

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Joshua Singleton S7510

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 16 May 2015.

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

I do hereby Certify that the bearer hereof Mr Joshua Singleton a Lieutenant in the navy of this state resign'd his Commission some time In January 1780 and had been upwards of three years in the service at that time.

Given under my hand/ At hampton this 2^d day May 1783

a Copy

Jas Barron [James Barron]

Auditors office 12th May 1783

Com'e St. Navy [Commodore State Navy]

H. Randolph

To his Excellency the Governor and the honorable the Executive Council of of the State of Virginia
The petition of Joshua Singleton of the County of Gloucester humbly represents that on the 12th of May 1783 your petitioner obtained a certificate for the proportion of land allowed a lieutenant in the state Navy for three years service. That pursuant to that certificate a warrant issued to your petitioner for 2666 $\frac{2}{3}$ acres as appears from a certificate of the register of the land office herewith exhibited. your petitioner also begs leave to submit additional evidence of the justice of his claim not to mention your petitioner's declaration on oath in open Court in that county in which he has spent the most of a life of more than 40 years your petitioner has obtained the affidavits of two disinterested persons as to his service and his rank your petitioner deems it unnecessary to adduce evidence of the size of the vessel in which he served as he supposes it is known to all that the "Dragon" [sic: *Dragon*] was a vessel of sufficient size to entitle its Lieutenant to rank with a Captain of the land forces. Your petitioner had thought that this representation would have been sufficient to induce the register to issue the additional warrant [making the total 4000 acres] without the interposition of the Executive but the Register does not feel at liberty so to do.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Joshua Singleton/ by his Attorney B. F. Michie

Joshua Singleton was appointed Lieut under Capt Edward Travis [R103] in the Navy in the state of Virginia by the Committee of Safety in Williamsburgh in the year of 1776 and after serving some time upwards of twelve months under Capt Travis I was turned over by the board of war which set in Williamsburgh [sic: Williamsburg] on bord of the Henry gally by the said board of war and received a Commission as first Lieut and served some time on board of the said gally and again turned over by the said board on board of the Ship dragon which I served upwards of four years in the three State Vessels namely the Manly gally [sic: *Manley* galley] the Henry gally & the ship Dragon and enlisted between twenty and thirty men and further state that just before the commencement of revolutionary war I set up a Vessel large enough for the west India trade and in Consequence of the said war I lost the vessel by rotting on the stocks in order to serve my Country

Joshua Singleton

At a Court held for Gloucester County at the Courthouse on monday the 4th day of May 1818 The above declaration was sworn to in Open Court by Joshua Singleton

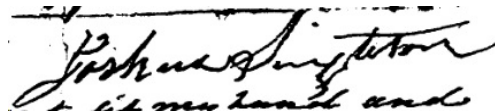
Teste Arthur L. Davies Cl. [undeciphered word]

Copy Teste A. L. Davies C. G. C

United States of america, District of Virginia, towit;

This day personally appeared before me St. George Tucker District Judge of the United States for the District of Virginia, Joshua Singleton a native born citizen of the State of Virginia, aged seventy five years & upwards, who being by me first solemnly sworne in due form of Law, declareth & saith, That he was appointed second Lieutenant of the Galley Manly, belonging to the State of Virginia commanded by

Capt Edward Travis in the Service of the said State, by the Committee of Safety sometime in the year 1776. That after serving more than twelve months on board the said Galley, called the Manly; he was by the board of war of the said State of Virginia, turn'd over to the Galley Henry, commanded by Capt. Robert Tomkins [sic: Robert Tompkins, R102], and received a Commission from the said Board of War, as first Lieutenant of the said Galley, and served on board of her about a year; after which he was by the said board of war turn'd over to the Ship Dragon, then commanded by Captain James Markham [R72], in the service of the said State, and served on board the said Ship in the service of the said State, about three years, as first lieutenant of the said Ship, until the said Ship was unrigged & laid up by order of the said Board of War, sometime in the year 1781 after which, still holding his Commission, he join'd the army engaged in the Siege of York as a volunteer Horseman & served as such until the surrender of the Army under Lord Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781]. That he has lost or mislaid his Commissions before mentioned supposing they would never be wanted for any occasion. That his circumstances are much reduced, possessing only about ninety seven acres & a half of Land, without any Slave to work the same, & possessing only a single horse, and that he is utterly unable to support himself by his own labour. He further states, that during the time that he was in the naval service of the State of Virginia as aforesaid he was in several engagements with the Enemies privateers & cruisers, both within the Capes of Virginia, and on the coast without the same, in one of which he received a slight wound in one of the fingers of his right hand, by which the joint was injured, but can not say that he at this time feels any disability from it. And further he saith not.

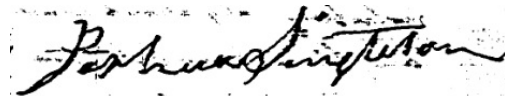


Joshua Singleton
by his hand and

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and Seal, at Williamsburg, in the State & District of Virginia aforesaid, this twenty third day of February 1819 in the forty third year of the Independence of [one or two illegible words] States.

