we frequently talked together about our services in the war, and have heard him say that he served three years as a master on board of the said Galley – I do not know of my own knowledge that he served as a Master, because I was in the land service, but I have heard him say he did; nor do I know positively that he served three years, but I believe he did, for I have heard him say so, and I heard that he was gone from the County about four years, and that it was understood and believed in the neighborhood that he had entered the service on board one of the State Vessels. – Sworn to and subscribed this 4th day of September 1834.

Solomon Whitfield

[The following are from [bounty-warrant claims in the Library of Virginia](#):]

Tuesday the 20th day of January 1778.

Ordered that the keepers of the Public Stores deliver to William Dunford seven yards of Oznaburgs [sic: osnaburg fabric] for his own use, and 3½ yards ditto for the use of Jno. Wharton [John Wharton VAS1103] upon his paying for the same. From page 345.

[Certified copy from the Naval Journal in the Auditor's Office, Richmond, 3 Nov 1838.]

Thursday the 20th day of January 1778.

Ordered that Mr William Holt deliver to William Dunford eight barrells of Beef, eight ditto of Bread and sixty gallons of Spirits for the use of the Henry Galley. From page 345.

A Pay Roll of Mens Wages Belonging to the Henry Galley. From 28th Dec'r. to 20th January.

Robert Tompkins	Capt [pension application R102]	31 dys	8/-	12	8	-
Rations for	D'o	31	3/-	4	13	-
Joshua Singleton	1st Lt [S7510]	31	6/-	9	6	-
Rations for	D'o	31	2/-	3	2	-
Christ'r Tompkins	2d D'o [Christopher Tompkins R2636]	13	4/6	2	18	6
Rations for	D'o	13	2/-	1	6	-
William Dunford	Master	31	5/-	7	15	-
Rations for	D'o	31	1/-	1	11	-

The foregoing is truly extracted from a Roll to be found in 1st Vol. of papers concerning the State Navy. Given under my hand at the Auditor's Office Richmond this 16 day of November 1838

Gloucester County Court November Term 1834

The Court doth certify that satisfactory evidence has been adduced to them to prove that William Dunford of Gloucester County was sailing master in the Virginia Navy in the time of the Revolutionary War and served until the vessels were laid up and dismantled in the year 1781 and that he never resigned his station, and that the said William Dunford died in the year 1798 on the 13th day of July that William Dunford, Mary Hillidge[?], Polly Moughlin and Susan Woodland are the only heirs at law now living of the said William Dunford who served as aforesaid.

A Copy

County of Gloucester }
State of Virginia }

This day personally appeared before me a Justice of the Peace in and for the said County Jacob Jenkins an Old and Creditable witness who after being duly sworn made the following statement towitt, That he was well and intimately acquainted with William Dunford who was Master on board of The Henry Gally attached to the Virginia Navy of the Revolutionary war that the said Dunford Remained on board of said Gally until she was run up in Queen Creek on York River and dismantled he the said Dunford was then transfered to the Brig Northampton [see endnote] where he Remained until about some time in 1781 the said Dunford must have been Between four and five years in actual service

Given under my hand this the 11th day Feb'y 1839

NOTES:

According to E. M. Sanchez-Saavedra (*A Guide ot Virginia Military Organizations in the American Revolution, 1774-1787*), the brig *Northampton* was decommissioned and sold on 5 Nov 1780.

On 4 Feb 1839 Dunford Moore, 68, stated that he went aboard the Galley *Henry* with his father where William Dunford was Master. Henry Buchanan (pension application S37807), Richard Ripley (S11299), and William James (W1875) certified that they had known Dunford in the service.

On 20 Nov 1847, 29 Aug 1849, and 24 Nov 1852, William Dunford, administrator of the late William Dunford, assigned power of attorney to obtain any benefits due to the latter for his service as a Master in the Virginia Navy.