

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

Pension Application of William Harwar Parker R82                      VA Sea Service/ Half Pay  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 24 Mar 2015.

I was a soldier in the revolution War and was on board a War Ship on the James River (Virginia) [at Osborne's 20 mi below Richmond, 27 Apr 1781] when the fire became so sharp from the enemy we blew up the vessel that we were in and made our escape to the opposite shore – I never saw so great a shower of shots; the Tartar, a vessel commanded by Capt. James Markham [pension application R72], was near us at the time of the attack, and every man in the Vessel was either killed or taken prisoner, (the Capt. not excepted) except one man who jumped overboard in my presence, and made his escape by swimming, but not without encountering many sharp shot. I was told that it was Lieutenant William H. Parker.

Given under my hand this 27th Sept'r. 1830.      Peter Conway

William H. Parker son of Judge Richard Parker and father of Richard E. Parker, Foxhall A. Parker, John H. Parker, William C. Parker, & Juliet O. Dangerfield, went into the Navy at the commencement of the War, he served in the Tartar as Lieutenant under Capt. Markham, and continued in the Navy until his vessel was captured in the James River just before the siege of York – he then returned to his father in a most destitute condition having lost every thing he had on board the vessel he making his escape by jumping overboard and swimming to shore being frequently shot at before he reached it. Many of these circumstances I well recollect and often have I heard my father speak of every thing I have stated. Given under my hand this 27th Sep't. 1830.      Frances Blackwell, formerly F Parker.

State of Virginia    }  
Frederick Co'y       } Ss

Personally appeared before me Hurime L Opie, in my said County of lawful age with whom I am well acquainted & made oath that he was well acquainted with Wm. H. Parker dece'd. of the State of Virginia who was (as he has understood) a Lieutenant in the Navy of the State of Virginia during the Revolutionary War & that he left the following children viz: Richard E. Parker now a Judge of the State aforesaid, Foxhall A. Parker, John H. Parker, Wm. C. Parker, Juliet O. Parker, now the wife of Leroy P. Daingerfield, and no others – that the said Richard E, Foxhall A, Jno. H, Wm C. and Juliet O, are his only heirs and were so at the time of his death.

Given under my hand this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of Nov'r. 1832.      Ch. H. Clark

State of Virginia    }  
Frederick County   }

I Jacob Anderson [possibly pension application S37675] of the State & County aforesaid, a soldier of the Revolution, do hereby certify, that I knew Wm. H. Parker the father of the present Judge Richard E. Parker & Juliet O. Daingerfield, late Juliet O. Parker, who was a Lieutenant in the Virginia State Navy & that I saw him frequently during the War of the Revolution & conversed with him soon after his vessel (I think the Tempest [see endnote]) was captured in the James or York River, that I have often seen him since & visited him in Loudon [sic: Loudoun] County at his own house when he the said Wm. H. Parker, then known as Captain Parker died. Given under my hand this 27th day of Nov'r. 1832.

Jacob hisXmark Anderson

[The following two items are among [Revolutionary Bounty-Warrant papers in the Library of Virginia](#):]

I do hereby Certify that Lieut Wm Halwar Parker Served as a Lieutenant in the State navy from the 22<sup>d</sup> of Sept. 1777 untill the Navy was discharged in Novemr 1781. Given under my hand the 10<sup>th</sup> of May 1783  
Wm. Saunders [William Saunders R89]

Council Chamber May 20<sup>th</sup> 1783

I do certify that lieut William Harway Parker is entitled to the proportion of Land allowed a Lieut't of the State Navy for three years service

Benj Harrison

Thos Meriwether

A warrant for 2666 $\frac{2}{3}$  acres issued to Lieutenant William Harway Parker June 23 1783.

The Petition of the Heirs of Lieut. Christopher Tompkins [R2636], of Lieut. Daniel Richardson [R86], of Lieut Wm. H. Parker, & Lieut Chas. S. Bouch [sic: Charles S. Boush R12] were Lieutenants of the Va. State Navy during the Revolution for more than three years, and after the war did each receive warrants for 2666b acres of land – that they were entitled to 4000 acres each, but not knowing the proper relative Rank between the army & navy all to which they were entitled by law was not rec'd – Your Petitioners are informed that the Executive has subsequently settled the question and that all Lieuts of the Navy who now receive warrants do draw the quantity of Captains on land. The have applied to the Register of the Land Office for the additional 1333a due them as heirs of said Lieutenants respectively – but he wishes the direction & advice of the Executive on the subject & declines to issue warrants without such order.

