

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Humphlet [Humphlett]<sup>1</sup> R45

f18VA

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves

5/16/14: rev'd 1/5/24

[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' or 'undeciphered' 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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

[p 3: Power of attorney dated November 20, 1849 executed in Norfolk County Virginia by Charles L Cocke as administrator of the estate of Thomas Humphlet, deceased, a Lieutenant in the State Navy of Virginia during the War of the Revolution.]

Pension Office

May 3, 1848

I certify that I have examined the claim of the administrator of Thomas Humphlet, deceased, under the act of July 5, 1832, and I find that Humphlet served as a Lieutenant in the Virginia State Navy to the end of the revolutionary war. The case is therefore embraced by the provisions of the above mentioned law; and I am of opinion that the claim should be allowed at the rate of \$182.50 per annum from the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April 1783, until the 15<sup>th</sup> of February 1794, when he died, and that the amount is payable to Francis A. Dickins, attorney of William Ivy, of Elizabeth City County, administrator of said Humphlet

Commissioner of Pensions

Approved

Secretary of War

[Enter this case No. 307]

[Note: Those interested in this veteran may find the other documents in this file of interest, but they contain no description of the veteran's service. Those documents relate to conflicting claims between Charles L. Cocke and William Ivy as administrators of the veteran's estate, Ivy's claim being based on the devise to him made by one Rebecca Cooper, dec'd [her relationship to the veteran is not stated.]

---

[From [bounty land records in the Library of Virginia](#)]

The Affidavit of James Burke of lawful age being first sworn deposeth and saith that he was well acquainted with Thomas Humphlet and that he served with him in the State Navy in the Revolutionary War on board the Boat *Patriot* three years, and that he believes he left the said Humphlet in the service in the boat when he (the said Burke) was discharged.

S/ James Burk

---

<sup>1</sup> VA. Half Pay See N. A. Acc. No. 837 Virginia State Navy Thomas Humphlett Y S File Va. Half Pay

*James Burke*

Elizabeth City County to wit

The above Affidavit was taken and sworn to before me this 25<sup>th</sup> day of July 1831

S/ C. Hubbard, JP

I Elizabeth Jones do hereby certify on oath that I was well acquainted with Thomas Humphlett who served during the Revolutionary War in the State Navy that I frequently saw him while he was in service, and mode that he was an officer but of what grade I cannot speak positively. Given under my hand this 12<sup>th</sup> day of December 1831

S/ Elizabeth Jones

*E. Elizabeth Jones*

[Attested in Elizabeth City County]

To the Governor of Virginia

The petition of the Heirs of Thomas Humphlett respectfully states – That he was a Lieutenant in the Virginia Navy during the revolution more than three years, but never received the Land Bounty to which he was entitled.

The affidavit of James Burke (himself an officer in the Navy) states that he served with Thomas Humphlett three years in the Navy and states that he left the said H. in service when the affiant left it. This evidence is very positive & definite – and is from a most respectable witness as he is no doubt known to your Excellency.

His statement is strengthened by the testimony of two ladies who recollect Humphlett well – Mrs. Jones says she was well acquainted with him – saw him frequently in service during the war & knows that he was an officer but she cannot say of what grade.

Mrs. Payne in her affidavit corroborates the evidence of the other witnesses –

Your Petitioners hope the evidence now furnished will be satisfactory – but if it be not – they will endeavor to procure the testimony of Commodore Barron<sup>2</sup> who has declared (as your

