

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Joseph Ranger S7352

VA Sea Service

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 27 Jan 2021.

At a Court of Monthly Session held for the County of Elizabeth City the 25th day of October 1832 State of Virginia Elizabeth City County

this 25th day of October in the year 1832 before the County Court of Elizabeth City now sitting personally appeared Joseph Ranger a man of colour a resident of St. John's Parrish in the County aforesaid and State aforesaid aged about 72 years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of a provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he the said Ranger entered the service of the State of Virginia in the Revolutionary war to wit as a private or seaman in the navy of said State, that he said Ranger resided at the time of his entering said service in the county of Northumberland in the State aforesaid, that he said Ranger entered the service aforesaid early in the war of the Revolution, the [page torn] time he cannot recollect, though he thinks in early part of the year in which Independence [was] declared that he said Ranger entered first on board the Hero Gallery [sic: galley *Hero*] commanded by Capt. John Thomas [R100] on board of which he continued but a short time, to the best of his recollection about three months, when the said Ranger was transfered to the ship Dragon of the Virginia Navy aforesaid an armed vessel of the same, that he said Ranger continued on board said ship about four years, that said ship was commanded while said Ranger was on board, first by Capt. Eliazer Callender [sic: Eleazer Callender] and then by Capt. Edward Travis [R103] of Williamsburg, that Thomas Chandler [R24] was Lieutenant of said ship. that Edward Eskridge [Edwin Eskridge VAS3521] was a midshipman of the same. that he recollects also William Booth [R11], who was a pilot. That a Joseph or Josiah Saunders [Joseph Saunders S17073] was also a lieutenant of the same. That said Ranger was transfered from said ship Dragon to the Brig Jefferson of fifteen guns. The Dragon having been converted into a fire ship. That Lt Chandler was also turned over from the Dragon to the command of the Jefferson, that the said Ranger served on board of said Brig Jefferson about 12 months, when she was blown up by the enemy at a place called Osborne's on James River [20 mi below Richmond, by Gen. Benedict Arnold, 27 Apr 1781], that the said Ranger was lastly turned over to the Boat Patriot about 5 or 6 months before the siege of York [28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781]. That in an engagement near Newport news on James River the crew of the Patriot was taken prisoners and confined until after the siege of York, when he said Ranger with other prisoners was discharged. That he knows of James Burk [S6649] and Com. James Barron [Commodore James Barron [W12264] and perhaps Thomas [Thomas Jennings] & William Jennings [S5615] who can give evidence of his service. He hereby relinquishes [page torn] claim whatever to an annuity or pension ex[cept] the present, and declares that hs name is not [on] the pension roll of any agency of any State. Sworn to and subscribed this 27th day of Sept. 1832.

Joseph hisXmark Ranger.

“Council Chamber June 4 1783

I do certify that Joseph Ranger is entitled to the proportion of Land allowed a Sailor in the State Navy for 3 years service

Th Meriwether

Benj. Harrison”

Under the foregoing Advice a warrant for one hundred acres issued to the said Ranger on 4 June

1783 Teste my hand & seal of office/ W Selden [undeciphered abbreviation] off Virg'a
L. Off Virg/ 13 Dec'r 1832.

[From [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

These are to Certifie that the Bearer Joseph Ranger has Served in the Navy of this State as a Seaman upwards of three years. Given under my hand this 1 day June

1783 Jas Barron
Com S. N

3
c
Jas Barron
Com S. N

[Parts of the following are missing where indicated by *.]

[*] certifie that Joseph Ranger enterd with me as seaman in the navy of [*] state some time in May 1778 for the term of three years. Given under [*] hand this 13 day Aug 1786. John Thomas Capt

[*] certifie that Joseph Ranger served as a seaman in the navy of this [*]te from May 1778 till he was taken a prisoner in the boat Patriot [*] the british in 1781 where he remaned a prisoner till the surrender of [*]k Town. Given under my hand this 4th March 1786. Joseph Lambert

[*] entitled to depreciation for three years S. N.

[*]mencing May seventy Eight if not settled
Aug't 26 86. T. Mereweather [sic]

a copy J. Pendleton

Gen. Please to deliver Mr. Francis Graves what ever may be [*] me for my services as seaman in the navy of this state – also the [*] I am entitled to. Joseph hisXmark Ranger

To the auditor of publick acc't

Elizabeth City County

I do certify that the above order from Ranger to Graves was [*] and deliver'd in my presents Given under my hand this 2nd [*] of Aug't 1786 Miles King

Settle the above with Mr. K. Sanders

Del'd Ranger himself Fra's Graves

a Copy J. Pendleton