

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of James Banks W5762 Mary Banks VA Sea Service/ VA Half Pay
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 5 April 2017.

Elizabeth City County Court: 1845.

Personally appeared in open Court this 25th day of Jan'y. 1845 Mary Banks, a resident of said County, aged 75 years who being duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress of July 7th 1838, entitled "An Act granting half pay and pensions to certain Widows:" That she is the Widow of James Banks, who was an Officer, she verily believes a sailing Master in the Navy of Virginia in the Revolutionary War: She knows not the time of his entering the Service, or where, or under whom, or the rank in which he entered the service, or the period of his service, or the Regiment, or Corps, or Ship, or Vessel, in which he served, or the Countries through which he passed, or the waters in which he sailed (tho' she believes in the waters of James River, and the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries) nor does she know the battles in which he was engaged, or the period when he left the service nor does she know positively what rank he held when he left the service, that is to say of her own knowledge, but verily believes that he had the rank of Sailing Master at the time of his leaving the service, and this she believes from the fact that Thomas Latimer, her Son in Law, as administrator of said James Banks, her husband some eight or ten years since, received from the Government a considerable sum of money as the half pay for said James Banks' service as a Sailing Master of the Virginia Navy in the Revolutionary War, and from the further fact that she has often heard her said Husband in his life time speak of his having received military bounty land, for his services as such; all of which service being before her marriage with him. Neither has she any record or documentary evidence to prove his services, and knows not where to get any living witnesses at this day by whom she can prove his services, but must rely solely on the Records to be found in the public offices at Richmond in Virginia, and at Washington City, to which she refers for proof of his service: She further declares that she was married to the said James Banks on or about the 30th day of March in the year 1789 by [blank] in the County of Warwick in the State of Virginia, and that her husband the said James Banks departed this life at what time precisely she cannot say, the family record having been lost, but she verily believes in the year 1795 and in the Town of Hampton in the County of Elizabeth City, that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but the said marriage took place prior to the first day of January 1794, towit, at the time before and above stated. Mary herXmark Banks

Council Chamber Aug't 5th 1783

I do certify that James Banks is entitled to the proportion of land allowed a Sailing Master of the State Navy for three years service Benjamin Harrison
S'd Warrant for 2666 $\frac{2}{3}$ acres issued to James Banks August 5th 1783 (No 1504)

Pension Office/ February 1, 1850

I certify that I have examined the claim of the legal representatives of James Banks deceased, that I find him to have been a Sailing master on board the Liberty, under the command of Commodore [James] Barron, and to have served as such until the end of the war of the revolution. That he was consequently under the opinion of the Attorney General and the decision of the Secretary of the Interior, entitled to commutation of five years full pay, fifteen hundred and twenty dollars and eighty cents with interest thereon at the rate of six per cent per annum, from the twenty second of April seventeen hundred and eighty three to this date, that from that sum however there should be deducted the amount of half pay eighteen hundred and eighty dollars and forty two cents heretofore paid at the Treasury, under the Act of Congress of the 5th July 1832, entitled "An Act to provide for liquidating and paying certain claims of the State of Virginia." Interest on interest is not to be allowed. The money is payable to Joseph Segar Esquire Attorney of John M Willis Administrator on the estate of the said James Banks dec'd.

[The following are from [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#) indexed as Bankes, James.]

These are to Certifie that the Bearer hereof Jas. Banks has served in the Navy of this State upwards of three years as a Seaman and from the Late apointment of the Commissioners of the Bay defence to the End of the war as Sailing master on board the State Boat Liberty under my Command.

Given under my/ hand this 1st day/ of June 1783

Ja Barron/ Com. S. N.

[James Barron VAS1949/ Commodore State Navy]



Please to give to Mr Savoy Warrant for our Land and Oblige/ Your Hum Servt.
Hampton/ July 15 1783

Ja Banks

[undeciphered] Banks

[other side] Copied for Mr Segar Sept 25 '46

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

The Petition of the heirs of James Banks respectfully shews – that the said Banks served as a Sailing Master of the Virginia Navy a greater part of the Revolution, and before the close thereof, was promoted and received the appointment of a Lieutenant. During the Summer 1783 a warrant issued to him for the proportion of land due a sailing-master, but your petitioners are advised he was entitled to draw the land bounty due in his highest rank, altho he may not have been promoted to that grade 'till towards the close of the war. The affidavit of Commodore Barron is very positive – all which is respectfully submitted

T. Green/ atto. for the Heirs

Gosport, Jany 6th 1831

I certify that I was well acquainted with James Banks & that he served with merit in the Virginia Navy the greater part of the Revolutionary War. What was his grade the whole of this time I do not recollect but know that about the close of the War, he was promoted to the Rank of Lieutenant in one of the vessels in the Virginia Navy.

[Commodore] James Barron [W12264,
son of the above Commodore James Barron VAS1949]



I certify that in pursuance of an advice of Council dated August 5th 1783 a Military Land bounty warrant issued to James Banks No 1504 for 2666 $\frac{2}{3}$ acres as a Sailing Master in the Navy and that no other warrant appears to have issued to him

Land Office/ Feby 17 1831

Wm Selden B L Off

NOTE: The file includes a copy of a bond signed on 30 Mar 1789 by James Banks and John Houghton for the marriage of Banks to Mary Smith, spinster. A document dated 29 June 1850 states that Mary Banks died in Hampton on 19 May 1848 leaving one child, Mary A. Willis, wife of John M. Willis and mother of Thomas Latimer.