

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

Pension Application of John Reynolds R85

Virginia Sea Service

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Virginia            At a monthly court held in and for Northampton County, at the court-house thereof, on Monday the 14th day of August 1837.

Letters of administration de bonis non are granted upon the estate of John Reynolds dec'd. a surgeon of the State Navy of Virginia in the war of the Revolution unto Dr Jesse J. Simkins, who entered into conditioned as the law directs, in the penalty of Fifteen thousand Dollars. And the court doth certify that administration is granted unto the said Jesse J. Simkins to enable him to recover the half pay due the heirs of the said John Reynolds under the act of congress of July 1832 providing for the settlement of the Half pay claims of the officers of the Virginia State Line & Navy. And it appears to the court that the said John Reynolds surgeon of the State Navy died in the year 1816 – leaving as his only nephew & heir at law, William Lanis, the said William Lanis, being the only son of Elizabeth Lanis formerly Elizabeth Reynolds and only sister of the said John Reynolds, so that the said Wm. Lanis is the only heir at law of the identical John Reynolds who was a surgeon as aforesaid of the Virginia State Navy. And the Court further certifies that administration is granted unto the said Jesse J. Simkins by & with the consent of William Lanis the heir of the said John Reynolds, dec'd.

The Heirs of John Reynolds are allowed Land bounty for his services as a Surgeon in the State Navy for three years.

The Register will issue a Warrant accordingly if not heretofore drawn.

attest/J. B. Richardson

John Floyd [Governor of Virginia]

On 29<sup>th</sup> Aug. 1835 a Warrant for 6000 acres No. 8380 issued to John Reynolds Heirs generally.  
[Certified copy from the records of the Virginia Land Office.]

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

State of Virginia

County of York. Towit. The Deposition of William James made this the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of July 1834. The said James makes oath that he knew Dr. John Reynolds in the Revolutionary War, that said Reynolds was a surgeon of the Virginia Navy for several years. This deponent having frequently seen him both on board & on shore – that this deponent recollects that Bannister Pippin [Bannister Pippen] who was an acquaintance of the said James and a seaman of the ship Tartar, died on board the Tartar about the middle of the year of the Seige of little york [see endnote] and this deponent assisted in the removal & burial of said Pippin, that at the time of s'd. Pippin's death Dr. John Reynold was surgeon of the Ship Tartar & this deponent verily believes served as such until she was taken from the service – further this dept. saith not.

Wm hisXmark James

[The following is particularly difficult to read in the online version.]

Deposition of Henry Buchanan [S37807] this 10<sup>th</sup> day of June 1834.

Question 1. Did you know personally or otherwise Dr. John Reynolds in the Revolutionary War and since? Answer I knew him well and personally both before the war and since. He resided in York Town at the commencement of the revolution, where I first knew him, having been stationed myself at a garrison at York town in the Revolutionary War.

Question. Do you know whether said John Reynolds was ever in the military service in the revolutionary war, if so what service was he in, and state the particulars of his services [several illegible]

words]. Answer. I know well that he was [several illegible words] Surgeon of one of the gallies the name of which I do not recollect, but remember the name of his captain to wit capt. [illegible]. I was stationed at said garrison from the [two or three illegible words] until the first of the year 1778, when I went on a tour of duty to the South. Previous to going to the South, I frequently saw Dr. Reynolds on shore at York Town and [two illegible words] the galley which frequently together with other vessels of the Virginia navy, rode at anchor at York town. [Several illegible words] from the above returned from the South in the year 1780 and was again stationed at York garrison [several illegible words] until the Siege at York Town in October 1781 [several illegible words] Dr. John Reynolds in service again. He was still a surgeon of the Virginia navy [two or three illegible words] the ship Tartar commanded by Captain Taylor [Richard Taylor S25873]. The last time I saw Dr. Reynolds in service was in the summer or fall of the year of the Siege of Little York, when I [several illegible words] on shore at York Town from a board the Tartar. [Two or three illegible words] he served until his ship was laid up, but does not know at what time that happened. Dr. Reynolds [two or three illegible words] war resided a short time in the town & county of York & removed to the Eastern shore of Virginia where he died soon after the late war.

Question 3. What opportunities had you of knowing of the services of naval officers in the Revolution. Answer I was stationed at York garrison [several illegible words] and frequently saw the officers [several illegible words] the ship Dragon & the ship Tartar particularly besides the Manly galley [sic: the galley *Manley*], Henry gally and others & also recollect several officers among them Capt C. Lilly [Thomas Lilly?], Capt. Tompkins [Robert Tompkins R102], Capt [illegible], Capt. [Eleazer] Callender, Dr. Cheesman [Thomas Cheesman (Chisman) R27] & Dr. Reynolds. Further this deponent saith not.

[signed] Henry Buchanan

I William Jennings [pension application S5615] do hereby Certify that I served several years in the Virginia Navy in the revolutionary War for which service I have rec'd Land Bounty from the state of Virginia. I was well acquainted with Dr John Reynolds in the war. Said Reynolds was the Surgeon of the ship Tartar from the time I entered the navy in the year 1777 until the Tartar was laid up out of service. I know nothing of his services previous to that time. I was in an action which took place in the fall of the year 1780 [see endnote] between a British Schooner and the Ship Tartar under the command of Captain Taylor and the Patriot Commanded by Capt. Barron [Richard Barron R5]. In this action Capt. Taylor was severely wounded in the thigh [see endnote]. At this time Dr John Reynolds was the Surgeon of the Tartar and dressed Capt. Taylor's wounds These [illegible word] I was witness to myself.

[signed 15 Jul 1834] Wm Jennings

I certify that I was engaged in the Navy of Virginia for several years in the revolutionary War as a warrant officer, for which service I rec'd. 2666 $\frac{2}{3}$  acres of Bounty Land from the State of Virginia & I served principally on board the Patriot and Liberty & occasionally in other vessels of the Navy. I was acquainted with a Dr. John Reynolds in said Navy. He was a surgeon of the Navy from the latter part of the year 177[?] until the reduction of the Navy in the year 1781. his service being about five years. I cannot state his services minutely as the Surgeons of the Navy were frequently changed from one vessel to another. I knew him as the Surgeon of the Protector galley for several years, and afterwards as the Surgeon of the Tartar, commanded by Capt. Richard Taylor. His services were principally on board these vessels. In the latter part of the year 1780 I know he was Surgeon of the Ship Tartar, having been in the action in which Capt. Taylor was wounded. After this action, I was on board the Tartar & saw the wounds of Capt Taylor dressed by Dr. Reynolds & served a short time on the Tartar the year following on her Dr. Reynolds was still the Surgeon of the Ship Tartar & continued as such until the navy was reduced.

[signed 15 Jul 1834] James Burk [S6649]

NOTES:

Other accounts state that the engagement of the *Tartar* against the *Lord Howe* in which Capt. Taylor was severely wounded occurred in Oct 1778, and that the *Dragon* rather than the *Patriot* was involved. Descriptions of Taylor's wound also vary.

In the pension application of David Brown R15 and elsewhere is evidence that on 25 Mar 1780 the *Tartar* was ordered to be "transferred to the Board of Trade for the Commercial purposes of the State." If so it seems unlikely that she was in the service of the Virginia Navy in 1781, the year of the Siege of Yorktown.

The Virginia bounty-warrant file also contains a statement by Benjamin Marnix that is illegible in the online version.

A note in the file indicates that the claim for half pay was rejected because Reynolds did not serve to the end of the war, 11 April 1783.