

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of William Cunningham X189      VA Sea Service  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[The original file is labeled simply "R." X189 is a label assigned by HeritageQuest.]

Washington 10<sup>th</sup> May 1851

To James E Heath Esq/ Com'r of Pensions

Sir/      When you are ready to take up the claim of Lt W Cunningham's heirs I shall be glad to be present so as to give you any explanations in my power as I was personally acquainted with the witnesses and also with many of the family of Lt Cunningham

The claim is quite a small one amounting to only about \$2500 as Lieut Cunningham died in 1794

I now send a copy of a letter lately addressed by Commodore Warington to W E Cunningham Esq shewing the high respectability of the witnesses in this case. The original letter I will send or deliver to you in person whenever you are ready to take up the claim

Resp'y your obt servt/ Henry M Morfit

Copy      Washington April 22<sup>d</sup> 1851.

My dear Sir/      In answer to your letter of the 19<sup>th</sup> this moment received, I can only say that I have from my youth, known the Jennings family of Hampton; more particularly the two elder (those probably mentioned in your note) one a pilot and the other long a Magistrate of the Town. To their statements implicit credit may be given: and I should not hesitate to rely on the statements of others of the name who are younger.      Your with great regard and esteem./ (Signed) L. Warrington

Wm. E. Cunningham Es'q./ Norfolk

Washington 30<sup>th</sup> March 1852

To James E Heath Esq/ Com'r of Pensions

Sir/      The object of this is to request you to suspend for the present all action upon the application of the adm'r of Capt Wm Cunningham late of the Virginia State navy and to delay the examination of the claim for Half pay until further request      Resp'y/ Henry M Morfit/ Attorney for the heirs & adm'r  
As administrator of Lieut Wm Cunningham I unite in the above application, and ask leave to withdraw the papers.      Wm E Cunningham/ Adm'r of Lt Wm Cunningham

31<sup>st</sup> of March 1852.

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

[Certified at Norfolk 4 Dec 1830]

I William Jennings [pension application S5615] do hereby make oath that I entered the Virginia State Navy in the year 1776 or 77 under Capt. Rich'd. Barron [Richard Barron] of the Patriot & know that at the time of my entering the service William Cunningham was then first Lieutenant under Cap. James Barron of the Liberty, and that he continued in the service to the Siege of York Town when I was taken out of the Patriot & Transferred to the French Fleet as a Pilot on Board the Northumberland 74, & carried to Martinique where I was discharg'd & took passage for home in an Eastern Shore Schooner belonging to Colo. Crocker commanded by Cap'n. Perryman & was captured by the Chatham a British 50 Gun Ship commanded by Commodore Douglass & carried to St. Augustine and was not released until peace took place

[signed] Wm. Jennings

United States Navy Yard/ Gosport. Dec'r. 20<sup>th</sup> 1830

I do hereby certify that I was intimately acquainted with Cap'n. William Cunningham from my earliest recollection to the time of his death, in the year 1795. He was my near relation and of course I was familiar with the history and particular transactions of his life He was an officer of great zeal, and of the most distinguished courage, as many of his exploits will testify. He commenced his career in the Virginia State Navy as a Lieutenant under the command of my father [Commodore James Barron], in one of the first vessels put afloat (the Sch'r. Liberty)

And I am further under the impression that he never did resign his commission, but was at all times consider'd subject to the order of the State Government. [signed] James Barron

Norfolk 1<sup>st</sup> Jany 1831

I Thomas Jennings do hereby certify that I entered the Virginia State Navy in the Year 1776 or 1777 & served on board the Schooner Patriot commanded by Cap'n. R'd Barron [Richard Barron] at which time I knew that William Cunningham was first Lieutenant under Capt. James Barron of the Liberty & that he remain'd in actual service up to the year 1781 about which time I left the service

[signed] Tho Jennings Sen'r