

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Robert Snead (Snead) R94

VA Sea Service/ VA Half Pay

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 16 Aug 2021.

Pension Office/ October 8 1845

I certify that I have examined the claim of the administrator of Robert Snead, dec'd who was a Surgeon in the Virginia State Navy during the revolutionary war, and it appears that in 1834, under the act of July 5 1832, entitled "an act to provide for liquidity and paying certain claims of the State of Virginia," half-pay was allowed from the 22^d of April 1783. Half-pay is now claimed for the 31 of May 1781, when the said Snead left the service to April 22^d 1783. My opinion is that the claim should be allowed. I therefore certify that half-pay is still due for the period claimed, at the rate of one hundred and eighty two dollars and fifty cents per annum, and that the same is payable to Henry Northrup, attorney of Stephen Phillips, of Pennsylvania, administrator of Robert Snead, deceased.

Approved/ Secretary of War

Commissioner of Pensions

[From [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#) indexed as Snead, Robert. The left side of the first page of the following is missing and inferred in brackets.]

State of Virginia Accomack County Sc

Be it remembered that John Bull of said County [this] day personally appeared before me William R Custis [a] Justice of the Peace for said County and made Oath that [in] the early part of the Revolutionary War the deponent then [only] a small boy was carried by his father to Guilford [in Accomack County] where [the] Galleys were then building for the State Navy. The [depo]nent cannot possitively say in which year this took place [but] from several circumstances [two undeciphered words] the deponent confident[ly] believes it was in the year Seventeen Hundred & seventy [missing]. When this deponent saw the said Galleys building [missing] planked up and nearly completed and as the deponent understood they were launched shortly afterward and [one] was called the Accomack and was commanded by Capt [missing] Underhill [William Underhill VAS2457] and the other was called the Diligence & commanded by Capt Johannes Watson [VAS2458]. This deponent was [missing] on board the Deligence while she was in service – her [usual] station being at Metompkin near where the deponent [missing] lived. The deponent cannot possitively say when the said [galleys] were finally laid up but he believes it was near [the] close of the Revolutionary War and he is perfectly certain [they] were in service during the winter of 1779-80 which [was] a remarkably cold winter because he distinctly [missing] that Thomas Budd & George Wall with whom [he] was well acquainted crossed the Chessapeak [sic: Chesapeake] Bay on the [missing] from Norfolk or somewhere in that neighbourhood [missing] the galleys had been sent to be [missing] and where they were then blocked up by the Ice. The deponent is certain the said galleys were in service more than [missing] years and he beleives as much as five years. The said [galleys] were nearly the same size and were large flat bottomed vessels – 80 or 90 feet on deck and with a [undeciphered word] of [missing] at [undeciphered] – and the armament of said vessels [he] believes to have been about equal. The Deligence was laid [up] near the place where said deponent then resided and he [missing] she had two 18 pound Cannon four 9 pounders and [part may be missing at bottom of page] and he is possitive that she mounted at least ten. The deponent [undeciphered word] only saw these Cannon while mounted on board the Deligence but often saw them afterward & during the late War he removed them at the request of the Colonel of the 2nd Regiment from that place where they lay from the time said galley was laid up to the Court House. The Accomack was not laid up in the deponent's neighbourhood but he well recollects hearing of it at the time and he thinks the two were laid up near the same time. The Deponent was well acquainted with William Lumber who was at first Gunner's Mate and after the death of John Crab [John Crabb VAS3171] who was gunner, the said Wm Lumber was Gunner of said vessel until she was laid up and he was in service on board the Diligence as Gunner's Mate and Gunner the whole time she was in

service. The deponent was well acquainted with Captains Underhill & Watson while they commanded said Galleys and for many years afterwards and he believes they commanded said vessels the whole time they were in service: Watson he knows commanded the diligence [page torn] she was laid up.

[signed 30 Nov 1830] John Bull

Custis Bull of Accomack County personally appeared before me Wm R Custis a Justice of the Peace of the said County and made oath that he is the brother of said John Bull and is now Sixty Seven years of age and during the Revolutionary War he and said John Bull resided together in the family of their father. That all the facts stated in the foregoing Deposition of John Bull are equally known to this deponent except that the deponent never saw the said Galleys while they were building. Custis hisXmark Bull

[30 Nov 1830]

The above named John Bull made oath before me that he was well acquainted with Robert Snead dec'd who was a Surgeon on board the above named Galley the "Diligence" during the whole period of her service, and frequently saw him on board said Galley.

[signed 1 Dec 1830] John Bull

The above named Custis Bull made oath before me that he was well acquainted with Robert Snead dec'd who was a Surgeon on board the above mentioned Galley the "Deligence" during the whole period of her service and frequently saw him on board of her Custis hisXmark Bull

[1 Dec 1830]

NOTES:

A letter in the federal file dated 15 July 1850 refers to Dr. Robert Snead as Surgeon's Mate and states that there is insufficient evidence that he served to the end of the war, which is taken as 22 Apr 1783.

According to E. M. Sanchez-Saavedra, *Guide to Virginia Military Organization in the American Revolution*, the *Accomack* was in service 1777 - 1782, and the *Diligence* 1777 - 1781. According to the pension application of Richard Parker (R81), however, the two galleys were ordered to be dismantled in May 1780.