---

<sup>2</sup> Probably a reference to **either** BARRON, JAMES VA Commodore, Virginia Navy: James Barron was born in 1740, [NOAR, 16] in Elizabeth City County, Virginia. He served in the transatlantic merchant service before the war, sailing the ship *Elizabeth* from Virginia to London and back. [NDAR, I, 1387-1394] He was commissioned as a Captain of Virginia Militia [NOAR, 17] and, according to his son, entered Virginia naval service on 25 December 1775. [Stewart, 146] On 4 March 1776 he was serving aboard the Virginia Navy [Sloop] *Liberty*. Together with Captain Richard Barron of the Virginia Navy [Sloop] *Patriot* he recaptured the British Transport Ship *Oxford*. On 11 September 1776 he and Richard Barron were ordered to protect transport vessels taking troops down Chesapeake Bay to the Virginia Capes. [NOAR, 17] Barron later served as Commodore of the Virginia Navy, commissioned July 1780, [Stewart, 146] to 7 April 1783. He died on 14 May 1787, still acting as Commodore. [Stewart, 146] **or**

BARRON, RICHARD VA Captain, Virginia Navy Richard Barron was a resident of Elizabeth City County, Virginia, and brother of JAMES BARRON. [Stewart, 148] He was a Captain of Virginia Militia, and was assigned to the Virginia Navy [Sloop] *Patriot* on 4 March 1776. With James Barron of the Virginia Navy [Sloop] *Liberty* he recaptured the British Transport Ship *Oxford*. On 11 September 1776 he and James Barron were ordered to protect transport vessels taking troops down Chesapeake Bay to the Virginia Capes. [NOAR, 17] Barron was Captain, Virginia Navy and assigned to the Virginia Navy Brig *Jefferson*, from 1778-1780. On 11 October 1780 he was given leave to go to the West Indies to recover his health. His will was proved on 28 April 1791. [Stewart, 148] <http://www.awiatsea.com/Officers/Officers%20B.html>

Petitioners have been informed) that he knew him well & that his heirs are entitled to the bounty they now solicit – Hoping however that the evidence now submitted will be sufficient, they will wait no longer for the additional testimony.

S/ Thomas Green  
Attorney for the Petitioners

I Ann Payne of the County of Elizabeth City & State of Virginia do hereby certify that Thomas Humphlett was a Lieutenant in the Virginia State Navy, he entered the service sometime in the year 1777 and remained in the service until 1783 and William Casey a sailor who was in the state Navy who entered the service in the year 1777 and served until 1783. I was well acquainted with said Thomas Humphlett and William Casey from the time they entered the said service in the War of the Revolution until their discharge. Given under my hand & seal this 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1831.

S/ Ann Payne, X her Mark

---

[From [Virginia Half-Pay record on Fold3.com](https://www.fold3.com): 55 page file]  
<https://www.fold3.com/image/616521461>

[p 4]

At a Court held for the County of Elizabeth City the 26<sup>th</sup> day of July 1832 Ordered that it be certified that it has been made [to] appear to the Court by satisfactory evidence that Rebecca Cooper [sic] is the only heir at law of Virginia Humphlet widow and devisee of Thomas Humphlet deceased

a copy Test S. S. Howard Clk Pro Tem

In the name of God, amen, I Rebecca Cowper [sic] of Elizabeth City County Virginia being now of sound mind do make this my last will and testament viz. I give and bequeath, after the payment of all my just debts, the entire of my property, to William Ivy of said County and the lawful heirs of his body forever, i.e., I give unto the said William Ivy my slaves Clarisy & her children Dolphin & Bob together with my household and kitchen furniture, cattle and perishable property of every description. But should the said Will. Ivy die without issue, then I give and bequeath the aforesaid slaves to my lawful heirs forever.

Elizabeth City County Virginia

March 26 1840

Rebecca Cowper, X her mark

At a Court held for the County of Elizabeth City the 28<sup>th</sup> day of May 1840

The last will and testament of Rebecca Cowper deceased was produced therein and proved by the oh of Robert Davis and Maurice Fitzgibbon [could be Maurice Fitzgibson] witnesses thereto and ordered to be recorded

Test W. Hunistead Clk

[p 9]

State of Virginia

Elizabeth City County, to wit:

The affidavit of Mrs. Anne Payne, taken before me Joseph Phillips, a Justice of the Peace in and

