

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

Pension Application of Samuel Barron R6

VA Sea Service

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 7 May 2017.

[On 28 Feb 1850 in Norfolk VA Samuel Barron of the US Navy assigned power of attorney as administrator of his deceased father, Commodore Samuel Barron, to obtain the commutation of five years full pay for his father's services in the Revolutionary War as a Captain in the State Navy of Virginia. Numerous letters were exchanged on the question of whether the elder Samuel Barron was a Lieutenant or Captain at the end of the war.]

[The original of the following is among bounty-land claims in the Library of Virginia, dated 29 March 1831.]

Commodore James Barron's affidavit —

The affidavit of Commodore James Barron taken before me Tazewell Taylor a Notary Public of the Borough of Norfolk duly commissioned and qualified for that purpose.

The affiant being first sworn deposeseth and sayeth – That he is the Brother of Commodore Samuel Barron of the Navy of the United States and formerly of the State Navy of Virginia who departed this life in the month of November 1810. That the said Samuel Barron to the best of his recollection entered the said State Navy of Virginia about two years before the Seige of York Town [28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781] and having been promoted to a Lieutenancy was entrusted with the command of several vessels belonging to the said State Navy – Amongst them the Schooner Liberty and Patriot. That the said Samuel was in actual service until the end of the War in 1783. The affiant will forbear making any remarks as to the merits of the said Samuel Barron in consequence of the near relationship that subsisted between them [see endnote].

The affiant is well acquainted with Wm Jennings sen'r. [William Jennings, pension application S5615] Jeremiah Cain, Captain John Cowper [VAS1568] and James Webb and he has no hesitation in saying that all of them are men of undoubted veracity and competent to speak of the events of the Revolutionary War and of the persons who served in it from personal knowledge.

(signed) James Barron

A true copy from papers on file in the Third Auditor's Office Dec. 21, 1850

[The original of the following is among bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia, but the online image is largely illegible..]

Miles King's Affidavit –

The affidavit of Miles King of the Borough of Norfolk taken before me Tazewell Taylor a Notary Public of the said Borough duly Commissioned and qualified on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of May 1831 –

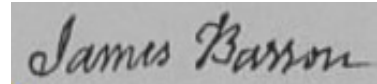
The said affiant (being first duly sworn) deposeseth and sayeth that he is the son of Miles King dec'd. [pension application W20342] who commanded in the revolutionary War a Vidette Company and has heard his father in repeated conversations assert that the late Commodore Samuel Barron and formerly an officer of the State Navy of Virginia was engaged in an action which was fought off the mouth of Hampton Creek between one of the State Vessels of War and a British tender in which as he was informed by his father the said Samuel Barron bore a gallant and conspicuous part. [See endnote.] That the said action was fought during the said War and at a time when the said Samuel Barron was not more than 17 years of age and that it was regarded by all as a most brilliant achievement as more of the British were taken or destroyed than there were men on board the Virginia Vessel.

The said affiant wishes it to be distinctly understood that he has no personal knowledge of the events of that period – but that he merely details what he has heard from his father whose statement he has heard confirmed by Mrs. Hannah Westwood the sister of his father and now deceased.

(signed) Miles King

A true copy from the papers on file in the Third Auditor's office. Dec. 24, 1850

I James Barron pension application W12264] of the Navy of the United States, do hereby certify that my brother, the late Commodore Samuel Barron U. S. Navy, served in the Virginia State Navy during the revolutionary War, in the grades of Midshipman and Lieutenant until the surrender of Lord Cornwallis at YorkTown in the year (1781) seventeen hundred eighty one – After this period he was placed in command of the Schooner Patriot of ten guns, and promoted to the rank of Captain. And thus he continued to be employed until the disbandment of the Navy of the State of Virginia



Sworn and subscribed before me a Justice of the Peace for the City of Norfolk this 3<sup>d</sup> Jan'y. 1851

[The following are from [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#) in a file for a claim for service as a Lieutenant. Some online documents are illegible.]

The affidavit of James Webb taken before me Teakle Savage, a Justice of the Peace for Elizabeth City County Virginia

The affiant being duly sworn on the holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposeth and saith that he was born in the Town of Hampton in the year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and seventy one and when quite young he went with his parents to reside in the Town of Petersburg and returned to Hampton [two or three undeciphered words] the Siege and battle of York Town [28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781]. [several undeciphered words] well acquainted with Samuel Barron at that time an officer of the State Navy of Virginia. Affiant cannot at this time state the particular [undeciphered word] or service that he was engaged in at that time but of this fact he is very certain, that some short time afterward, he was a Lieutenant Commandant of [several undeciphered words] boat or Cruiser belonging to the State Navy of Virginia and this Service and continued until after the Peace – it was years afterwards he joined the Navy of the United States, and the said Lieutenant Samuel Barron died in that service having attain'd the rank of a Commodore.

