

[Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Scarbrough Bloxsom W5842 Leah Bloxsom VA Sea Service
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 17 Apr 2015.

State of Virginia

Norfolk County to wit

On this 19th day of November 1832 personally appeared before the court of said county Scarborough Bloxsom a resident of said County in the State aforesaid aged seventy nine 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 provisions made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he entered into the navy of the United States as a midshipman on board the Galley Accomack a short time before the date of his warrant or commission which it is now ascertained by a public document was on the 28th day of August 1777. That the said Galley continued in service with the said declarant on board of her according to the best of his knowledge and belief nearly three years for which period he entered to serve. The design of the Galleys was to guard the Inlets of Chincoteague [sic: Chincoteague Bay] and Metompkin on the Eastern shore and prevent the British Boats from entering & committing depredations and in that service they were engaged during the whole period he thinks for which the officers & crew were engaged. The said Galley and her officers and crew having served out their term of service for which they had engaged the said Galley was laid up and stripped and never afterwards went into service as he thinks. (The petition which was filed on his behalf to the Executive to entitle him to land was incorrect in confining his service to about seventeen months. The Executive was satisfied of that fact from the records before them and allowed him his full service of three years and his bounty land accordingly) That he was regularly discharged by Capt. Underhill which discharge as well as his warrant he has long since lost. He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or an annuity except the present and an annuity granted by the State of Virginia of sixty dollars p year and he declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of any agency in any state except as aforesaid.

Scarborough Bloxsom

[Bloxsom made the following statement in reference to Robert Bayley, pension application R384:]

State of Virginia }
City of Richmond }

The deposition of Scarborough Bloxam aged about seventy seven years, who deposeth and saith that he enlisted on board the Gally Accomac as a midshipman before the Gally was launched & continued in that capacity untill orders were received to dismantle & lay up the Gallys that he was well acquainted with Robert Bayley, George Bloxam, Stephen Bloxam, John Johnson Tire Harman, Stephen Harman and Joshua Purkins also Elcany Andrews [Elkanah Andrews, pension application S6507], & William Andrews [X879] and that they all enlisted as sailors on board the Accomac at the commencement of her service and continued in her until they were discharged & the Accomac ordered to be striped & laid up and further this deponent saith not. Scarborough Bloxsom

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

To the general assembly of Virginia the Petition of Scarborough Bloxsom

Respectfully represents – That he is a resident of Norfolk County and a Citizen of the commonwealth of Virginia

That sometime in the year of our Lord 1777 activated by a spirit of pure patriotism and ardent desire to promote the aim and end of our revolutionary struggles he entered the public service of his Country in the character and Capacity of Midshipman. That he was attached seventeen months to the Row Galley called the accomac at the expiration of which time he was permitted to retire in consequence of ill health. That your Petitioner is an old man worn down by years and labouring under decrepitude, infirmity and distress

for the support of his wife and family. That the late provision made by the general government in regard to the Soldiers and Seamen of the revolutionary war [pension act of 18 Mar 1818] induced him a short time ago to apply to the proper department of that government for relief but was answered "That the Row Galley accomac did not belong to the U S Service but was intended for the defence of Virginia only and therefore that his claim was inadmissible" – whereupon he begs assistance from the state of Virginia and as in duty bound will ever pray

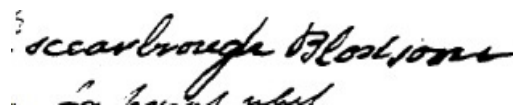
ref'd to Claims Jan'y 19th 1819/ Reasonable Jan'y 21/ Reported/ Bill drawn Jan'y 28th 1819

[The following is among [pension records in the Library of Virginia](#). Bloxsom made similar powers of attorney yearly, the last dated 2 Nov 1836.]

Know all men by these presents that I Scarborough Bloxom of the County of Norfolk do hereby constitute and appoint Julius B. Dandridge Esq'r my true and lawfull attorney for me and in my name to receive the sum of Eighty dollars allowed me under an act of the last Session of the Virginia Legislative passed on the 3^d day of March eighteen hundred and nineteen; and to do all lawfull acts requisite and effecting the premises hereby ratifying and confirming all that my said Attorney shall do therein by virtue hereof – as witness my hand and seal this 13th day April 1819 the word march altered before signing

Test

Geo Wilson

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Scarborough Bloxom". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

[The following are among [bounty-warrant records in the Library of Virginia](#):]

Norfolk Dec'r. 31st 1829

Sir, Persuaded that you feel interested in the cause of suffering humanity, I take the liberty of stating the case of Mr. Scarborough Blocksom; who will come before the legeslature by petition, praying an increase of his pension.

I am moved to this, by the high opinion which I have of Mr Blocksom, and my knowledge of his not be able to maintain himself. Having numbered almost four score years, his body is weighed down with the hand of time, and the many afflictions that come upon him. His wife too who possesses a sperit like his own, is also old and infirm.

