Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John Rogers R88 VA Sea Service/ Half Pay
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 14 May 2015.

Auditors Office/ June 14 1834

Sir I have duly received your letter of the 4th inst, enclosing the papers (copies) upon which Land bounty was allowed to John Rogers as captain in the State Navy, and you ask me to state if the Records at Richmond show him to have been entitled to Half pay or what evidence they furnish of his service.

I have consulted all the records which could be supposed to shed light on the subject of our enquiry, and I do not find any evidence that John Rogers was either a Lieutenant or captain in the State Navy. The Naval journal shews that Capt [Isaac] Younghusband was the first commander of the Mosquito and that after his resignation [31 Oct 1776] he was succeeded in the command of that Vessell by Capt. Harris [John Harris, pension application R41]. The only extracts from that journal which contain the name of John Rogers, and which are found among the evidence in support of the Land claim, do not show that Rogers had any command in the Navy – and as the journal extends to the year 1780, if Rogers was an officer he must have been appointed after that time. You will perceive that the only evidence upon which the Land claim would have been allowed was the testimony of private individuals – and there is nothing among the Revolutionary Archives which supports or coroborates the facts which have been stated. I am sir very respectfully Your obed Serv/ Jas E Heath

U. S. Navy Yard Philada/ 23d June 1834

Sir, I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st inst and in reply beg leave to state that I knew Capt John Rogers, intimately for many years after the war of the revolution, and for several years previous to the close of it, but strange as it may appear, I have no recollection of his being in the Virginia State Navy.

Dr. Sneed [Robert Snead, pension application R94] I never knew and of course can have no recollection of him as an officer.

I have the honor Sir to be Very Respectfully Yr. Obt Servt
James Barron [pension application W12264]

To The Hon R. B. Taney/ Secretary of the Treasury/ Washington D.C

Pension Office/ February 22d 1845

I certify that I have examined the claim of the administrator of John Rogers, dec'd who was a Captain in the Virginia State Navy, and I find that half-pay was allowed in this case under the act of the 5th July 1832 entitled "an act to provide for liquidating and paying certain claims of the State of Virginia," at the rate of $243 $^{33\frac{1}{3}}/_{100}$ per annum, instead of at the rate of $250 $^{93}/_{100}$ per annum. The difference between these two sums is now claimed, and it is my opinion that the claim should be allowed. I therefore certify there is due to the administrator half-pay at the rate of Seven Dollars Fifty-Nine and twothirds cents per annum from the 22d of April 1783 when the service of said Rogers ceased, to the 1st of January 1816, when he died; and that the amount is payable to the Honorable T. A. Bayly, attorney of John Tabb, administrator of John Rogers deceased. Commissioner of Pensions
Approved/ Secretary of War

[From Library of Virginia Legislative Petitions Digital Collection/ Elizabeth City County]

To the Honourable the Speaker & Gentlemen of the House of Delegates, the Petition of John Rogers Humbly Sheweth, that he was Imploy'd. by the State Agent to Command one of the Vessells belonging to the State to go on an trading Voage in the Year 1780 and saild for the West Indies, after he was without the Capes he was Chased by the British Enemy who Oblig'd. your Petitioner to Run the Vessell on shore

who thought it best to save the Cargo and Materials of the Vessell, which he did at some considerable Expence, your Petitioner being Informed A Mr Moss Armistead had some Money in his Possession belonging to the State, he apply'd to the said Armistead and Borrowed fifteen Hundred pounds paper Money which was apply'd. toward the defraying the Expence of saving the Cargo of the Brigg, Your Petitioner expected Mr. Armistead would be allowed that sum in the settlement of his Account, but on Mr Armistead settling his Account with the Auditers, they would not allow the Money he lent for the Publick Use, the said Armistead has since brought a suite against your Petitioner and recovered twenty five pounds of the Costs of suite, as your Petitioner has settled his Acc'o. with the Auditers and given the Publick Credit for the fifteen Hundred pounds, he hopes your Hon'l. House will make him such allowances they shall think Right & your Petitioner will ever pray &c.

Elizabeth City County Court Friday the 26th Day of August 1785
Moss Armistead Pl[aintiff] }
ags't. } In Case
John Rogers Def't. }
Verdict and Judgment for Twenty three pounds & one shilling & nine pence with Interest after the Rate of five per centum per Annum to be computed from the 10th Day of July 1780 till payment and Costs.
[some undeciphered words] (A Copy)

It appears to y'r Comm [probably Committee of Claims of the House of Delegates] that during the late War the Pet'r. was employd in the trading department of the State & had the command of a Vessel belonging to the Public & for defraying the expences of the s'd Vessel he borrowed of the late Mr. M. A. (who had at that time in his hands) a quantity of public money the sum of £1000 paper money.