[22 March 1831]

James Webb

The Affidavit of Jeremiah Cain taken before me Tazewell Taylor a Notary publick of the Borough of Norfolk and duly qualified according to law for that purpose.

The affiant being first duly sworn deposeth and sayeth that he was well acquainted with commodore Samuel Barron formerly of the State Navy of Virginia during the revolutionary war and subsequently of the United States Navy. That the said Samuel Barron entered the State Navy of Virginia when [one or two illegible words] young man and in consequence of the gallantry he displayed in the action in which he was [several undeciphered words] he was promoted to a Lieutenancy [several undeciphered words] the siege of York Town he was entrusted with the command of one of the Cruisers which command he performed as this affiant solemnly believes to the end of the war in the year 1783. and he is certain that the said Samuel Barron was in actual service during the revolutionary war more than four years. [26 March 1831]

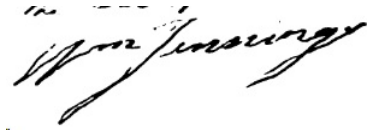
Jeremiah hisXmark Cain

The Affidavit of William Jennings Sr taken before me Tazewell Taylor a Notary public of the Borough of Norfolk and duly qualified for that purpose.

The affiant being first duly sworn deposeth and sayeth that he was well acquainted with Commodore Samuel Barron of the Navy of the United States and formerly of the State Navy of Virginia. That the said Sam'l Barron [one or two undeciphered words] the said State Navy of [undeciphered word] during the war of the revolution at an early age as a Midshipman and was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant before the siege of York Town; that the said Samuel Barron continued in actual service until the peace of 1783 a fact which this affiant knows positively as this affiant found him in actual service and

in active command after this affiants [undeciphered word] from [undeciphered word] in the [undeciphered word] stated by him in several previous affidavits And this affiant further states that the said Samuel Barron was esteemed an officer of great gallantry and [undeciphered word], and distinguished himself on several occasions in the war of the revolution.

[26 March 1831]



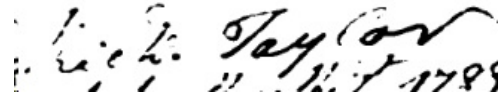
The affidavit of Francis Taylor of the Borough of Norfolk taken before me Tazewell Taylor a Notary publick of the said Borough duly commissioned and qualified.

The said affiant being first duly sworn deposeth that he is the nephew of the late Richard Taylor [S25873] deceased, who was a Captain in the state navy of Virginia in the war of the revolution. That he is well acquainted with the hand writing of the said Captain Richard Taylor de'd as he has frequently seen him write and that the paper hereto annexed addressed to Lieut Sam'l Barron and signed by Rich'd Taylor "Norfolk May the 1 1788 is in the true and proper hand-writing of the said Richard Taylor

Fran's Taylor

Sir As soon as the whale Boat it fixt I wish you to attend to the Ferries that goes up James River, to Examine weather they are from Norfolk or Elsewhere, as there is great room for them to pass under that cover, I also which you to run over to Norfolk [undeciphered word] or twice in my absence. Should there be any any more provisions wanted on boad the Liberty, before my return, you will get a Barrel of Pork from Mr Vashons[?], you will draw provisions from her. I have sent Wm. Randolph the rest of ye Hands[?] you are to have out of the Liberty, I am Sir y'r Most Obed't Serv't

Mr. Sam'l. Barron [Richard Taylor]  
Norfolk May the [?] 1783



This is the paper refered to in the affidavit of Frederick Taylor taken before me on the 11<sup>th</sup> May 1832. Tazewell Taylor

[The first several lines of the online image of the following are undeciphered.]

The said affiant being first duly sworn deposeth and sayeth that he was well acquainted with the late Commodore Samuel Barron [undeciphered word] an officer of the State Navy of Virginia and more recently an officer of the Navy of the United States [one or two illegible words] he died in the year 1810 The said Samuel Barron if he were now alive would be somewhat older than this affiant The affiant himself entered the Naval service of Virginia on board the Schooner Patriot [several undeciphered words] entered his sixteenth year [several undeciphered words]. The said Samuel Barron within a year after this affiant entered the service aforesaid, entered into the said service as an officer under the command of his father Commodore James Barron, and he knows that the said Samuel Barron was actively employed during the whole of the war from the time of his having entered such service, which was more than three years.

The facts he has detailed come within this affiants personal knowledge as Barron & himself were natives of the same county and engaged together in the same service, though in different vessels.

