Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John Lyon R66

VA Sea Service

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[The following three items are from copies certified by the Auditor's Office in Richmond on 17 Feb 1835:]

Thursday the 3rd day of September 1778

Ordered that Doct'r. John Lyon Surgeon to the Hero Galley deliver the Surgeon Instruments in his possession to Doct'r. Chapin [Benjamin Chapin, pension application R25] for the use of the Ship Tarter [sic: *Tartar*].

Extract from the Naval Journal page 426.

17th March 1779

The Army Dr.

Warrant to John Lyon Surgeons Mate to the Garrison at Hampton for pay & subsistance from the 17^{th} Jan'y to the 17 March 1779 - £30.0.0

June 1st 1779

The Army Dr.

Warrant to John Lyon for pay and subsistance as Surgeons Mate to the Hospital at Hampton to 31st May last & Certificate. £37.10.0

The two last extracts are taken from the Auditors day Book No 1. commencing 5th March 1779.

[The federal pension file contains no application by Lyon. The following summarizes documents submitted by heirs in their claim for half pay for life.]

Washington City/27 Jany 1826

Sir [James L Edwards, Commissioner of Pensions]. Enclosed I present further evidence (marked K) in the case of the legal representatives of John Lyon, a Surg. mate Va. Navy, under the act of 5th July 1832, which I hope will now be considered conclusive. The papers previously filed were viz –

- (A) Power of Attorney from Charles Henley the Adm. with the will annexed.
- (B) Copy of the will of D. Lyon, and certificate of Administration with the will annexed, which shews Dr. L to have been living 10 Feb. 1795 and to have died before 7 July 1795.
- (C) Copy of the evidence upon which Virginia allowed his heirs Bounty Land the affidavit of Jeremiah Crane proving service from 1777 to 1781.
- (D) Deposition of Ann Payne proving his service until the dismantling of the gallies in 1781.
- (E) Certificate of the Register of the Land Office shewing that land warrants issued to John Keeling & Mary Ann Keeling & to Elizabeth and Jane Smaw the heirs of Dr. Lyon.
- (F) Certificate of the Comm'r. of Rev. claims of Va. shewing Lyon to have been Surg. Mate, to have been allowed Bounty Land & that there is no evidence of his resignation.
- (G.) Deposition proving identity.
- (H & J.) consent of the heirs.
- (K. The paper now filed) Is a certificate that Dr. Lyon received £226.7.0 the balance of his full pay. The full pay of a Surgeon's Mate, I believe, was 3/ [shillings] per day which is £54.15. per year and for four years £219.0.0. This certificate consequently proves Dr. Lyon to have been in service considerably more than four years. And if, as has been proved, Dr. Lyon entered the service in 1777, four years would bring him to 1781, the year in which the gallies were laid up. By the decision of the Secretary of the Treasury a Naval Officer, to be entitled to half pay mush have served until after May session of the Va. Legislature of

1780. This case, it is consequently believed is shown to be clearly within the law and decisions. It appearing from the evidence that Dr. Lyon was Surgeon's Mate in one of the gallies until it was laid up and that being after May session of 1780. In this case half pay is claimed only until the 10 Feb 1795, the last period Dr. L. is shown to be living.

Very respectfully,/ Your Obd. Svt.

Francis A. Dickins

[The following are among the <u>bounty-warrant papers in the Library of Virginia</u>. The first two were certified 23 July 1833 as copies from the Journal of the Navy Board in the Auditors Office at Richmond.]

Wednesday the 6th day of May 1778.

Present – Mr. Whiting and Mr. Travis

Ordered that Dr. McClarg deliver to Dr. Jno. Lyons, sal glauber six pound, sal nitre one pound, Tart emetic quarter of an ounce, spermaceti one pound... [other items mostly illegible], one Lancet, and two crooked needles for the use of the Hero Galley.

Thursday the 3rd day of September 1778

Present Mr. Whiting Mr. Travis and Mr. Innis.

Ordered that Dr. Jno. Lyons Surgeon to the Hero Galley deliver the surgeon instruments in his possession to Dr. Chapin for the use of the ship Tartar

I certify that I knew John Lyon who was Sergeons mate in in the Revolutionary war under Doct'r. Joseph S Dell, he was in the Row Galley Commanded by Wright Wiscot [sic: probably galley *Norfolk Revenge* commanded by Wright Westcott, pension application R103] in the year 1777 he was in Hampton in the Hospital in the year 1780 and he was in service in the year 1781 I knew him to be in service for upwards of three years in succession, and further I Cannot say. As witness my hand and seal this the 18th April in the year 1833 [Norfolk County]

Jeremiah hisXmark Cane
[Certified by John Biddle, who also stated that the heirs of John Lyon were "very poore and in need."

[There is also a copy of an account headed "Williamsburg in Virginia January 16th 1779"showing payment of £30/10/ to "Jno. Lyon surgeon's mate Garr[ison] Hampton pay &c to this day."]