

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of (George) James Green W7563
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

Frances Green

VA Sea Service

[Green's original application for a pension is not in the file, but a printed copy of it, as well as of other documents, are in a congressional report on the suspension of Green's pension because of erroneous allegations discussed in the endnotes. The first three items below are transcribed from the report.]

On this 27th day of November, 1837, personally appeared James Green, a resident of Fauquier county, Virginia, aged 77 years, in open court, 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 7, 1832: That he enlisted for three years at Leedstown, in Westmoreland county, Virginia, in September, 1777, with Captain William Saunders [pension application R89], of the Manley galley; was subsequently appointed a midshipman by Captain George Elliott [R38], of the Safeguard galley; and after serving some time as a midshipman with Captain Elliott, was transferred to the ship Tartar, commanded by Captain William Saunders, with whom he continued in the service until the summer of 1781—having served upwards of three years—and was, by Captain Saunders, discharged; that he was a resident of Westmoreland county at the time he entered into the service in the State navy. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity, except the present, and declares his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in the United States of America.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. JAMES GREEN.

This day William Harris [S5489], a Soldier of the revolution, and now a pensioner to my knowledge personally appeared before me a Justice of the Peace within and for Culpeper County and made oath that he was personally acquainted with James Green, who has subscribed to the above declaration that he knew him in the revolution and has known him ever since, and that he remembers that the said James Green was a Midshipman in the State Navy more than three years. Given under my hand this 22nd day of August 1834. Fred. Fishback.

State of Virginia, Culpeper County to wit:

This day Richard Wade, a Soldier of the American revolution personally appeared before us Justices of the Peace in the County aforesaid and made oath that he was personally acquainted with James Green, in time of the revolution, and that the said Green was a Midshipman in the Virginia State Navy; he does not recollect how long the said Green served but believes he served the greater part of the war. He the said Wade further states on oath that he has known the said James Green ever since the revolutionary war, and that the said Green now resides in the County of Fauquier, in the State aforesaid. Given under our hands this 18th day of April 1835. Fred. Fishback J.P./ Dan'l. Ward J.P.

I, Charles Higdon [S5538], of King George county, Virginia, now in the 73d year of my age, do certify, that I was very well acquainted with my neighbor, James Green, of Westmoreland, who, after the war of the revolution, settled in Fauquier county. Said Green was a midshipman in the ship Tartar, commanded by Captain Wm. Saunders; and I left him in service, in said ship, in the year 1780, and have understood he now resides in Fauquier county, Virginia. Given under my hand this 16th of October 1837. Charles hisXmark Higdon.

WARRENTON, FAUQUIER COUNTY, VA.,/ November 28, 1837.

SIR [Secretary of War]: You will oblige me much by having my claim for a pension acted on immediately, as I am much in need of the amount due me. My attorney was about four years delayed in recovering my bounty land from Virginia, and only succeeded a few months since. I was allowed by the

governor of this State 2,666 $\frac{2}{3}$ acres some few months ago, and have since obtained further proof of my services in the navy; all of which is herewith enclosed. Any communication necessary to be made to me, may be addressed to Warrenton, Virginia.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant. JAMES GREEN.

“William Saunders, captain; William Parker, lieutenant; John Tupman, master; Justus Livingston, surgeon; Robert Fergusson, mate; James Green, midshipman:

“Issue 168 lbs. sugar and 28 lbs. coffee, for 2 months’ allowance.

“Issue sugar, tea, and coffee for the above officers. JA. Barron [James Barron].

“September 28, 1779.”

The above order is immediately to be complied with—the board of war think it a sufficient voucher for you. JAS. INNES.” [James Innes]

The above is truly extracted from a document to be found in the first volume of papers concerning the State navy, now in this office.

Given under my hand at the auditor’s office, Richmond, this 9th day of January, 1838.

JAS. E. HEATH, Auditor.

State of Virginia, Rappahannock County, ss:

BE IT KNOWN, That before me William A. Spindle a Justice of the Peace, in and for the said County, personally appeared James Green and made oath in due form of law, that he is the identical person named in an original pension certificate in his possession, of which (I certify) the following is a true copy:

“WAR DEPARTMENT.—REVOLUTIONARY CLAIM.

I certify that, in conformity with the law of the United States of the 7th June 1832, James Green of the State of Virginia who was a Midshipman in the War of the Revolution is entitled to receive One hundred & forty four dollars and — cents per annum, during his natural life commencing on the 4th of March 1831 and payable semiannually on the 4th of March and 4th of September in every year

Examined and Countersigned

Given at the War Office of the United States this

J. L. Edwards

25th day of January one thousand eight hundred and thirty eight

Commissioner of Pensions

J R Poinsett/ Secretary of War

that he now resides in Rappahannock County, and has resided therein for the space of Three Months past, and that previous thereto he had resided in Fauquier County.

