

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of James Burk S6649

VA Sea Service

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 16 Nov 2018.

State of Virginia Elizabeth City County to wit:

On this 26th day of July 1832 personally appeared before the Court of said County James Burk a resident of Elizabeth City County and State of Virginia aged Seventy three 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 7th 1832. That he said Burk entered in the Virginia State Navy in the Revolutionary War on board the Boat Patriot commanded by Captain Richard Barron [R5] as Gunner of said boat, that he entered the naval service for the term of three years and commenced his inlistment in the fall of the year 1777 and left the same in the fall of the year 1780 having completed his term of three years, that he resided at the time of entering the said service in the County of Elizabeth City in the State of Virginia that he was engaged in several skirmishes with the British Vessels, and in one regular engagement which commenced between a British Schooner and the Ship Dragon of the Virginia Navy commanded by Captain Eleazer Callender, and in which the boat Patriot commanded temporarily by Commodore Taylor [Richard Taylor S25873], in the absence of Captain Barron – joined in this engagement Commodore Taylor was severely wounded in the thigh and eight men on the Patriot were wounded and one killed. The Patriot generally cruised in the James River, York River and other waters, of Virginia and the Chesapeake Bay and finally said Burk declares that he received from the State of Virginia, two thousand six hundred and sixty six and two thirds acres of land for his services in the State navy in the said capacity of Gunner. 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 and subscribed the day and year aforesaid James Burk

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

I certify that it appears by the Records of the Land office of Virginia that on the 22^d Nov'r 1783 a Military Warrant for one hundred acres of Land No 1958 issued to James Burk for three years services as a Gunner of the State Navy And that another Warrant appears to have issued for the same service

Wm Selden R L Off [Register of the Land Office]

Dec 29 1830

I Certify that it appears by the Records of the Land office that on the 22^d of Nov 1783, two military Land bounty warrants Nos 1948 & 1949, for one hundred acres each, issued to Thomas Jennings [Thomas Jennins VAS1183] & to Wm Jennings [William Jennings S5615 = William Jennins VAS1183] for their services for three years as Sailors in the State Navy./ Wm Selden R L Off

I William Jennings Sen'r Certify that I served three years to wit, from the year 1778 till the end of the year 1780, on board the Patriot, a vessel in the Virginia navy during the revolutionary war, commanded by Capt. Richard Barron. James Burk, now of Elizabeth City County enlisted at the same time & served the same length of time to wit during 1778-1779 & 1780. He served in capacity of gunner on board said vessel & was honorably discharged at the end of his time. Witness my hand & seal this [illegible] day of December 1830.

Wm Jennings Sen'r

Dec 29 1830

[Certified before Geo. J. Jennings, Alderman
Norfolk Borough 15 Dec 1830]



I certify that I served on board the *Patriot* a vessel in the Virginia Navy in the Revolutionary War, for the term of three years 1778-1779 & 1780. James Burk served on board the same Boat, under Capt. Richard Barron for the same period of time in the character of Gunner, & was honourably discharged at the expiration of his term. Witness my hand & seal this [illegible] day of Dec. 1830.

Tho Jennings Sen'r

[Certified before Geo. J. Jennings, Alderman
Norfolk Borough 15 Dec 1830]



I Certify that while I was in the navy of the United States Viz from the year eighteen hundred and four till the year eighteen hundred and twelve Boatswains, Gunners and Sail makers were Warrant Officers in the navy and in the distribution of prize money ranked at least with, and according to my best recollection above Midshipmen, who are Warrant officers.

[signed] J. B. Harvie
Dec'r 28th 1830

The Petition of James Burk respectfully states that he was a Gunner in the Va. Navy for more than three years during the Revolution and after the war was over obtained an order from the Executive directing the Register to issue to him the Bounty due a Gunner who had served three years in the Va. State navy.

The Register issued a warrant No. 1958 for 100 acres only, which is all your Petitioner ever rec'd. He has since applied to the Register for the Residue and has exhibited proof, & made references on the Books of the Register, to show that Gunners, were warrant officers in the Navy, and drew land Bounty as such, yet the Register is unwilling, because of the lapse of time, (altho he sees that other Gunners drew as warrant officers, and altho he does at this time issue warrants to them as such where no part has heretofore been rec'd) to correct the mistake without the direction of the Executive.

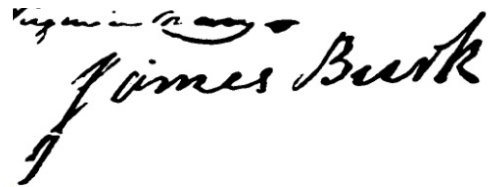
Your Petitioner asks that the Register be directed to issue to him a warrant for the proportion of land due to Gunners of the State navy, deducting therefrom the quantity of 100 acres heretofore rec'd.

James Burk/ by his Atto. Thos. Green

[The following is from [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

I certify that I was three years in the Virginia Navy in the revolutionary war as a Gunner of the Patriot Boat Commanded by Capt. Barron. I left the Service in the fall of 1780 at which time the ship Tartar was still in service as a Vessel of the Virginia navy.

[Elizabeth City County, 26 July 1832]



NOTE: For a thorough discussion of the relative rank of naval and land officers and the amount of bounty land due them, see John Flynt VAS2971.