

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Matthew Lewis W7909

Ann James¹

f14VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

10/2/13

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indcipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Virginia Elizabeth City County: to wit

On this 17th day of March 1838 Thomas Peek personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid Thomas Peek Guardian to the Infant Heirs of Ann Lewis who being a Resident of the County and State aforesaid 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 on the 4th of July 1836 and the Act explanatory of said Act passed the 3rd of March 1837 that the aforesaid Ann Lewis the Widow and Relict of Matthew Lewis deceased was a Carpenter's Mate in the Virginia State Navy in the War of the Revolution after the death of the aforesaid Matthew Lewis she was married to a Robert James who died many years since leaving the aforesaid Ann his Widow – that she was a widow on the 4th of July 1836 and remained a widow until her death. She died in the month of September or October 1836 as will appear from the evidence here with file and further I declare that in or about the month of August 1835 the heirs of the aforesaid Ann James formerly Ann Lewis Widow and relict of the aforesaid Matthew Lewis deceased received from the State of Virginia Military land Warrant No. 8247 dated on the 28th day of August 1835 for 2666 2/3 acres of land for three years services of the aforesaid Matthew Lewis as Carpenters Mate in the Virginia State Navy in the War of the Revolution.

Subscribed and sworn to on the day and year above written.

S/ Thos. Peek

S/ Samuel Dewbre, J. J.

[p 5: proceeding and Elizabeth City County Court dated January 26, 1837 whereby Jane Lewis, orphan of John Lewis with the approbation of the Court chose Thomas Peek as her Guardian; said Peek was also appointed the Guardian of Susan Lewis, orphan of John Lewis.]

[p 12: Benjamin Stores of Elizabeth City County gave testimony that he was well acquainted with Matthew Lewis of said County who is reported to have served as a Carpenters Mate old one of the Virginia State Vessels during the war of the revolution; that he married Ann sometime before the year 1781 while he was still in service; that Matthew Lewis' widow married a Mr. James who died many years ago; that the widow died in the latter part of 1836 about 12 or 15 months before the date of this affidavit leaving Thomas Peek and her grandchildren as her sole

¹ former widow

heirs. His affidavit is attested March 17, 1838.]

[p 13: Affidavit dated November 23, 1837 given in Elizabeth City County by Mary Ann House who gave testimony that she was well acquainted with Matthew Lewis who intermarried with the affiant's sister Ann on the 19th of May 1780; that Matthew Lewis served as a Carpenters Mate in the Virginia Navy; that Matthew Lewis was wounded in the service and died on or about July 25, 1795 of mortification of the leg leaving a widow, Ann Lewis and three infant children namely John, Thomas and Margaret Lewis all then under the age of 16 years; that all his children married and have since died leaving children some of whom are under 16 years of age; that the affiant's sister Ann afterwards intermarried with Robert James who died on or about November 23, 1819; that the widow died on or about the 10th or 15th of September 1836. She signed her affidavit with her mark.]

[Veteran's former widow was pensioned at the rate of \$114 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for her husband's services as a carpenter's mate for 2 years in the Virginia Navy.]

[From [bounty land records in the Library of Virginia](#)] 3 files: 1 p, 1p. and 7pp]

This are to Certify that the bearer hereof Mathew Lewis has served in the Navy of this State upwards of three years as a Carpenters Mate under my command.

Enlisted 22 April 1778

S/ Jas. Barron, [James Barron]
Commd S. N.

Copy
S/ J Pendleton Junior

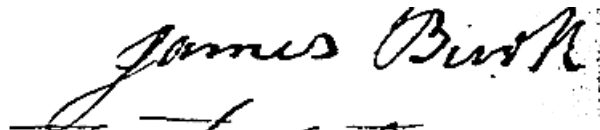
Auditors Office of Virginia June 18, 1832

It appears from documents in this office that Matthew Lewis a Carpenters mate in the State Navy during the War of the Revolution settled his account at this office and that a certificate issued to him on the 28 October 1783 for £119.15.8 being the balance of his full pay or depreciation, which said Certificate was delivered to a Mr. Booker

S/ Jas. E. Heath, Aud.

I certify that Matthew Lewis enlisted on board the Boat *Liberty* commanded by Com: James Barron in the Revolutionary War for the period of three years, and continued in service for the time of his enlistment – in the capacity of Carpenter or Carpenters Mate to said vessel.

S/ James Burk²

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Burk". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background. To the right of the signature, there is a vertical stamp that is partially legible and appears to contain the text "U.S. ARCHIVES" and "1832".

[Attested in Elizabeth City County June 4th, 1832.]

I Certify that Matthew Lewis, I well knew & distinctly recollect, served for 3 years as a

² [James Burk S6649](#)

Carpenters Mate in a vessel commanded by Captain Baron, and called the Liberty
S/ Jeremiah Cain, X his mark

[Attested April 30th, 1832 in Norfolk Borough]

[p 7: Application dated May 2, 1832 filed by Nancy James as widow of Matthew Lewis, a Carpenter's mate. The image of the document is very poor as posted online so I have not attempted to transcribe it. It does not appear, however, that the widow actually signed the petition but rather it was acknowledged before a justice of the peace and he signed the document certifying her testimony.]