Sworn and subscribed this 11th day of March 1847 James hisXmark Green Pensioner.

[Certification by William A. Spindle not transcribed.]

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, That I James Green a Revolutionary Pensioner of the United States, do hereby constitute and appoint Jones Green my true and lawful attorney, for me, and in my name, to receive from the Agent for paying Pensions in Richmond, State of Virginia, my Pension, from the 4th day of March 1839, to the 4th day of March 1847. Witness my hand and seal, this 11th day of March 1847. James hisXmark Green

[The following are from [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#). Online images of some other documents are illegible.]

To his Excellency L. W. Tazewell Governor of the State of Virginia

The Subscriber to this petition begs leave to represent to your Excellency that he is now a resident of Fauquier County and in the 74th year of his age and that he entered the Virginia State Navy at Leeds in the County of Westmoreland on board the Vessel Tartar late in the year 1777 and was appointed in few months a Midshipman. Your petitioner further states that he was transferred at one time to the Safeguard. in august 1779 he returned to the Tartar where he continued untill the reduction of the State navy in the year 1781 For these services aforesaid I claim the bounty in land of 2666 $\frac{2}{3}$ acres which was

at that time promised to Midshipmen of my state, and as in duty bound I will ever pray
[signed] James Green

I James Green do upon oath certify and declare that I am now in the 74th year of my age and that I entered the Virginia State Navy as a Midshipman and served in that capacity upwards of three years during the war of the American Revolution. My service was rendered chiefly on [illegible word] the *Safeguard* and the *Tartar*. The Land bounty promised an officer of my rank at that time was 2666 $\frac{2}{3}$ acres. This promise to myself has never been assumed by Virginia. I have never transferred my claim to said bounty in any manner whatever. Therefore/
James Green

His Excellency the Governor of Virginia will [illegible word] cause an order to be made to the Register of the Land Office of Virginia to issue a Land Warrant in my favour for the quantity of Land due by Virginia for my revolutionary services as aforesaid
[signed] James Green

[22 Aug 1834]

This day William Harris a soldier of the Revolution and now a pensioner to my knowledge personally appeared before me a Justice of the Peace within and for Culpeper County and made oath that he was personally acquainted with James Green who has subscribed to the above declaration that he knew him in the Revolution and has known him ever since and that he remembers that the said James Green was a Midshipman in the State Navy more than three years

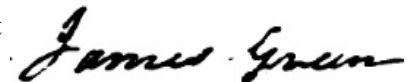
Given under my hand this 22 day of August 1834

Fred. Fishback

His Excellency the Governor of Virginia

Sir: On my arrival in this place Doct. Helm [William Helm, Green's attorney] handed me a letter from the Secretary of the Commonwealth informing him that my petition for bounty Land had been acted on by your Excellency & rejected. The information was indeed mortifying; I now appeal to my God in witness that I tell you on the honor of a soldier that I served as a Midshipman upwards of three years in the *Safeguard* & *Tartar* in the State Navy. The length of time since I left the service has obliterated from my memory almost every circumstance connected with my service. In my first declaration I said I left the navy when the *Safeguard* became unfit for service, but upon reflection I continued in service until the navy was reduced in 1780 or 1781. I think it was in 1781. I lived in King George County when I entered the service. Shortly after the war closed I settled in the Blue Ridge Mountains near the Culpeper line. My residence is in Fauquier. The bounty Land warrant was never before applied for by me because the fee for the Warrant at an early day was worth almost as much as the land, and now I am informed it is worth a dollar per acre. I know of no officer now living who served on board the navy with me to apply to for a certificate of my services. My old friend Mr. Harris knew me in the service his certificate accompanies my last declaration. I must beg of Your Excellency to take my petition again into consideration & render unto me that Justice which my God knows I am entitled to. The part Doct. Helm has taken in this claim was merely that of a friend he has no interest in it whatever

hoping to hear from your Excellency/ I am your obedient servant
[15 Sep 1834]



[A letter by William Helm dated some time in August 1835 is mostly illegible, but it reads in part, "I have filed this morning a letter to the Governor from James Green (& sworn to) in which he says there was a James Green a Seaman on board the *Tartar*, who was discharged some twelve months or more before he was, and who was well known to him."]

NOTES:

Jones Green stated that he was not related to his client, James Green. A letter by William Helm dated 21 Sep 1840 stated that "Green lives in the Blue Ridge Mountains 20 odd miles from Warrenton."