[12 May 1831]

[Thomas Jennings; Thomas Jennins VAS1183]



Richmond January 13<sup>th</sup> 1832

Dear Sir The memorial of Samuel Barron for Land bounty claimed in behalf of his father of the State Navy of Virg'a has not yet been dispos'd of. As it is my intention to leave Town on Sunday morning, I should be pleas'd (if it is not [undeciphered word] too much on your Excellency) to bring the matter to your notice, with a request that it may be decided upon today or tomorrow.

with sincere respect/ y'r obed. servant/ Frederick Vincent

[The following are from [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia](#).]

Norfolk 13<sup>th</sup> January 1840

His Excellency/ David Campbell/ Governor of Virginia

Sir, My absence from the country, and other causes, have hitherto prevented me from calling to your notice the claim of myself and my niece, Mrs Geo. W. Camp[?], to the Land Bounty, in arrear for the services of my father (the Late Commodore Sam'l Barron) as a Captain in the state Navy of Virginia during the Revolutionary War.

The warrant already allowed for his services has been for only 4000 acres; and I am advised that, his rank as a Captain in the Navy, which corresponds with a Major in the Line, entitles him to receive 5333 $\frac{1}{3}$  acres the quantity allowed to officers of the latter rank; and that in adjusting similar claims, Your Excellency, has invariably adopted a similar practice. If my information be correct, it follows that there is now due to my father 1333 $\frac{1}{3}$  acres of Land.

The accompanying document from the [undeciphered word] which I beg leave to submit will, I flatter myself, suffice to shew that my father was a Captain in the Navy of Virginia during the war of the Revolution; and I have to request that Your Excellency will direct the proper officers to issue a Warrant for the additional Land Bounty claimed.

I have the honor to be/ Sir/ very respectfully

Your Obedient Servant/ Sam'l Barron

Treasury Department/ Auditors Office 29 March 1833

I hereby certify that I have examined and adjusted an account between the United States and Samuel Barron a Captain the Navy of the State of Virginia in the Revolutionary War and find that the sum of [undeciphered word] thousand six hundred and eight dollars is due from the United States unto Samuel Barron administrator in his estate being the amount of his half pay from the 3 September 1783 to the 29 October 1810 [the date of Samuel Barron's death] to be paid in pursuance of the third section of an act of Congress "to provide for liquidating and paying certain officers of the State of Virginia" approved July 5th 1832, as appears from the statement and vouchers herewith transmitted for the decision of the Comptroller of the Treasury thereon R Harrison/ Aud

Dollars 6,608

To Joseph Anderson Esq/ Comptroller of the Treasury of the United States

Comptrollers Office

I [undeciphered word] and certify the above [undeciphered word] this 29th day of March 1833

To Thomas D Smith Esq/ Register

[undeciphered signature]/ Comp'r

This claim was, on former occasion, present for bounty land as Lieut! And the proof is that Sam'l Barron was Lieut. Rejected. March 13 1840/ DC

[The following are from [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#) in one of two files. This file is for a renewed claim for service as a Captain. Some online documents are illegible.]

Sir [Governor of Virginia] Some years since the heirs of the late Com. Samuel Barron U.S.N. [undeciphered word] from the State of Virginia a claim for [several illegible words]. At that time it was thought that he had been a Lieutenant in the Virginia State Navy, & the allowance was [two undeciphered

words] for that rank – but subsequently on presenting a claim against the United States for like services, it was shown by the additional testimony [undeciphered word], that he was a Captain & not a Lieut & the U. States allowed the claim for that rank. A Copy of the papers filed in Washington establishing the higher rank was left with your [several illegible words] who promised to examine the mater & have the error corrected by allowing the amount which should have been originally paid.

I have taken the liberty [several undeciphered words] the heirs of Com S Barron to call your attention to the subject. Will you do me the kindness to direct a reexamination of these facts & inform me of the result. With very great respect/ I am Sir/ Your Obt Serv't/ O. W. Camp/ Norfolk July 19 1849

NOTE:

On 21 June 1776 the boat Liberty, commanded by Capt. James Barron, Sr., and the boat Patriot, commanded by Capt. Richard Barron [R5] and his brother, Lt. Samuel Barron, captured the Oxford with 200 Highlanders intended as reinforcement for Lord Dunmore.

On 15 Mar 1836 Samuel Barron, Lt. in the US Navy, wrote to the 4<sup>th</sup> Auditor of the US Treasury Department inquiring about obtaining proof necessary to draw the unclaimed pension of his father, “the Late Commodore Sam’l. Barron.” The letter includes the following: “My father died in 1810 leaving myself, and a daughter, who was married in 1818 and died herself in 1821 – leaving a daughter who was married in 1836 – not yet of age – I became of age in Novb’r 1829.”