

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

Pension Application of John Jennings R48

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Tuesday the 10th of August 1779.

The Board of War directs Captain Saunders [William Saunders, pension application R89] to furnish John Jennings with three men from each Ship under his Command for the use of the Boat Fly, she being ordered on a separate command.

Extract from 1st Vol. papers concerning the Army of the Revolution.

Jas E. Heath/ Aud[ito]r Va.

[The preceding is from the only copy in the file of an original document relating to Jennings's military service. The following letter summarizes other evidence used in the case.]

Washington/ 13 Sept 1837.

Sir [James L. Edwards, Commissioner of Pensions], Herewith I return the papers in the case of John Jennings, who was a Sailing Master in the Virginia State Navy. In this case you wished further evidence. Such further evidence as I supposed would be satisfactory is now presented, viz the affidavit of Com. Barron [Commodore James Barron]. the evidence now presented is I believe all that can under any circumstances be obtained. The evidence in this case now consists of the following. viz.

A. Certified copy of the certificate of Com. Barron, dated 1st Aug't. 1783 that John Jennings was a Sailing Master and served upwards of three years.

B. Copy of the order allowing John Jennings land as a Sailing Master for three years service dated 14 Oct. 1783.

C. Certified extracts made by the Auditor of Virginia from the records which shew John Jennings to have been in service in August 1779.

D. Certificate of the Auditor of Virginia that John Jennings received in Oct. 1783 for the balance of his pay £189.

E. The affidavit of Thomas Jennings aged 68 and William Jennings [possibly pension application S5615] aged 74 years that John Jennings did serve in the war of the revolution that he was a portion of his time in the Schooner Patriot and was transferred to command the Schooner Fly and commanded her about two years when she was run on shore on Cape Henry & taken by the British. that the said John Jennings returned to the Patriot and served the balance of his time. that they know the facts of their own knowledge.

F. The Affidavit of Com. James Barron being the additional evidence now presented, That he was well acquainted with John Jennings – that he was a sailing master in the Virginia Navy and served principally under his Uncle Capt Richard Barron – that he was on board of the Schooner Patriot when she was taken which was just before the seige of York [Yorktown, 28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781] and that he remained a prisoner until some time after that seige.

This affidavit, if there was no other evidence would bring the case clearly within the law. Lord Cornwallis surrendered on the 19th. October 1781 and the Virginia Legislature in November of the same year see 10th Hening page 450 [<http://vagenweb.org/hening/vol10-21.htm>] enacted, "That the officers of the Navy of every denomination, be and they are hereby reduced;" This act would consequently reduce John Jennings and entitle him to half pay. This act retained one boat in service the "Look out boat Liberty"

G. A certified copy of the will of John Jennings dated 1801 appoints Mary Jennings sole Executrix. This will was proved in Court 28 July 1803.

H. The certificate of Elizabeth City Court dated 28 Nov'r. 1834 shewing that it was proved 28

Nov'r. 1834 by the oath of Thomas Latimer that John Jennings left five children, two of whom died under age and without issue & that Thomas Jennings, Ann A. Morris & Jane Williams are the only children and heirs.

K. Certificate of Elizabeth City Court that Thomas Jennings is the Administrator on the estate of John Jennings and has given bond in the sum of \$9000. that John Jennings was a Master in the Virginia Navy and never resigned but served until the end of the war and that he died in the year 1803 and that Ann A. Maurice, Thomas Jennings and Jane Williams are the children and only heirs.

L. A power of Attorney from Thomas Jennings who is the Administrator and one of the heirs.

I am very respectfully. Yours &c/ Francis A. Dickins

Pension Office/ November 29, 1837

I certify that I have examined the claim of the Hiers of the late John Jennings, dec'd. who was a Sailing Master in the Navy of the State of Virginia during the revolutionary war; that he served until he was made a prisoner of war in 1781, and after the reduction of said Navy; that he died in Virginia in the year 1803; that the case is embraced by the provisions of the act of the 5th of July, 1832, entitled, "An act to provide for the liquidating and paying certain claims of the State of Virginia;" that the claim should therefore be allowed at the rate of One Hundred and Fifty-Two Dollars and eight cents per annum, from the twenty second of April seventeen hundred and eighty three, when the war terminated, to the first day of January eighteen hundred and three, in which year he died; and that the amount is payable to Thomas Jennings, administrator, and one of the Heirs of said deceased.

Approved/ Secretary of War: Ent'd. Commissioner of Pensions.

NOTE: On 14 Sep 1836 power of attorney was assigned by Thomas Jennings of Hampton VA, administrator of the estate of John Jennings. On 3 Oct 1848 Thomas H. Williams of Portsmouth VA stated that he was an heir of John Jennings, the administrator of whose estate had died.