

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Mitchell S5766

f25VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/19/13

[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.]

State of Virginia County of Frederick to wit:

On this 3rd day of September 1832 personally appeared before the Court of Frederick County in the State of Virginia, Thomas Mitchell a resident of said County and State aged seventy-four years, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832. That he enlisted in the Naval Service of the United States in the month of April 1778, with Captain James Callander [probably a mistaken reference to Eleazer Callender]¹ commander of the Ship of War *Dragon*² and served as steward in the said Ship, first under the said Callander, and afterwards under Captain Edward Travis and then under Captain James Markham – he recollects that one Chandler [probably Thomas Chandler] was the Lieutenant and Joseph Saunders³ the sailing Master that William Parker, Edward Eskridge, James Tutt and others were midshipmen. He went on board the Ship near the mouth of the Rappahannock; and sailed to Hampton Roads, and then to Lynnhaven Bay, and continued in the Chesapeake Bay, and about the Capes of Virginia, and sometimes out at sea, until the Ship was laid up and the men discharged in Chickahominy River in the month of September 1781. He was in an action off the Capes of Virginia during his service with a British Schooner.⁴ He resided in the County of Lancaster in the State of Virginia when he entered the service.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity, except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any Agency in any State.

Sworn to in open Court the day and year first above mentioned.

¹ CALLENDER, ELEAZER [ELIEZER] VA: Captain, Virginia Navy, Eleazer (Eliezer) Callender entered service in 1775. [Stewart, 160] He was appointed, by the Committee of Safety, as a Captain in the Virginia Navy on 1 April 1776 and assigned to the second cruiser to be built on the Rappahannock River. Captain Green was to be his first mate. [Stewart, 12n] On 17 June 1776 he was assigned to the Virginia Navy Sloop *Defiance*. On 19 August 1776 he was ordered to sail down the Rappahannock River to Hobbs Hole. On 12 September 1776 he was ordered to transport troops to New York. [NOAR, 47] Between then and October 1776 he left the *Defiance*. [Stewart, 17] He later commanded the *Dragon*. He lived in Fredericksburg after the war. On 12 November 1791 he petitioned the Virginia House of Delegates for compensation for a valuable horse lost in the service. He was an original member of the Virginia Society of the Cincinnati. [Stewart, 160]

<http://www.awiatsea.com/Officers/Officers%20C.html>

² See the excellent narrative relating to this vessel posted by Ken Kellow at

<http://www.awiatsea.com/sn/VA/Dragon%20Virginia%20Navy%20Ship-Galley%20%5BCallender%20Markham%20Singleton%20Travis%20Chandler%20Joel%5D.html>

³ **Joseph Saunders S17073**

⁴ Ken Kellow's narrative regarding the history of the *Dragon* states that she was engaged with a British Privateer named the *Lord Howe* in October 1778. See the page cited in footnote 2 above.

S/ T. A. Tidball, CC

S/ Thomas Mitchell



[p 8: On February 3, 1851 in Frederick County Virginia, Hiram Murphy, Executor of Thomas Mitchell deceased filed an affidavit stating that Thomas Mitchell died January 24, 1835 meaning the affiant as his executor; that Mitchell left no widow but left ten children of whom some are now living, namely: **Mary Smith** the wife of John Smith, **Debarah** the wife of Henry Smith, **Eliza** the wife of Eli Rathbone, **Sally Ann** wife of John S Crawford, **Grace F.** the wife of Hiram Murphy, **Isaac Mitchell & Peyton R Mitchell**, the last 2 of whom have died since the death of Thomas Mitchell, **William Mitchell** who died in the state of Illinois some 5 or 6 years ago leaving several children whose names are unknown to the affiant, **Thomas Mitchell** who died 8 or 10 years ago in Pennsylvania leaving 2 children whose names are unknown, and **John Mitchell** he died in Mexico in 1847 unmarried and without issue.]

[Veteran was initially pensioned at the rate of \$96 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831 and ending January 24, 1835 when he died, for his service as a Seaman in the Virginia State Navy. His pension was increased to \$121.66 for reasons that are not clear from the contents of this file.]

[From [bounty land records in the Library of Virginia](#)] 1-page file

I do Certify that Thomas Mitchell entered a Seaman in the State Navy the [illegible] day of February 1777 and on the 1st day of April 1779 was made Steward to the ship *Dragon* in which station he served until April 26th 1781 – and was in the *Page Galley* under my Command of Chickahominy the time the [indecipherable word] of the vessel were Destroyed by the Enemy – there being no other Vessel to go on board and he having served three years and upward in the Service I hereby Discharge him this 27th day of April 1781

S/ Joseph Sanders [sic, Joseph Saunders]

A Copy

S/ J Pendleton, Junior

Sir

Please to grant a Certificate for what land I may be entitled to on to Mr. Joseph Sanders and this my note shall be your Receipt.

S/ Thomas Mitchell

July 19, 1783

[Presumably a copy]

[From [bounty land records in the Library of Virginia](#)] another 1-page file POSSIBLY relating to the same sailor.

I do Certify that Thomas Mitchell Served 3 years as a Sailor in the Navy of this State & that he was legally discharged by me the 4th day of December 1780. Given under my hand at Richmond November 21, 1787.

S/ J Markham
Entitled to depreciation from December 77 to December 80 if not settled
S/ T Meriwether

I do Assigned to William Reynolds a good right to my Claim in the Navy
S/ Tho. Mitchell
14 July 1787

I do Certify that Robert Tate entered a sailor in the State Navy the 12 March 1777 for 3 years
which term he served & was discharged as will appear from certain Rolls rendered

S/ J Markham
Entitled to depreciation from 1st March 77 to 12 March 1780 if not settled
S/ T Meriwether

For value received I do assigned to William Reynolds the pay &c due me for my Services as
aforesaid which I warrant to be just. Given March 28, 87
S/ John Tate

[Copy] – [Note: Presumably referring to all of the above]