It further appears to y'r. Comm that the Auditor refused to allow Mr. Armistead in the settlem't of his public Acco'ts for the money furnished the Pet'r. as aforesaid, but deducted the same from the pet'r. Account, against the public in consequence of which a suit was commenced ag's. the pet'r. by the s'd M. Armistead & Judmt ob'd. ag's. him for the sum of £23.1.9 with 5 pr Cent interest thereon from the 10th of July 1780 'til paid, together with the cost of suit.

Resolved Praying relief is reasonable and that a warrant ought to issue in favor of the Pet'r for the full amount of the s'd Judgm & Costs including Interest thereon to this time.

Ref'd to Claims Dec'r 6th 1786/ Reasonable/ Reported

[The following are from bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia. Some of the online images are illegible, and some are misfiled images pertaining to Thomas Snale R93.]

Thursday August 15th 1776.
Ordered that a Warrant issue to John Rogers for one hundred pounds upon account for furnishing necessaries and paying of Carpenters at work on six Boats now Building at Portsmouth under the direction of Colo Adam Stephens [probably Adam Stephen] and the said Rogers.
Signed. Thos. Whiting 1st Com'r.
Saturday 19th October 1776.
Ordered that a Warrant issue to John Rogers for six[?] hundred and ten pounds nineteen shillings & nine pence for necessaries furnished and pay of Workmen for Building six Boats at Portsmouth under the direction of Colo. Adam Stephens as pr his & Rogers' Acc'ts. this day settle who entered into Bond with security for his faithfull applying the said sum of money.
Signed. Thos Whiting 1st Com'r.
Extracts from the Naval Journal pages 37 & 85.
Jas E Heath aud[ito]r
Aud Off Jan 15 1834

Wednesday 25th Sept'r. 1776.
Present Mr. Whiting Mr. Hutchings & Mr. Travis

Ordered that a Warrant issue to Moses [last name undeciphered] for the use of Thadeus Borland[?] for Eighty three pounds three shillings and one penny for spirits furnished John Rogers for the use of the workmen at Portsmouth

Auditors Office July 20 1833

The foregoing is copied from the Journals of the Navy Board Jas E. Heath aud

Tuesday March 5th 1776.
A Warrant to John Rogers for £74.0.0 for the recruiting service in Princess Anne & Norfolk District upon Account. Bond ackn'd.

Extract from the Minutes of Safety/ J. Adams Smith[?]/ 1st Clerk acting auditor

I Jeremiah Caine of the county of Norfolk, do hereby certify that I knew John Rogers of Elizabeth City county: I was born in St. Mary's county in the state of Maryland, but removed by my parents when I was a sucking baby, as they informed me, to Elizabeth City county on back river, in this state, where I lived till the year after the seige of York, shortly after which, I came to Norfolk to learn the trade of a ship carpenter, and have continued to live in norfolk county ever since. The said John Rogers was a captain of one of the navy vessels in the Revolutionary war, but I cannot say which one of them, although I frequently saw him whilst he was in service; the vessel that he commanded would frequently lay off back river and he would come on shore to verlate[?] himself and get fresh provisions. I also saw him very often in Hampton: My Father, Joshua Caine [Joshua Cain], was a pilot on board the same vessel that the said John Rogers was commander of 'till he was sent with several other pilots on board of a look out boat, down to the capes, for the purpose of piloting in the French vessels that were daily expected, and was taken by Two or three Brittish vessels, under French colours, and carried to Hallifax [sic: Halifax] or Nova Scotia where he was put in prison and died there. I recollect that Robert ligit[?], Robert Jones, Timothy cane, Isaac Redmond and other pilots were on board the Look out boat with my father when he was taken by the British; I think it was in the same year that the seige of York was [1781] that they were taken, and I know that the said John Rogers was in service then, and I believe he remained in service as a captain 'till the close of the war. as witness my hand and seal this 30th day of May A.D. one thousand eight hundred and thirty three. Jeremiah hisXmark Cane

Virginia – County of Norfolk to wit: [7 Jan 1834]

