

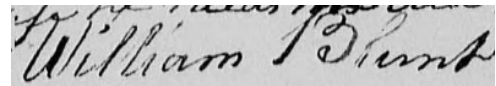
Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of William Blunt W23633                      Mary Blunt    Navy (NH) Privateer  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 4 July 2014.

The State of South Carolina    }                      By the Hon Waddy Thompson Esq. one of the Judges of the  
Edgefield district                }                      Court of Equity in State aforesaid

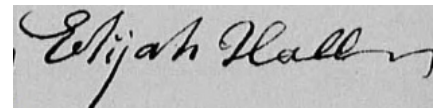
To all whom these presents shall come Greeting

Know ye that William Blunt Citizen resident of the district and State aforesaid, – and native of Portsmouth in the County of Rockingham and State of New Hampshire – did this day [2 June 1818] appear before me and made Oath on the holy Evangelist of Almighty God – that he was three time Captured by the British in the Revolutionary War, and more Particular at the Capture of Charlestown South Carolina [12 May 1780], – Sometime in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy nine, was a Mariner on Board the Continaltal Sloop of War Ranger and in or about the fall of that year, this ship Commanded then by Thomas Simpson Esq. [see note below] form'd at Boston with the Charleston and Boston Frigates, and Queen of France Sloop of War, on a Cruise Southerly – on their passage to Charleston South Carolina they Captured one British Gun Brigg – after their arrival at Charleston they commenced [sic] a Cruising Ship, in which they Captured many of the British Transports and Baggage Bound from New York to Beseige Charleston, often Cruising some time off that port they were driven in by a Superior force, and from thence comenced the Seige of Charlestown, the Capture and Surrender was their fate – after a length of time Redeemed, and our Navy being so Deminished he proceeded in the Ship Royal Loui [*Royal Louis*] – and in other Private Armed Vessels untill the Expiration of the War – To the Best of his Knowledge his time in the Continental Service, untill his discharge must be about, Sixteen Months and from his Reduced Circumstances in life he needs the Aid of his Country for Support –



I Elijah Hall Esquire of Portsmouth in the State of New Hampshire, testify and say, that I was Lieutenant of the United States' Sloop of War, Ranger, from the time of her sailing from s'd. Portsmouth for France in the year 1777, until her capture by the British at Charleston in May 1780. That I well knew William Blunt of said Portsmouth a native of that place, now, as it is said, resident in the State of Georgia viz in Augusta therein. That the said William Blunt entered on board said Sloop of War the 11<sup>th</sup> of October 1779, to serve the United States for twelve months, in the revolutionary war, and continued in that service in the said Sloop of War, until she was captured by the British at said Charleston May 12<sup>th</sup> 1780, after which, the said Blunt who was captured in her, and the rest of the Crew who belonged to her, did not get home, until some time in the following month of August.

[1 Aug 1818]



Circuit of Escambia Territory of Florida

On this Eighteenth day of March 1823, personally appeared, in open court, being a court of record for the circuit of Escambia William Blunt aged sixty years, who, being first duly sworn, according to law, doth, on his oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the provision made by the acts of Congress, of the 18th March, 1818, and the 1st May, 1820, that he, the said William Blunt enlisted, for the term of twelve Month on the Eleventh day of October in the year 1779 in the state of New hampshire ship of War Ranger commanded by captain Thomas Simpson in the squadron commanded by commodore Whiple [sic: Abraham Whipple] in the port of Portsmouth on the Naval continental establishment; that he continued to serve in the said corps until Captur'd and Redem'd when

he was discharged from the said Service, in at Expiration in the state of Newhampshire that the Navy being then Reduced at the Capture of Charleston he continued serving his Country, in Private and Other Arm'd Vessels untill the Expiration of the war that he was taken prisoner four times, that he was at Capturing the Enemy fourteen times That he was in the battles of Rhoad Island [sic: Rhode Island] Seige of Charleston South Carl & seven Battles and that he has no other evidence, now in his power, of his said services, except the Affidavit of the first Lieutenant of the Continental Ship of War Ranger of any Meterial Service.