I take great pleasure in saying of this venerable old man and his wife, what I could not say in good Conscience of but very few besides. They appear to "walk in all the ordinances and commandments of God blameless." I verily believe, that I never knew a more honest and consciencious man than Scarborough Blocksom.

Death, in a short time, will remove him from your pension list. But during that short period it would be desirable for him to be kept from suffering for the necessaries of life, by the Country; whose cause he served, when I was but a child, and you unborn.

If his pesion was raised to \$100 p annum, his great economy would make it sufficient, to render the situation of himself and wife comforable, till they should be called to a better inheritance in another world.

I am Dear Sir, very respectfully yours/ John French

Auditors Office 2 Jan 1830

I do certify that it appears from a Register in this office of such of the officers and soldiers of the State line in the army of the Revolution as received Certificates for the balance of their full pay or depreciation, that Scarborough Bloxsom a Midshipman received on the 26 April 1785 a certificate for £33.8.0 and that the same was delivered to Col. [John] Cropper.

It further appears that the said Scarborough Bloxsom was place on the Pension Roll of Virginia on the 3^dMarch 1819 at an allowance of sixty dollars per annum, which allowance he has drawn up to this day.

Ja's E. Heath APA.

I Scarborough Bloxsom hereby make oath that I enlisted as a midshipman on board the Row gally Accomack for three years service and that I continued in the service sixteen or seventeen months when the Row Galley was laid up in consequence of a want of repairs and before the repairs were made the war was over I moreover swear that I have never received my land bounty – I rec'd. my discharge from Capt'n. Will'm. Underhill which I have lost also my midshipman's warrant
 Norfolk 10th June 1830

Scarborough Bloxsom

To His Excellency/ The Gov'r. of Va/ And the Council of State

Scarborough Bloxsom of Norfolk Borough respectfully represents that he enlisted as a midshipman on board of the Accomack of the State Navy, to serve three years, during the war of the revolution and that after having served seventeen months, the Accomack was laid up for repairs, and before the repairs were completed the war terminated. He further represents that immediately after the termination of the war, he was discharged by Captain [William] Underhill – There being no longer any need for his services – But that he was ready & willing to have served out the term of his enlistment & would have done so had he been required. His discharge and warrant as midshipman have been lost many years and he is now very old and poor & has no other means of support than a pension allowed him by the legislature in 1818 - 19 in consideration of his services as a midshipman. He is advised that the Executive have in many cases allowed bounty upon the oath of the claimant alone, where the character is proven to be worthy of credit. He therefore relies on the Certificate of Dr John French a distinguished minister of the Methodist Church to prove his character, which he hopes will be sufficient to satisfy the Executive that no consideration would induce him to swear falsely even in his own case.

S Bloxsom

Norfolk June 1830

The proportion of land allowed a Midshipman is the same as that allowed to a subaltern in the army – 2666²/₃ acres as appears by the Register's Books.

Accomack Galley

Wm Undrill [sic]	Captain	Aug't. 6 th 1777
Robert Millinor [Robert Milliner]	2 ^d Lieut	— 18 th
Ishmael Andrews	2 ^d do	— 10
Jerupton Marshall	Master	14
David Murrey [David Murray]	Masters mate	Dec'r 20
John Pitts	Surgeon	Oct'r 6
William White [William S. White, pension application R107]	Surgeons mate	6
Scarborough Bloxsom	midship	28 Aug't.
John Harris	Midshipman	26 January 1778

On the back of the Journal of the Navy board filed in this office, is found a list of "Warrant officers on board the Hero and their dates" and on board of other vessels, the foregoing is a copy of so much of said list as relates to the Accomack Galley. Jos'h. Jackson Clk of Accts

Aud'rs Office 5 Oct'r 1830

The name of Scarborough Bloxsom appears on the Journal of the Navy Commissioners as having been appointed a Midshipman in the Virginia State Navy, and as being attached to the Galley Accomack. He was appointed on the 28th day of August 1777 – a fact worthy of the attention of the Council, is that he and John Harris were the only Midshipmen attached to the Accomack; and upon examination I find that warrant No5068 was issued to John Harris, who I suppose performed the same duty & continued in the service under the same circumstances that Bloxsom did, and the reason why the one was allowed the bounty & not the other, is that Harris applied when he had his certificate of discharge, & bloxsom was

unfortunate enough to lose his discharge & consequently did not apply under a belief that he could not obtain the bounty without his discharge

J. W. Murdaugh

NOTE: On 10 Oct 1842 Leah Bloxsom, 86, of Accomack County applied for a pension stating that she married Scebrough Bloxsom about 1790, and he died in April 1836. Her age was still said to be 86 on 6 March 1849. A Treasury-Department document gives the date of Scebrough Bloxsom's death as 9 Nov 1836.