Your Petitioners pray that the whole quantity due them may be directed to issue to them respectively or that your Honors will advise the Register generally, to issue to Lieutenants of the Navy, who have not received it, such additional warrants as will make the whole, equal to warrants due to Captains in Land –  
Richard E. Parker & others by their attorney Thomas Green  
[Note on cover of petition: “1831 July 25 No further allowance to be made until rank[?] of Vessel be ascertained

1831 Aug 5 Allowed the [undeciphered word] upon letter of advice from Mr Wilson certif'tes iss'd”]

[From [Library of Virginia Legislative Petitions Digital Collection](#)/ Westmoreland County]

To the honorable the Speaker and Gentlemen of the house of Delegates

The Petition of William Harwar Parker Humbly seheweth

That your Petitioner entered into the Service of his Country at the age of sixteen was Midshipman in the Ship Tartar commanded by Capt. Richard Taylor [S25873] and continued in the Service as long as there was any appearance of a Navy in the State, and in the course of the Service obtained the first Lieutenants Commission and for a considerable time after Capt Taylor was wounded had the Command of the said Ship Tartar, That afterward he removed into the Tempest Capt Markam Commander and continued in her until the Fleet was taken or destroyed by Tarlton [sic: not Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton but Gen. Benedict Arnold, at Osborne's on James River in Chesterfield County, 27 Apr 1781]; during all which time he begs leave to refer himself to the Documents to be produced, for his Conduct That at the time of the Ship being taken by Tarlton he was Lieutenant of the Tempest under the Command of the said Capt Markam and with him made an attempt in a boat to get on shoar and escape from the Enemy bu the Capt proposing upon a heavy fire, to surrender your Petitioner desirous of still serving his Country determined not to be a prisoner jumped overboard and swam to the shore at the hazard of his life leaving on board the Ship Effects to a very considerable amount which he Lost altogether and escaped bare of every kind of cloathing That he took the earliest Opportunity of engaging in the Defence of his Country after his Escape and engaged as a Volunteer in Colo. Mercers light horse and as was in the Engagement at Green spring [Green Springs Plantation, 26 Jun 1781] and had a valuable horse wounded in the action In short your Petitioner continued to act ag't. the Enemy whilst the

remain in the state as a volunteer until the Capture of Lord Cornwallis at York [19 Oct 1781] and was always ready to defend his Country in every capacity if called upon He has been advised that he should have been entitled to half pay or a Commutation instead of it had he have submitted to have been made a Prisoner when Capt Markam was and he cannot conceive there can be any good reason given why he should not have the same Emoluments for escaping purely that he might be useful to his Country but this he submits altogether to the Wisdom and Justice of this honorable house and hopes they will think his Services deserve a Recompence of half Pay or Cummutation and if allowed he shall think himself in duty bound to ever pray for them

Wm H. Parker

Aud'rs Office 4 Octo '92

The Auditor objects to the claim of the Petitioner for the two following reasons

- 1<sup>st</sup> That he did not continue in actual service to the end of the War
- 2<sup>nd</sup> That as an Officer of the Navy he is not comprehended within the terms of the Act of '90 – Officers of the State Line?

J. Pendleton Aud'r

13 Oct/ 1792 to Claims

Letter June 28<sup>th</sup> 1780

Colo'l. Geo. Muter [George Muter VAS803] to Lt. Parker  
War office Richmond June 28 1780

Sir It is determined that the Tartar is to be sold; & it is wished, that the men belonging to her, are turned over to the Jefferson. Your assistance in that business is expected, as it is essentially necessary for the service.

The Executive wish for your being imediatly provided for in the [undeciphered word]. You will please to let me hear from you, & point out any thing that can be done for your advantage & promotion. Be assured, that any opp'y of serving you, will be most readily embraced, by

Sir Your most obt Serv't.



I do hereby Certify that at the time I commanded the ship Tempest in the American Warr that William H. Parker was a Lieut. on board of the said Ship & discharged his duty as such until the 27th day of April 1781 at which time the said ship was Captured given under my hand this 1<sup>st</sup> day of Novem'r 1791.

James Markham

NOTES:

With the pension application of Thomas Bonnewell (R10) is a document certified as a copy of "an original document bound up in 1st Vol. of 'Papers concerning the State Navy' on file in the office of the Commissioner of Revolutionary Claims in Richmond VA," entitled "A List of necessaries wanting out of the public store, for the Officers on board the Ship Tartar – for two months, from 25<sup>th</sup> Nov'r. 1779 to 25th Jany 1780 ," which lists William Parker as Lieutenant. With the pension application of William Saunders (R89) is a document certified on 5 Feb 1850 as a copy of "a paper to be found in 1st Vol of papers concerning the State Navy," entitled "List of Officers of the State Navy agreeable to the arrangement 13th May 1784," which lists William H. Parker as Lieutenant.