To the Governor of Virginia

The heirs of Thomas Masterson a midshipman in the Virginia Navy in the War of the Revolution beg leave to state that their ancestor entered the Navy very early and served three years as a midshipman without ever resigned –

John Lowery knew Thomas Masterson whilst in the Navy & states that he served at least three years. See his affidavit.

Mr. J. H. Smith has reported midshipman Masterson as entitled to Land bounty for three years service. See his report Doct. No. 33 p 7 No. 175.

They respectfully ask that the Land bounty may be allowed to them as the legal representatives of said Thomas Masterson.

S/ Thos. Green
pr. Thomas Keecan J
Att. for the Claimants

The Petition of the Heirs of Thomas Masterson Midshipman S. N. for Bounty Land.

There is a memorandum on the back of an old Navy Journal which is in the 1st Auditor's office, of officers on board sundry vessels of the State Navy – on which memo Thomas Masterson is named as midshipman of the Tempest, February 6 1779.

He is also mentioned in the Navy Journal pp 432-434.

John Lowry, a respectable witness, says that Masterson (or Marsdon as he was sometimes called) was a midshipman in the State Navy, and served at least three years.

I have already reported this claim good for a service of three years.

Respectfully submitted

John H Smith, Commissioner &c
August 8th 1834

To Governor Tazewell

1 Tempest.


http://www.awiatsea.com/Other/Hough%20List%20T.html
I certify that I was well acquainted with Thomas Masterson, commonly called Marsdon, in the revolutionary war – Said Masterson was a midshipman in the Virginia Navy in said war and served at least three years – the said Masterson resided on the Island in the lower part of Lancaster County and died many years since – His only heirs at law are Thomas and John Marsdon alias Masterson who now reside on said Island.

S/ John Lowry

[acknowledged in Lancaster County Virginia July 21, 1834]