

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of David Henderson S5506

VA Sea Service

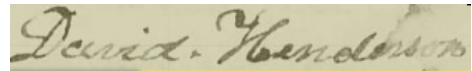
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 1 May 2020.

State of Virginia            } To Wit  
County of Spotsylvania    }

On this 12<sup>th</sup> day of September in the year 1832 personally appeared before me Hugh M Patton a Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid David Henderson a residence of the Town of Fredericksburg in the County & State aforesaid aged 78 years who being first duly sworn according to Law, doth on his Oath makes the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. That he entered in the service of the State Navy of Virginia on Board the Ship Dragon on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of April 1777 and was immediately appointed Steward & Clerk in which Capacity he continued to act untill he was appointed Midshipman, and resigned his Stewardship. he continued on Board said ship until sometime in the year 1799 [sic], when he left her, but he does not recollect the exact time in which he did leave said ship. during the most of the time he was onboard said ship he was Midshipman as aforesaid, and acted also as Clerk in which Capacity. he had many and large[?] active duties to discharge. The Dragon was under the command of the following officers to wit, Eleazer Callender Captain, John Lurty [R65] & John Hamilton Lieutenants, John Cranberry Sailing Master &c, &c That while he was on Board said Ship, she was ordered in Company with the ship Tartar Richard Taylor [S25873] Captain, the ship Tempest Ceely Saunders [sic: Celey Saunders] Captain, and the Brig Northhampton [sic: *Northampton*] Capt. John Lurty upon a private expedition against the Island of Bermuda for the purpose of making reprisals upon the British, and with that view we sailed from the Capes of Virginia some time in the year 1778. The whole fleet under the command of Richard Taylor Commodore, but in a few days after leaving the Capes, we discovered Two large British vessels which afterwards proved to be the Roabuck [sic: *Roebuck*] & the Emerald, with a Large Sloop Tender with them. They immediately gave chase to us, the Tender out Sailing us came so near as to fire on us, and had nearly cut off the Brig Northhampton, But the rest of the Fleet shortned sail so that she might keep up, and the night coming on, we succeeded in eluding them, and the next day all got back safely into the Bay. From that time untill he left her, the Dragon continued in said bay for the purpose of protecting our vessels against British Privateers, while engaged in this service, some time in the same year, the Dragon had an Engagement with a Privateer from New York. The Privateer out Sailing the Dragon, the Commodore Taylor being in sight, and finding she was likely to escape, came alongside the Dragon in a small boat his tender and after getting some information, and manning his Boat from such of the Dragons Crew as choose to accompany him gave chase to the Privateer, and soon came up with her and commenced action, in which the Commodores leg was broken & several of his boats Crew so much wounded, that they were obliged to give over the chase, and let the Privateer escape.

The said Henderson hereby relinquishes every claim whatever, to a pension or annuity except the present, and he declares his name is not on the Pension Roll of any agency in any State.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid



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

I hereby Certify that David Henderson Served [as] Midshipman in the Navy of this State  
[illegible] years, and is Intituled to Land, Agreeable [to an] Act of Assembly.

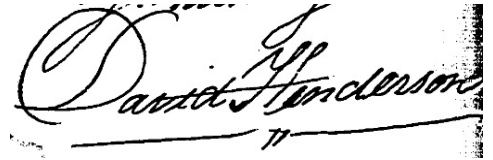
Eleazer Callender

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Eleazer Callender". The ink is dark and the handwriting is somewhat stylized.

Gent'l

Frederick'g [Fredericksburg] Oct'r 24<sup>th</sup> 1783

Please deliver Mr Thomas Allen the Warrent for the Land I am intituled to as it's out of my power  
to appear in person & you'l greatly ob'ge. Gent'l Y'r humb'e Serv't.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "David Henderson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

To The Aditors of Public Ac'ts

NOTE: A document in the federal file states that David Henderson died on 22 Feb 1838, and Alexander Henderson was executor of the estate.