

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Mays W18491

f13VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

4/1/13

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

Virginia: At a Court held for Charlotte County the 5th day of February 1838

On motion of the children and heirs of William Mays deceased satisfactory evidence was adduced in Court to prove that William Mays deceased late of Charlotte was a Marine and Carpenter of the State Navy of Virginia on State establishment in the War of the Revolution and served three years the time of his enlistment. That said William Mays departed this life intestate on the 26th day of November 1831 in the County of Charlotte, leaving at the time of his death no widow, but the following children to wit, Nancy Chaffin, Sarah Mays, Elizabeth Chaffin, Prudence F. Mays, Jane W. Denton [?] [some text too faint to discern any more than a few letters here and there] Tabitha W Green all of whom are residents of the County of Charlotte except Elizabeth Chaffin and Jane W Denton who live in the West. Upon full satisfaction of the whole matter, the Court are of opinion that the said William Mays deceased was a Marine and Carpenter of the State Navy of Virginia and served three years in the war of the Revolution and the said Nancy Chaffin, Sarah Mays, Elizabeth Chaffin, Prudence F Mays, Jane W Denton and Tabitha W Green are the children of the said William Mays deceased and are the only persons entitled under the acts of Congress of June 7th 1832 and July 4th 1836 to receive the amount of pension which would have accrued from the 4th of March 1831 to the time of said William Mays' death & became payable to him if he had survived the passage of the said Act of Congress of the 7th of June 1832.

Ordered that the above be certified to the Commissioner of Pensions Before Department.

[Attested by William Robinson clerk of the Charlotte County court February 6, 1838.]

Wm Saunders [William Saunders] –	Capt.
Wm Parker [William Parker]	Lt.
Jno Tupman [John Tupman]	Master
Justice Livingston	Surgeon
Robert Fergusson	Mate
Jas Green [James Greene]	Mids. [Midshipman]
Ben Taylor [Benjamin Taylor]	Do
Martin Sherman	Do
Gavin Sumerson [Gavin Summers?]	Do
Samuel Wilson	Do
Jno Rydman [John Rydman]	Do
Wm Mays [William Mays]	Carpenter
Wm Smith [William Smith]	Boatswain
Darman Darby	Pilot

Issue sugar Tea and coffee to the above Officers
S/ Ja. Barron

September 28, 1779

The above orders is immediately to be complied with – The Board of War thinks it a sufficient Voucher for you

S/ Jas Innes

The above is a true copy of a paper filed in the last Volume of Papers concerning the State Navy relative to the Ship *Tarter*.

Given under my hand at the Auditors Office Richmond this 19th February 1838

S/ James E Heath, Auditor

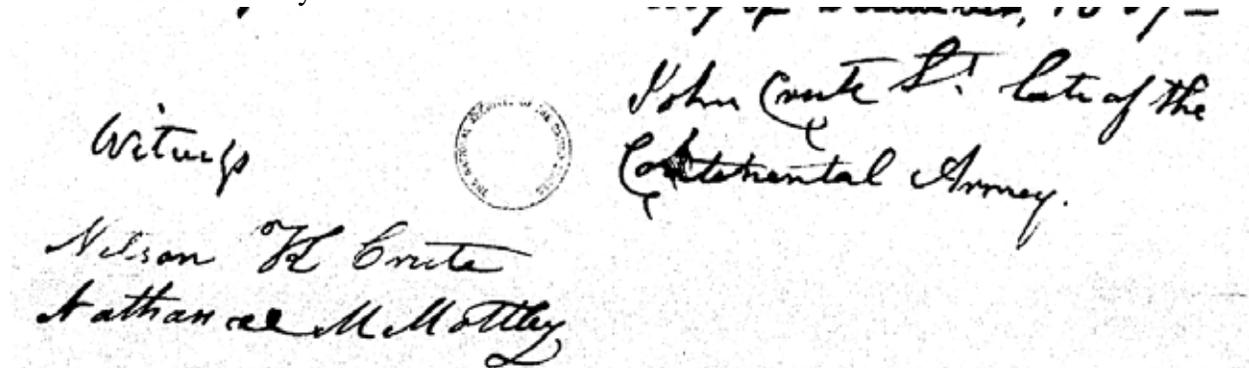
Virginia Prince Edward County to wit: I do hereby certify that I have a distinct recollection of William Mays late of Charlotte County in the Revolution: he enlisted in 1776 as a Marine under Captain Hanway [Samuel Hannoway?] Of the State Navy of Virginia on board a Galley or Vessel, the name of which I cannot recollect. He enlisted for the term of 3 years, the term for which most of the Navy enlisted at that time, and served accordingly – According to my best recollection and impression, the said William Mays was Carpenter in the naval service. Given under my hand this 18th day of December 1837