And, in pursuance of the act of the 1st May, 1820, I do solemnly swear that I was a resident citizen of the United States on the 18th March eighteen hundred and eighteen, and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or in any manner, disposed of my property, or any part thereof, with intent, thereby, so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress, entitled "An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States, in the Revolutionary War," passed on the 18th day of March 1818, and that I have not, nor has any person in trust for me any property, or securities, contracts, or debts due to me; nor have I any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed, and by me subscribed one Old Cart of No use, one Old Gun \$2— one Adz \$1.50, hand saw 50¢, hatchet 25¢ 2.25 that three years past I was struck blind by the Sun and remain with very little sight, my Ocupation has been Nautical, Mechanical and Mercantile but now Infirm No family in this part of the Country, and what may be Alive are no help to me.

Pensacola, West Florida

County of Escambia Ss

On this Ninth day of June 1823 Personally appeared in open Court, being a Court of Record for the District of West Florida William Blunt, resident in said County, aged sixty years who being first duly sworn, according to law, doth, on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the Provision made by the Acts of the 8th of March 1818, 1st of May 1820, and 1st March 1823.

That he the said William Blunt shipt in the continental navy in the year 1777. that the Rendezvous being then supplied for the frigate Raleigh then built at Portsmouth, the continental ship of war Ranger arriving from France called for him on board said ship on an expedition in company with the Boston and Charleston Frigates and Queen of France Sloop of War to protect our Southern Section; formed and sailed from Boston some time in Nov'r 1779 and by annoying the Enemy embarking from New York Southerly, captured one Gun Boat and three Transports on their passage to Charleston – was then ordered with the ship on the cruising ground where they captured 6 or 7 more of the enemies Transports and sent them to Charleston, – were driven into Charleston by the enemy's two fifty Gun ships and one Seventy four commanded by Admiral Arbuthnot; when commenced the seige of Charleston by the Enemy; and the Surrender of Charleston May 12th 1780, our fate after 27 days cannonade. I arrived home again at my Native place (Portsmouth N. H.) after every suffering being after some time redeemed. Our Navy being then diminished, applied to the Department to Ship on board the new ship Royal Louis 20 guns Commenced on a Cruize on the Banks to annoy the Quebec and Halifax Cork[?] fleets, captured 3 prises and was taken by a fifty gun ship their convoy and sent on board the Proteus prison ship, was detained nine months a prisoner during which I suffered much, was redeemed and returned home. Shipt again in the St Eustacia 16 guns commenced cruising and capturing until taken by the enemy after hard fighting and left at the West Indies in Prison; That I performed many other services for my country until peace and Independence were indisputably established; have been pursuing mechanical, mercantile and Nautical Business until the last war found me in the Eastern Country subject with my little property to the depredations of the enemy; I as soon as practicable embarked for New York, shipt in the flying Squadron and Peace taking place on the Eve of our sailing, Government changed the course of the squadron to the Algerine [sic: Algerian] Expedition my age and situation with the influence of Comadore Decatur discharged me honorably. Since I have been pursuing every honorable way for a living, and with almost every failure, in 1818, March our Grateful Country presented the hand

of relief for the Needy Revolutionists. I applied for the Documents to according to the Act then prescribed and by sickness in a remote part of the Country and by Robbery, I was a long time deprived of the original Documents; and within these three years past by a stroke of the Sun I was totally deprived of one eye which leaves the other feeble. I have since had no income but have lived with what I could do and small loans from my friends with promises of Remitting as soon as my National Donation took place. That the certificate of the 1st Lieutenant of said continental ship (Inclosed) which part of my services were made in my first Declaration. [Oath similar to that in the preceding application.]

Sundry Reading Books say. . . . . \$9.50

One Old Wagon of no use. . . . .

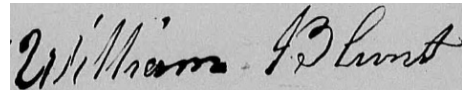
Two or three Ordinary Tools cost. . . \$2.-

One Small fishing boat – worth – . . \$10.-

An anticipated claim on the Spanish Government since 1797 Involved with Underwriters

My occupation is any thing I can do, when well, that I have no family in this part of the Country, and if they are alive they have nothing to relieve me and that I have no friends to help me here. I therefore Pray that I may receive the donation due from my Country since my first and original application before I go hence.

