Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Virginia documents pertaining to Richard Epperson VAS3516 Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[The following are from bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia.]

City of Richmond, Virginia

To the Governor & Council of Virginia

Your Petitioners Richard B Epperson and Margaret B Tompkins who was Margaret B Epperson only children of Samuel A Epperson who was the only child and heir of Richard Epperson who was entitled to Land as a midshipman during the Revolution Solicits a Certificate for the bounty land &c to which their grandfather Richard Epperson was entitled to for his services as midshipman [undeciphered word] the [undeciphered word] which may be seen by Refference to Smith's Journal 1833 & 34 [undeciphered] Page 5 and the Navy Journal in the Auditors officer [three undeciphered words] affidavits Richard B Epperson/ M. B. Tompkins

Wednesday the 8th day of July 1778.

Ordered that the keeper of the public store deliver to George Brown and Richard Epperson Midshipmen on Board the Gloster [sic: *Gloucester*] each four shirts one hat, a suit of cloaths a pair of shoes and two pair of trowsers on their paying for the same/ From page 424.

Wednesday the 25th day of November 1778.

Richard Epperson has leave of absence from his duty in the Navy for the space of three weeks. From page 509.

The foregoing entries are truly copied from the Navy Journal./ Given under my hand at the Auditors Office Richmond this 25th day of September 1849.

Jas. E. Heath/ Aud'r Virg'a

[The handwriting of the following is extremely poor.]

The affidavit of B. Graves of the City of Richmond of Lawful age taken before me a justice of the peace for the City of Richmond this 19th of December 1845[?] to be read as evidence before the Executive of the State of Va in relation to Richard Eppersons claim to Bounty Land &c for services rended by the R. Epperson as Midshipman pending the revlution

Question Were you or not born in the same County in Va and neighbouber with Richad Epperson Answer I was born and raised in the County of New Kent on my Fathers plantation and Navy Rich'd Epperson joind

Question was it or not the general belief Richd Epperson had seved as an officer in the Navy during the revolution

Answer Certainly he was an officer in the navy during the revolution and thus was Distinguished from the rest of his Family as Navy [undeciphered word] Epperson up to his Death and I recolect positively [several undeciphered words] his mother [undeciphered] Epperson after Richd Eppersons plantation and my Father joined we were [undeciphered] and neighbours,

Can you say whethr Richd Epperson was married and if so how may children did he leave at his death Answer Richard Epperson married Margrete Allen by whom he had an only child Samuel Allen Epperson with whom I was raised went to both reading & Dancing School Richd Epperson the Farther of Samuel A Epperson was a very welthy man [undeciphered word] possessed of over a hundred negros and some two or three plantations in New Kent all of which his son S A Epperson inhrted

Qestion About what time were you born

Ans I was born in the year 1771 at [three undeciphered words] in New Kent adjoing Richd Epperson [undeciphered word] caled the Fort on chickmony [Chickahominy] river and Farther this deponant sayeth not [signed] Bat. Graves [Bartholomew Graves]

The affidavit of Margarett W. Parham of the County of Caroline, of lawful age, taken at the Bowling Green, in said County this 21st day of November 1849 to be read before the Executive of Va. Question by [undeciphered name]. Do you recollect any thing of a uniform in the family of the Apperson's of the County of New Kent?

Ans'r. I was born in New Kent in the year 1796 & recollect to have seen a Uniform Coat & Short breeches also a Cocked hat & plume which my Grand Mother Elizabeth Hockaday formerly Elizabeth Allen, always said was the property of Richard Apperson the father of Sam'l. A Apperson of s'd County of New Kent – the Coat had two Epaulets on it, & I also recollect that my Grand Mother frequently spoke of the money which Sam'l. A Apperson would some time or other receive for his farther's services in shedding the blood of the Red Coats. Richard Apperson was my Uncle by marriage & I have frequently heard that my uncle Richard & my father were in service at the same time.

Quest. by same. Have you ever heard that Richard Apperson was distinguished by the family as Navy Dick Apperson?

Ans'r. I never heard so that I recollect.

Question. was Sam'l. A Apperson the son of Richard Apperson of N. Kent?

Ans'r. Sam'l. A Apperson was the only child of Richard Apperson.

Quest by same. When did Sam'l. A Apperson die, & how many children did he leave?

Ans'r. He died some fifteen or twenty years ago & left three children. Armistead - Richard and Margarett. Margarett married Bennet Tompkins, & Armistead died some years ago - so that Richard & Margarett are now the only children & heirs of said Sam'l. A Apperson. & further this affiant saith not.

Margarett herXmark Parham

The affidavit of Mrs Polly Poindexter of the county of New Kent and State of Virginia of Lawful age taken before me a justice of the Peace for said county this 10th of Jan'y 1850 to be read as evidence before the Executive of the state of Virginia in relation to Rich'd Appersons claim to Bounty Land &c for services rendered by the said Rich'd Apperson as Midshipman [undeciphered] the revolution Question. What year did Rich'd Apperson die

Answer He died as near I can recollect about the year 1798 [signed] Polly Poindexter

The affidavit of Ansolem Bailey of the county of New Kent of lawful age taken before me a justice of the peace of the county aforesaid This 4th day of September 1850 to be read as evidence before the executive of the State of Virginia in relation to Midshipman Richard Epperson's claim to Bounty land &c for services rendered during the the Revolution by the said Midshipman Richard Epperson pending the revolution

Qustion were you or not acquainted with Richard Epperson father of Samuel A Epperson of the county of New Kent and State of Virginia

Answer I was well acquainted with him and have seen him five hundred times

Question Can you say or not whether Richard Epperson served as and officer of the Navy of the United States during the revolution

Answer Some time after the siege of York [28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781] he took possession of his property and it was the prevailing report that he served as an officer of the Navy to the end of the revolution. Some time thereafter he married Margaret Allen, the daughter of Richmond Allen and left one son Samuel Allen. Epperson. The said Richard Epperson was a very wealthy man he was some times distinguished by the appelation of Navy Dick and sometimes as little Dick Epperson. [signed] Anselm Bailey

The affidavit of Dandridge Martin of the County of New Kent of the county of New Kent and state of Virginia of lawfull age taken before me a justice of the peace of the county aforesaid This 4th day of September 1850 to be read as evidence before the executive of the State of Virginia in relation to Midshipman Richard Epperson's claim to Bounty land &c for services rendered during the Revolution by the said Midshipman Richard Epperson pending the revolution

Question Were you or not acquainted with Richard Apperson the father of Samuel A Apperson of the County of New Kent and State of Virginia

Answer I never knew him untill after the Siege of York. after that he Came to the County of New Kent and I then became acquainted with him

Question Can you say or not whether Richard Apperson served as an officer of the United States Navey up to the end of the Revolution

Answer I not only heard Richard Apperson say so, but but all the people of the neighbourhood said he was a midshipman up to the end of the Revolutionary war.

Question were you raised in the County of New Kent.

Answer I was and am eighty odd years old [signed] Dandridge Martin