

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Benjamin Strother¹ R97

f34VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

5/5/12

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

[f p. 3: Letter dated November 18, 1851 [Martinsburg] addressed to Jas E. Heath, Esq. [James E. Heath], Commissioner of Pensions from John Strother inquiring as to the claim he might have for the half pay due his father, Benjamin Strother, "who served as a midshipman in the Virginia State line for which his heirs were awarded some 18 or 20 years ago 2666 2/3 acres of land scrip."

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Strother". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Virginia Jefferson County Sct. March term 1852

It being proved to the satisfaction of the Court that Benjamin Strother, late of this County, disease, died on or about the 10th day of October 1807, that he was the same person who served as a midshipman in the Virginia State Navy in the Revolution War, and to whose children, to wit: Catharine Crane, Margaret Moore, Mary S. Duffield & John Strother and the personal Representatives of a deceased daughter, Elizabeth Pendleton, land bounty was awarded about the year 1834, for the said Revolutionary [services]: ordered that the same be certified.

S/ T. Moore, CC

[Note: John Strother, son of the veteran, is referred to in the file as Col. John Strother of Berkeley County, Virginia. He was appointed administrator of his father's estate.]

[Note: the file contains much discussion and arguments regarding whether or not midshipmen of the Virginia Navy during the Revolution were entitled to half pay for life as 'officers' covered by the acts of the Virginia legislature awarding such benefit.]

The [Virginia State Library](#) has an online digital collection of documents relating to bounty land claims contains the following documents relating to this matter:

To the Governor of Virginia

Your petitioners John Strother & others son & daughters respectively state That their deceased father Benjamin Strother was a Midshipman in the Virginia State Navy more than three years during the war of the Revolution and never received the land Bounty to which

¹ Va. Sea Service in the Va. Half Pay

he was entitled –

He died many years ago & it has never been an object to apply for the Bounty as there has been no land appropriated since the year 1784 until recently. –

Mr. Craighill² who was an officer in the Navy & is one of the most respectable man in the County of Jefferson, as well as a very intelligent man recollects his services well, & has testified to them. –

The public records have also shown that he was a Midshipman in service. –

The Lay in Bounty is respectfully solicited. –

S/ A. M. Green, for the petitioners

I certify that Benjamin Strother received on the 6th of November 1783 a certificate for the balance of his full pay or depreciation amounting to £54.4.6 – as a Midshipman in the State Navy – and that the said Certificate was delivered to himself. Given under my hand this 21 October 1831 at the Auditors Office.

S/ Jas. E. Heath, APA [Auditor of Public Accounts]

[Note: The digital image of the affidavit dated September 21, 1831 given by [illegible first name] Craighill is so compromised as to be almost totally illegible with only occasional words being recognizable. This is very much a speculation as to what might be in the affidavit, but it appears Craighill makes reference to the *Tempest* and a Captain Colier Saunders [sic, Celey Saunders. It is possible that Strother served as a midshipman on the *Tempest* under Capt. Saunders.]

² This MAY be Nathaniel Craighill who is listed as having served as a midshipman on the *Dragon*, June 6, 1777 to July 24 1777. For information on the *Dragoon*, see <http://www.awiatsea.com/sn/VA/Dragon%20Virginia%20Navy%20Ship-Galley%20%5BCallender%20Markham%20Singleton%20Travis%20Chandler%20Joel%5D.html>