Sworn & subscribed in open Court this 9th day of June 1823}



State of Maine — } SS:

County of Smith }

On this 16th day of May one thousand eight hundred and thirty nine, personally appeared before the the judge of Probate for said County in open Court Mary (or Polly) Blunt, a resident of Thomaston in the County of Lincoln aged seventy three years, who, being first duly sworn, according to law, doth, on her oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress, passed July 7, 1838, entitled “An act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows:” That she is the widow of William Blunt Junior, who was a Seaman, on board the Ship of War, called the Ranger in the War of the Revolution, under the command of Captain, John Paul Jones, on one or more of the cruises of that vessel: That her said husband proved his service, and was a pensioner under the Act of the 18th of March 1818, on the Books of the Louisiana (at New Orleans) Agency, where he died on or about the first day October in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred & thirty one She further declares that she was married to the said William Blunt Jun’r on the twelfth day of September in the year seventeen hundred and eighty six; that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the first of January, seventeen hundred and ninety-four, viz: at the time above stated.

that her said husband, the aforesaid William Blunt Junior, died at New Orleans aforesaid on or about the first day of October AD 1831– And that she has remained his widow ever since the period of his decease. [signed] Mary Blunt

State of Maine  
County of Cumberland SS.

On this twenty third day of April A. D. 1855 personally appeared before the subscriber, a Justice of the Peace in and for the County and State aforesaid, Mary Blunt a resident of Portland in said County and State, aged over 88 years, who being duly sworn, doth on oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain Bounty Land, under the Act of Congress passed March 3d, A. D. 1855.

And your declarant further states that she is the widow of William Blunt late of New Orleans in the State of Louisiana that her said husband William Blunt was a Seaman in the War of the Revolution, and a pensioner of the United States under the Act of March 18th 1818 at the rate of ninety six dollars per annum and which pension he drew untill the time of his death which took place at New Orleans on

the first of October 1831. She further states that she has not applied for or received Bounty Land under this or any other Act of Congress and she believes her said husband never received Bounty Land in his life time

Our declarant further states, that she was married to the said William Blunt on the twelfth day of September A.D. 1786, at Portsmouth N.H. in said State and that her name before marriage was Mary Fernald.

And your declarant further states, that after the passage of the Acts of Congress of July 7 1838 she made application for a Pension, on which application a pension was granted her at the rate of forty dolls & afterwards to 96 dollars per annum, as will appear by her Pension Certificate, dated on the twentieth day of January A.D. 1851 No. 1204.

For proof of marriage, her husband's service in the Revolutionary War, and his death, and of your declarant's identity, she refers to her declaration and proof for a Pension, now on file in the Department of the Interior, at Washington.

She therefore claims Bounty Land under the act aforesaid, and states that she is still a widow.

Town Clerks Office

Portsmouth N.H. Feby 11th 1839

I John Bennett Clerk of the Town of Portsmouth in the County of Rockingham and State of New Hampshire hereby certify:—That the following is an extract from the records kept for recording marriages in said town of Portsmouth: “Mr. William Blunt Jun'r and Miss Polly Fernald both of Portsmouth were married by Rev'd. Samuel Haven the [blank] Sept'r seventeen hundred eighty six.

#### NOTES:

Before Thomas Simpson became captain of the Ranger, its captain was John Paul Jones. During a raid on the British coast in 1778, Jones had Simpson thrown into the brig for disobeying orders. Simpson is alleged to have “held up to the crew that, being Americans fighting for liberty, the voice of the people should be taken before the captain's orders were obeyed.” Apparently there was no evidence against Simpson, however, and cooler heads refused to court martial him. The expedition of the Ranger to Charleston is described in *Memoirs of Andrew Sherburne: A Pensioner of the Navy of the Revolution* published in 1831. Andrew Sherburne's pension application is S42275.

On 6 Aug 1839 Margery Fernald of Portsmouth NH, sister of Mary Blunt, stated that she had written to her brother, Amos Fernald, to ask him to approve the above statement of Elijah Hall. Isabella Shapley Fernald of Portsmouth, daughter of Amos Fernald, certified the statement, adding that William Blunt “went to New Orleans soon after the peace in 1815 where he continued to reside, and his wife lived here, or with her children in the State of Maine.”