---

for the County aforesaid this 7<sup>th</sup> day of March 1848 – the said Anne Payne being duly Sworn deposed and saith that both during the Revolutionary War and after, she knew Thomas Humphlett – that the said Humphlett was an officer, to wit a Lieutenant of the State Navy of Virginia, and served on board the Boat Patriot that this affiant knew the said Thomas Humphlett well – he was the son of King Humphlett, who died about the end of the Revolutionary War; and home the said Thomas Humphlett survived. Said Thomas Humphlett was a native of Elizabeth City County, in this State, in which this affiant was born and raised – this affiant never knew any other person of the name of Thomas Humphlett except the one of whom she now speaks, and who served in the state Navy as herein stated and this affiant further states that John Cowper and Rebecca, his wife, some twelve or fifteen years since received Land from the Government for the services of said Thomas Humphlet – said John Cowper is now dead, also his wife Rebecca, the said Rebecca survived her said husband – And this affiant further states that the said Thomas Humphlet died in this County about ten years after the War. Further this affiant sayeth not.

Sworn to by the said Anne Payne the day and year first aforesaid, before me Joseph Phillips a Peace in and for the County and State aforesaid

Joseph Phillips, JP

[p 13]

In the name of God, Amen this the 10<sup>th</sup> day of February 1794, I Thomas Humphlet of Elizabeth City being sick and weak in body but of perfect mind and memory thanks be to Almighty God for the same and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die do make this my last will and Testament I recommend my soul to God who gave it me and my body to the earth from whence I came and as touching such worldly estate as has been pleased God to endow me with in this life, after my just debts and funeral expenses are first paid I give and bequeath my estate in form and manner following – Imprimus I give and bequeath unto my loving wife Elizabeth Humphlet my whole estate both real and personal to her and her heirs forever. I also appoint my loving wife Elizabeth Humphlet my whole and soul executrix of this my last will and Testament.

Thomas Humphlet

Signed Sealed & delivered

In presence of

Francis Moss

John Minson

Elizabeth City County Court February 26 17 95

this Will was produced in Court and proved by the oath of John Minson a witness thereto an Order to be recorded

Test Merritt Moore, Clerk

[p 16]

I am a native of Elizabeth City County in the State of Virginia, as were my ancestors before me. I knew personally Thomas Humphlet, of whose services in the state Navy of Virginia I have already furnished an affidavit. Said Humphlet was a citizen and native of said County, was raised and died in that County. He was from that part of the said County known as “Saller’s Creek.” I am not able, in consequence of long absence from my native County, to trace the pedigree &c of said Humphlet, but have no doubt that his heirs reside in that county. I never knew any other person of the name of Thomas Humphlet, except him who served in the state Navy, as I have heretofore testified, and who was a native and resident of Elizabeth City County aforesaid. Given

under my hand this 8<sup>th</sup> day of March 1848

James Barron<sup>3</sup>

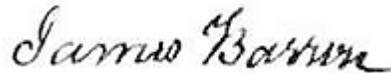


[p 55]

I am under the impression, that Lieut. Humphlett was in the Revolutionary State Navy of Virginia about, five years, before the close of that war, and that he continued in the service, until the end of the war; he was a Prisoner in Charleston,<sup>4</sup> until the evacuation of that City [in December 1782], by the British; and after the reestablishment of the Virginia State Navy; after the siege of York Lieutenant Humphlett again joined the Virginia Navy, his family lived in Elizabeth City County, not many miles from my father's residence, therefore it is, that I became so particularly acquainted with the circumstances connected with the career of Lieutenant Thomas Humphlett.

I do hereby certify that the above statement is substantially correct and true

James Barron



Norfolk March the 27<sup>th</sup> 1848

---

<sup>3</sup> [James Barron VAS1949](#)

<sup>4</sup> Charleston South Carolina fell to the British on May 12, 1780: Siege of Charleston

<http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/800401-charleston/>

& <https://allthingsliberty.com/2020/10/britains-last-throw-of-the-dice-begins-the-charlestown-campaign-of-1780/>