S/ John Crute¹ Lt. late of the
Continental Army

Witness

S/ Nelson K Crute

S/ Nathaniel M Mottley



The image shows a handwritten document. On the right, there is a signature: "John Crute Lt. late of the Continental Army." To the left of this signature is a circular seal with the text "OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR" around the perimeter. Below the seal, there are two more signatures: "Nelson K Crute" and "Nathaniel M Mottley". The word "Witness" is written above these two signatures.

[The heirs of William Mays received a pension at the rate of \$156 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831 and terminating November 26, 1831 for his service as a called under in the Virginia Navy.]

[From [rejected pension records in the Library of Virginia](#)] 33-page file

[pp 3-5: copy and original of the Crute affidavit transcribed above]

[p 5]

It does not appear by the records of the Land office that any military warrant was issued by

¹ [John L. Crute S24980](#)

Virginia for the services of William Mays.

S/ W. Felden, Regr.
L. Office 9 Feb. 1838

[pp 7-8: letter dated January 2, 1846 sent by William JB Bedford regarding the claim bounty land based on the services of William Mays in which contains the following statement:

I will state that William Mayes [sic] for some 30 or 40 years before his death was a Lunatic, and confined to the Hospital, and died a Lunatic – that will account for neglect in not presenting the claim in his lifetime – Carpenters in the State Navy were considered as Warrant Officers"and allowed by governors heretofore 2266 2/3 acres of land as will appear by reference to the Re..."

[Image of this document ends at this point]

[p 20: Power of attorney signed by the children and heirs of William Mays, to wit: Nancy Chaffin, Sarah, Mays, Prudence F. Mays, Tabitha D. Green, Elizabeth Chaffin and Jane W. Denton, all by their respective marks.]

[p 30]

To his Excellency the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia:

The Memorial of the Heirs and legal representatives of "William Mays" or " Mayes" late a Marine and Carpenter of the State Navy of Virginia on state establishment in the War of the Revolution: respectfully sheweth:

That your memorialist, the children and heirs of said "William Mays" know nothing respecting the services of their late father in the revolutionary war except his own statement in his lifetime, and the statement of Lieutenant Crute of the revolutionary Army –

That the said "William Mays" in the latter part of the year 1776 enlisted as a Marine under Captain Hanway of the State Navy, for the term of three years, and received an appointment or commission of Carpenter on board one of the State Galleys or Naval Vessels, the name of which cannot be recollected, and served as Carpenter and Marine in the state service, the full period for which he enlisted – All of which will appear from the Certificate of Lieutenant John Crute, an officer of the Revolutionary Army, who was acquainted with said William Mays in the service –

Your Memorialist further state, that the name of said "William Mays" appears as "Carpenter" on "a List of non-commissioned officers, seamen and marines, in the State Navy" who are entitled to Bounty Land for a service of three years during the Revolutionary War, as reported by John H Smith, Esquire, late Commissioner of Revolutionary Claims – Your Memorialist therefore pray that the Executive will grant them as the children and heirs aforesaid, the quantity of land allowed a Marine and Carpenter of the State Navy, to which the said William Mays in his lifetime was entitled, for 3 years services in the Revolutionary war, pursuant to the laws of Virginia in such case made and provided. And as in duty bound, shall ever pray &c

Nancy Chaffin
Sarah Mays
Prudence F. Mays
Tabitha D. Green

[Note: there is a note in the file that indicates this claim was rejected because the affidavit of Lieutenant Crute could not be considered as evidence without being sworn.]