On 8 March 1848 Frances Green, 73, applied for a pension stating that she married James Green on 6 Feb 1792, and he died on 25 Aug 1847. George W. Green witnessed her application. On 27 July

1848 Aaron Green stated that his parents had told him that he was born in June 1803, and that his brother, Hedgeman Green, was born in June ten years earlier. On the same day Edgar Doores estimated that Hedgeman Green, son of Frances Green, was 58 or 60 years old, and that about 40 years previously Hedgeman Green “was quite a stout young man & very fond of waiting on the Ladies or what we Virginia people call a great Ladies man.”

On 17 Feb 1848 Mary Brown stated that she was present at the wedding of her sister, Frances Green performed by “old Parson Craig” at Craig’s house.

On 15 March 1848 Aaron Green made the following statement: “I hereby certify that I was present at the death of my father James Green who was a Revolutionary pensioner He died on the 25th day of August 1847 at his residence near Amissville Rappahannock County Virginia. And I further certify that my mother Frances Green the widow of said James Green has never married since the death of my father (James Green) My Grandfather Fletcher has several children some of whom are in the Western Country and his family Bible I presume has been taken away by some of the children as it cannot be found in this Country it is probable that the record of the marriage of my father and mother is in the said Bible if it could be found.”

Many of the 146 pages in the federal file relate to the accusation made in the first two letters below, which was subsequently retracted. Only the most informative documents are transcribed here., all are transcribed from the printed record of the congressional investigation. As a result of the investigation, Green’s pension was restored by act of Congress passed 3 March 1847.

MENASSA'S GAP [sic: Manassas Gap], WARREN COUNTY, VA./ June 10, 1840.

SIR [James L. Edwards, Commissioner of Pensions]: It is my request that you will regard this communication *strictly confidential*.

There is a man residing in Fauquier county, Virginia, by the known name of *George Green*, who is in receipt of a pension for services as a midshipman in the State navy of Virginia, under the name of *James Green*. It is believed that this man is not entitled to a pension for any description of service. If you will send me a copy of all the proceedings in this case, I will examine them, with a view of enabling you, to detect the fraud, provided it shall appear that one has been committed.

Respectfully, your obedient servant, W. G. SETTLE.

WARRENTON SPRINGS P. O.,/ November 18, 1842.

SIR [Edwards]: I avail myself of a leisure moment to apprize you of a fraud upon your department. I have not examined all the papers, but I am satisfied that you have been imposed on—and, I may say, artfully. The proofs on file in Richmond, and the parol testimony, are so strong, that I have not the least doubt of the correctness of the view I have taken.

There was a Midshipman James Green in the Virginia State navy, from one of the counties *south of James river*. He was, as is represented, on board of ship, and prior to his going to sea made a will, (a copy to be had,) in which will he states the cause of his making the will; and soon after going to sea as an officer, was captured by the enemy, carried into one of the West India islands as a prisoner, and there died. Such are the facts as represented by the family, and the tradition handed down to the younger members of the family.

There was, likewise, a seaman by the name of James Green, who was discharged with other seamen at the same time, and I have reason to believe the seaman so discharged was from the county of King George, Virginia. I have understood that this last-named James Green, who was from King George, is now a resident of Fauquier county, Va., and that his agent and attorney have received from the department a pension, upon the ground that he was an officer in the State navy of Virginia, and using the papers that properly belonged to the family of Midshipman James Green who died a prisoner. The executive of Virginia did not err in granting land bounty on account of the services of James Green, but the one has received the bounty properly belonging to both of the same name. By reference to the past census rolls, and the commissioner's books, it will be probably ascertained that the name of James Green

of Fauquier was George J. Green.

I submit these facts, and ask you for copies of evidence on file in your office, that it may be sent to me in Fredericksburg as early as possible, and further information will be given.

I am, most respectfully, your obedient servant,/ A. M. GREEN.

FARROWSVILLE, December 4, 1836.

DEAR SIR [Dr. William Helm]: Yesterday I saw old Mr. George Green, and had a long conversation with him on the subject of his services in the revolutionary war. He tells a very good tale; says that his real name is George James, and always went by the name of James until after he was married, which has been about 40 years; and after marriage he was sometimes called George, and sometimes James, but his wife always called him George; and finally all got to calling him George. For many years he has been known by no other name, as it made no difference by which name he was called —George or James. I cannot help thinking, from the tale he tells, but that he is the James Green; for I do not think any man could lie in the way he talked to me on the subject, notwithstanding his word is often doubted in common transactions. However, I have always seen him taken as evidence in court; and yesterday he was examined on oath as a witness before me, and no person, as I heard, doubted what he said. I will further add, that he says his age is 73 years. He looks as though he might be upwards of that age.