S. G. Tucker

The Petitioner resides in the County of Gloster in the State of Virginia, about seven miles from the court house, and respectfully requests to be favour'd with an answer to his petition, directed to that place.



Joshua Singleton

I certify it appears from a list of such of the names of the Officers of the Virginia State line as received Certificates for the balance of their full pay agreeably to the Act of Assembly passed the November Session 1781, that a certificate issued on the 12th day of April 1783 in the name of Joshua Singleton a Lieutenant in the Navy for £271.8.11.

Jas E Heath aud'r./ Aud Off Jan 1 1827

Gloucester County to Wit:

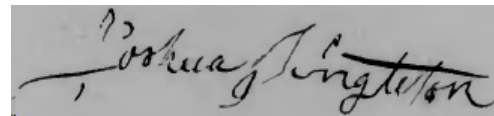
Personally appeared before me William Robins, a Justice for the County aforesaid, Richard White [S6384], and made oath that he has been acquainted with Joshua Singleton from his youth, that he frequently saw him when he was an officer in the State service as first Lieut. in the Henry Galley, Robert Tomkies master and also a first Lieut. on board the ship Dragon, when she was Carried up James River. Given under my hand this 20th day December 1830. Wm. Robins

[From [Library of Virginia Legislative Petitions Digital Collection](#)/ Gloucester County]

To the Legislature of Virginia

Your petitioner Joshua Singleton of the County of Gloucester respectfully states, that he was a Lieutenant in the State Navy of Virginia during the Revolutionary War, that he first entered into service under Captn Edward Travis who commanded the Galley Manly, then transferred under the Command of

Capt Ro. Tomkins who commanded the Galley Henry, then ordered under the Command of Capt Markham who Commanded the Ship Dragon and Continued on duty in that Ship untill she was laid up, when he reported himself to General Washington at the Seige of York Town and Continued in service untill the Capitulation, when he became Supernumerary and found himself very poor, having [undeciphered word] and spent his little patrimony to support the dignity of his Commission. He then engaged in the West Indies trade and was absent for several years which may readily account for his not being reported by the board of Officers, that set by order of the Executive of 178 & 178 [sic] Your petitioner begs further to state that he never did resign his Commission, and was in possession of it untill within a few years past. now, it is either lost or mislaid; but as evidence that he was an Officer in the State Navy he begs leave to refer to a Copy of his land warrant and other unquestionable evidence herewith submitted He will further remark that he is now upwards of 80 years of age, infirm, and very poor and withall not the means of obtaining the Common Necessaries of life; He therefore Prays the Consideration of your honorable body to soften the Condition of his few remaining days, and that he be placed upon the same footing as other Officers of equal grade who faithfully served their Country, all of which is respectfully submitted
 Dec'r. 15th 1830



Dec'r 23^d 1830 ref'd to Rev'y C[lai]ms

[The following are from the federal pension file.]

State of Virginia }
 County of Gloucester }

On this 6th day of Aug't. 1832 personally appeared before the County Court of Gloucester in the State of Virginia now sitting Joshua Singleton a resident of the County and State aforesaid aged about 87 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 7th 1832. That He entered into Service at an early period of the Revolution as Lieutenant in the State Navy under Capt. Travis who commanded the Gally Manly. He was then turned over to the Gally Henry Commanded by Capt Tomkins, then to the Ship Dragon Commanded by Capt. Markham. He served on board of that Ship as Lieutenant during his command when he (Capt Markham) quitted He commanded till the crew were discharged. He never resigned his Commission and was in possession of it many years after the war. He knows not what became of it. It is either lost or mislaid. The Register of the land office in the City of Richmond will shew that He received a Warrant for Land as Lieutenant in the Virginia State Navy. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever, to a pension or annuity except the present & He does declare that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any agency in any State. Sworn to and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid
 Joshua Singleton

Tuesday 26 November 1776.

Joshua Singleton is recommended to his excellency the Governor and the Honorable the Council as a proper person to be appointed first Lieutenant of the Henry Galley in the room of Byrd Chamberlayne [R22] who is appointed the first Lieutenant of the Brig Musquetto [sic: *Mosquito*].

The foregoing is truly copied from the Journal of the Navy Board. Given under my hand at the Auditors Office of Virginia this 1st day of April 1845. Jas. E. Heath Aud

Thursday the 16th day of December 1779.

Lieutenant Joshua Singleton of the Navy this day resigned his Commission.

The foregoing is truly copied from the Journal of the Board of War. Given under my hand at the auditors officer of Virginia this 1st of April 1845. Jas. E. Heath Auditor

NOTE: The file includes a copy of Joshua Singleton's last will and testament dated 16 Oct 1833. He bequeathed 15 acres on Bout Point to George Green and Clarissa Green and the rest of the land on which he lived and "my two Negroes Kemp and Lavina" to William Green. The balance of his property was willed to his nephew Richard Singleton. On 27 March 1845 Richard Singleton stated that Joshua Singleton died on 22 Oct 1833, leaving no widow. The file includes a letter dated 24 June 1850 from George W. Singleton, grandson of Joshua Singleton.