

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Benjamin Rudd W5756 Susan Rudd Va Sea Service
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 22 Dec 2019.

County of Elizabeth City To wit:

On this twenty seventh day of April, in the year of our Lord, Eighteen hundred and fifty, personally appeared before the court of the said County, Mrs. Susan Rudd, a resident of the town of Hampton, in the County of Elizabeth City, in the State of Virginia, aged seventy eight 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 the seventh Eighteen hundred and thirty eight, entitled "an act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows;" that she is the widow of Benjamin Rudd, who was a Seaman of the State Navy of Virginia, in the war of the Revolution; that she cannot state the day, month, or year, when her said husband entered the naval service aforesaid; but that she has always heard and verily believes, that her said husband served for a considerable time, she believes for at least three years on board the boat "Liberty," as an enlisted Seaman under the command of Commodore [then Captain] James Barron [VAS1949]; that her said husband left the naval service aforesaid, but she believes in the latter part of the Revolutionary War; that when he entered the said service and when he left it, that he resided in the said town of Hampton, in the County and State aforesaid; that she knows of no battles in which he was engaged; that the vessel to which he belonged was frequently at Hampton and cruised mostly in the waters near Hampton, that is to say, in James River, Hampton Roads, and Chesapeake Bay; and that she has in her possession no documentary proof of his services. She further declares, that she was married to the said Benjamin Rudd, on the tenth day of January in the year seventeen hundred and eighty eight; and that her husband, the said Benjamin Rudd, died in the said town of Hampton, in the year eighteen hundred and eight; that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place precious to the first day of January, seventeen hundred and ninety four, to wit, at the time before stated; she further swears that she is now a widow, to wit, of the said Benjamin Rudd, and that she has never before made any application for a pension.

Sworn to and subscribed by the said Susan Rudd, on the day and year, first before written ,before the Court of Elizabeth City County, in the State of Virginia, in actual session.

[signed] Susan Rudd

November 19, 1779.

Wanted for the use of the boat Liberty 15 days rations of rum for the following men viz –

Edward Bulley [Edward Bully VAS2764]	John Rudd [VAS83]
Jesse Taylor	Ben Rudd
John Bullie [John Bully VAS2766?]	William Moore
Thomas Bullie [Thomas Bully VAS2767]	Thos. Smith [Thomas Smith]
James Walker	Thom. Dykes [Thomas Dykes]
Henry Curtis [Henry Curtice VAS3232?]	John Reed
John Bullie [John Bulley VAS2761?]	William Morgan
William Johnston	Able Dod
Mathew Lewis [Matthew Lewis W7909?]	Samuel Temple
James Brice	
John Almond	Theophilus Field [R60]

Sir, Issue liquor to these men for fifteen days.

The Commissary of stores.	Jas. Jones [James Jones]
	Wm. Nelson [William Nelson]
	Jas Baron

Rec'd 26th November 1779 of Wm. Armistead [William Armistead] esq'r. eight gallons & ¾ of rum or 20 _

_the for the within 20 men, for fifteen days [3.73 oz (approximately 1 gill) per man per day]

Theophilus Field

The above is truly copied from 2nd Vol of papers concerning the State Navy.

Given under my hand at the Auditors Office Richmond this 14th day of Sept'r. 1850.

Allen W. Morton 1 [illegible] acting in the absence of the Auditor.

Norfolk May the 13th 1850.

My Dear Sir I have received your favor of the 9th instant, and in reply to it, have only to add, that at an early period of my youth; I went to school in Hampton with Miss Susan Jennings; and was very well acquainted with her, and all of her family, up to the time of my going to sea, in 1785; after which, I did not know so particularly, what transpired in the town and County, as I did previous to that time; but, I have always lived under the impression, that Miss Susan Jennings married Mr. Benjamin Rudd, and I think there can be no manner of doubt of the fact, as, the marriage of those individuals, has been known to the population of the town and County for the last sixty two years.

In a letter to Mrs Rudd, some few weeks since I gave her the above information.

Very Respectfully I am your Friend & Servant

Joseph Segar, Esquire

James Barron [W12264]

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

These are to Certify that Benjamin Rudd Enlisted with me in the navy of this state on the 15 of Febuary 1779 & served the term of three years as an ordinary Seaman

given under my hand this 1st day December 1783

James Barron

A Copy/ H. Randolph

Com[mador]e. S[tate]. N[avy]

Del'd Mr Geo. Booker

NOTES:

Rudd is listed as a Seaman on a 1784 roster of the *Liberty* in the pension application of Michael James R47.

On 9 May 1850 Mrs. Jane P. Traille of Norfolk, born in 1778, stated that after the death of her father, John Gibson, when she was about 13, she was taken into the family of Benjamin and Susan Rudd, and that at that time they had one child, David Rudd, and that soon afterward a second child was born, Thomas Rudd, presently living in Portsmouth.