

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Laban Goffigan R54

VA Sea Service/ VA Half Pay

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

J W Murdaugh, for Thomas Henry Goffigan and Mrs. Price heirs of Laban Goffigan, respectfully represents that Laban Goffigan was a Captain in the State Navy – he was appointed Lieutenant the 18<sup>th</sup> of June 1776 and was taken prisoner during the war – and when released he got over to France, and in 1781 a sum of money was advanced by Doct. Lee, the U.S. Agent, to Capt. Goffigan to bear his expenses home. He returned to the U.S. sometime in 1781 after the reduction of the Navy (which took place the 15 March 1781) and may be considered as having served from June 18 1776 to the end of the war. J W Murdaugh refers the Governor to the accompanying testimony

Tuesday June 18<sup>th</sup> 1776

Mr. Laborn Goffaghan is appointed 1<sup>st</sup> Mate of Capt Westcott's [Wright Westcott, pension application R106] Cruizer Potomack [sic: cruiser *Potomac*].

The above entry is truly copied from the Journal of the Committee of Safety – page 133.

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1777

Present, / Mr Whiting, Mr. Travis & Mr. Archer Lieutenang Laban Goffighan, at present the commanding officer aboard the Sloop Scorpion received orders to proceed with his vessell to Fredericksburg and apply to Mr. James Hunter jr of Fredericksburg for a quantity of goods belonging to the public, which he is to take on Board and bring to Queen's Creek, and wait on the Board for further instructions. And it is also ordered that he land what Wood and Water he may have at present on Board his Vessell, more than sufficient for his trip, in the Warehouse at Gloucester Town

Ordered that Mr. James Hunter furnish Lieut. Laban Goffighan with such necessaries as he may be in want of for the use of the Sloop Scorpion.

The foregoing entries are truly copied from the Journal of the Navy Board – page 149.

D'r.	Capt.	
1781		Sterl'g.
March 13	To Doct'r. Lee, advanced for your board in France	7.19.3
	To United States p'd. you by Doct'r. Lee in Fr[ranc]s. 2274.15 equal to	

The foregoing entry is truly copied from William Armistead's Ledger No. 3 – page 68.

All the foregoing entries are truly extracted from Books now in this Office

Given under my hand at the Auditor's Office Richmond this 29<sup>th</sup> day of August 1838.

A W Morton Clk/ Aud'r. absent

Virginia: At a Court held for Norfolk County the 19<sup>th</sup> day of May 1851.

Ordered, that it has been made to appear to the Court by satisfactory evidence that Laban Goffigan now dec'd, was a Lieutenant in the State Navy of Virginia during the War of the Revolution, that the said Laban Goffigan was taken prisoner and carried to the Island of Bermuda where he was closely confined a prisoner until the end of the war. The Court further certifies that the said Laban Goffigan died intestate in the month of January in the year 1795 in the County of Norfolk leaving four children all of whom died without having married and without issue and intestate, except his son Henry Goffigan, and that the said Henry Goffigan son of the said Laban Goffigan died intestate leaving an only child named Thomas H. Goffigan who is now living and resides in the County of James City. and the Court further certifies that the said Thomas H. Goffigan is the same person who qualified as administrator on the estate of the said Laban Goffigan dec'd in Norfolk County Court on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of

March 1850 and that the said Thomas H. Goffigan is the only heir and distributee of the said Lieutenant Laban Goffigan dec'd as aforesaid./ Copy/ Teste Arthur Emmerson C. C.

State of Virginia/ Elizabeth City County, towit:

The affidavit of Ann Payne taken before me, Fayette Jones, a Justice of the peace in and for the said County, on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of May in the year 1851. Ann Payne, a resident of Elizabeth City County in the State of Virginia being duly sworn according to law, deposes and saith, that she knew one Laban Goffigan who was a Lieutenant in the Virginia State Navy, during the war of the Revolution; That in the year 1781, the said Laban Goffigan sailed in one of the cruisers belonging to said Navy for the French West Indies after provisions, and that in the same year, the said vessel was captured by a British Cruiser and carried into one of the British Islands, where the said Goffigan (as she understood) was thrown into prison and closely confined until the termination of the war in 1783. The deponent further saith: that after the return of the said Laban Goffigan from the place of his imprisonment as aforesaid he removed (she does not know where) but the deponent cannot state the period of his death. Given under my hand this 26<sup>th</sup> day of May in the year 1851. Ann herXmark Payne

NOTES:

The *Scorpion* was captured by H.M.S. *Cerberus* in 1781, and her prisoners, including Goffigan, were returned to Virginia on 7 Jan 1783. (Stewart, R. A. *History of Virginia's Navy of the Revolution*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co. 1934 [1993]).

On 4 June 1851 James Murdaugh applied for bounty land as attorney for Thomas H. Goffigan, only heir of Laban Goffigan.