Yours, with respect,/ B. R. BRADFORD.

P. S. Nothing yet from Washington.

SEPTEMBER 26, 1840,/ VIRGINIA, Fauquier County, to wit:

James Green, who recovered a pension from the United States for his services as a midshipman in the Virginia State navy, during the revolutionary war, is my father. I am 36 years old, and ever since I can recollect I have heard my father speak of his services in said navy, and of the bounty land that the State of Virginia promised him for his services aforesaid. He has always said, if Virginia did him justice he would get two thousand six hundred and sixty six and a fraction acres; and since the passage of the pension law of 1832, he has been making efforts to get the bounty land and pension. His name has always been known in our family as George James Green, but he has been mostly called George, since my recollection; but he has often told my mother she was the first who commenced calling George; that in early life, and until after he was married, he was always called James Green; that his parents never called him anything but James, being named after a family of relations of the name of James.

AARON GREEN.

Signed and sworn to, according to law, before me, this 26th day of September, 1840.

GEORGE PICKETT, Justice of the Peace.

Doctor William Helm showed me a letter from the Commissioner of Pensions, in which there appear to be several charges against old Mr. James Green, in relation to the pension he has received from the United States. I am a daughter of William Harris, deceased; my father lived on Great run, in Fauquier county, Virginia, fifty years ago. About that time the aforesaid Green settled in our neighborhood; and he and my father were very intimate friends, and were in the habit of speaking of their revolutionary services. I understood from their conversation that Green was a midshipman in the Slate navy, and always understood his name was James Green, and not George Green. He married a Miss Fletcher, and left our neighborhood; alter which, I seldom saw him. He called on my father six or seven years since, and got his certificate of his (Green's) naval services; upon which, and other evidence, I understood his bounty land was allowed him, and also a pension.

NANCY HANDY.

Signed and sworn to according to law, this 24th day of October, 1840.

FRED. FISHBACK, J. P.

THURSDAY, the 3d day of February, 1780.

Present—James lanes and James Barron, esquires.

John Marks, Daniel Hunt, James Green, William Smith, senior, and William Smith, junior, sailors in the navy, having served the time of their enlistments therein, are hereby discharged.

Ordered that the board be adjourned till to-morrow morning, ten o'clock.

JAMES INN ES./ JAMES BARRON.

MENASSAS GAP VIRGINIA, SEPTEMBER 24, 1844

Sir [James L. Edwards]: Soon after the passage of the pension law of 1818, I had a conversation with George Green, alias George James Green—the same man pensioned under the act of 1832, under the name of James Green. I at that time had not full confidence in his statements as to his service, but recollect many of his statements partially. I have seen all the evidence upon which he received a pension certificate under the act of 1832, as well as copies of the evidence offered in order to get his name reinstated upon the pension roll. From the apparent age of Green, and that part of the evidence which I think measurably supports his statements made before the passage of the act of 1832, the respectability of Horner and Harris, affiants in the case, as well as from the fact that gentlemen of high standing believe in the correctness of Green's pretensions to revolutionary service in the nave, as he states, I have no hesitation in recommending that he be reinstated upon the pension-roll, and put in receipt of his pension.

This is delivered to Captain Allen, as the agent of Green.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,/ W. G. SETTLE.

29th CONGRESS,

Rep. No. 715.

Ho. OF REPS./ 1st Session.

JAMES GREEN.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 257.]

JUNE 17, 1846.

Mr. PARISH, from the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, made the following

REPORT:

The Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, to whom was referred the bill, introduced on leave, for the relief of James Green, have had the same under consideration, and now report:

From the testimony and papers on file, it appears that James Green, of Fauquier county, Virginia, had been pieced on the pension-roll as a midshipman, at the rate of \$144 per annum, and drew his pension up to the 15th day of June, 1840, when his name was stricken from the list. This was done through a Mr. W. G. Settle, who addressed a line to the Pension office, dated June the 10th, 1840, informing the Commissioner that a George Green, of Fauquier county, Virginia, was in receipt of a pension, by the name of James Green, who was not entitled. After his pension was stopped, James Green took testimony to establish his identity, which was the only question in the case; and after accounting for his being sometimes called George Green, which doubtless led Settle into error, he, in the opinion of the committee, clearly establishes his identity as "Midshipman James Green." Settle himself seems to have been so well convinced in the matter, that, in September, 1844, he addressed a letter to the Commissioner of Pensions, reviewing the facts and evidence, and recommending that James Green be reinstated on the pension-roll. The committee therefore report the bill back, so amended as to read "at the rate of \$144 per annum from the 15th day of June, 1840," and recommend its passage.