Before me Merit Jordan a Notary Public in and for the County aforesaid personally came and appear'd Captain John Cox [pension application S8223], who being duly sworn, said that in the year 1777 in the revolutionary war he was duly commissioned by the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, as a Captain in the private Armed Naval Service of the said state, and was employed in different voyages to the West Indies in procuring naval stores, munitions of war etc. for the use and service of the said State. Among the many vessels commanded by him during the said war was the well known State private Armed Vessel "Sally Norton" of [undeciphered] Guns. The last Voyage made by Affiant was in the [one or two undeciphered words] in the year 1781 on which occasion or perhaps on a former One, he was conveyed to the Capes by the Armed Brig the Musquito [sic: *Mosquito*] then Commanded by Captain [undeciphered word] John Rogers of the state Navy of Virginia. Affiant was intimate with the said John, or as he was familiarly called, Captain Jack Rogers he was a brave officer, and serv'd during the whole war. His brother George [George Rogers], was also an excellent officer, and died in the service or perhaps at the immediate close of the War. Affiant was Captured during the War by the British Armed Brig Eagle of 20 Guns – not however until he had made a stout resistance, and found every effort to escape as hopeless; we was [three undeciphered words] carried to Tortola [Virgin Islands], and after a short confinement escaped to Santa Cruz [St. Croix, Virgin Islands] – [undeciphered word] chance he went to St. Eustatia [Saint Eustatius, Netherlands Antilles] where he found the American Armed Ship the

Renown of 20 Guns, commanded by Captain Robert Elliott, and returned in her to the United States.

I Stephen Wright [pension application R11907] of Norfolk do hereby certify that I was intimately acquainted with Captain John Rogers of the State Navy of Virginia during the war of the Revolution. I was appointed an Ensign in the war of the revolution, and went to York immediately after the Siege of York [28 Sep - 19 Oct 17871] with a detachment of troops commanded by Lieutenant Fleet, the senior officer in command. I had then supposed that Captain Rogers had served from the earliest commencement of the war, and the impression is vivid in my mind that he served until the close of the war. I was not an eye witness to the fact, and therefore I can only speak to the best of my impressions. This I do know, that he was esteemed an officer of great bravery. He died at Hampton many years since, where he left a family.

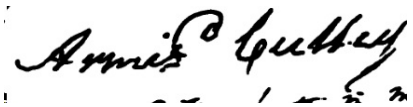
The above affidavit sworn to before me this 18th day of January in the year 1834
Thomas Williamson Ald[erma]n

I certify that Colo. Stephen Wright is an Ancient and respectable inhabitant of [undeciphered] and that his statements are entitled to full credit. Thom Williamson ald'n

The Affidavit of Armistead Culley [S8270] aged seventy five years taken before me Tazewell Taylor a Notary publick of the Borough of Norfolk duly commissioned and certified.

The said affiant being first duly sworn deposeth that he was well acquainted with many of the Naval officers of the Virginia State Navy. That among others he well recollects Captain Thomas Lilly [VAS923] who commanded the Brig. Liberty one of the largest Brigs in the Navy at the commencement of the revolutionary war. The said Brig Liberty was afterwards commanded by Captain Rogers, and this affiant believes she was captured by the British whilst under his command. That the Brother of this affiant, Robert Cully [Robert Culley] was the chief Carpenter on board of the said Brig and after his return from captivity the said Robert would frequently recount to this affiant his sufferings whilst in the British prison. That this affiant also knew Lieut'n John Rodgers who was attached to the said Brig at the time of her capture as above stated.

This affiant was a soldier in the Revolutionary War under Captain [Charles] Tompkies and was engaged in several actions. He is a native of Mathews County Virginia – and for the last 18 years a resident of Baltimore.



Virginia Norfolk County To wit [30 Jan 1834]
Before me Merit Jordan a Notary Public in & for the County aforesaid by lawful authority duly admitted and qualified, appearing George Younger and old and respectable inhabitant of the aforesaid County, and made oath according to law, to the truth of the following statement to wit: "That he enlisted in the Naval Service of Virginia in the early part of the War of the Revolution on board of the Brig Independence, was afterwards transfered to the Schooner Dolphin Capt. [Thomas] Bryant and received a wound in an action

with the British the marks of which are still visible, – Affiant knew Capt. John Rogers well, he was in the Naval Service of Virginia, and was a bold and gallant Officer – Capt Rogers commanded the Brig Mosquito, she was a large Vessel, and carried twelve guns at least; but he does not now recollect the exact compliment of men, yet he knows their were not less than six men to each gun.

George hisXmark Younger

Norfo. Boro. January 20th 1834

To His Excellency John Floyd Governor of Virginia

Sir I beg leave to submit to your consideration the claim of John Rogers and Elizabeth N. Rogers grand children of John Rogers who was a Captain in the State navy of Virginia for land bounty to which he was entitled in his [undeciphered word] during the whole of the revolution from the earliest commencement of the war until its close in 1783. The evidence upon which I rely [several undeciphered words] of Capt. Rogers to land bounty, consists of [undeciphered word] affidavits herewith filed. [The rest mostly undeciphered.]

NOTES:

In the bounty-land file Mary C. Ward stated on 30 Nov 1833 that John Rogers married her aunt.

The file of John Rogers in rejected claims in the Library of Virginia includes correspondence regarding efforts by agents to obtain bounty land for the unnamed heirs of John Rogers.

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Addendum to John Rogers R88

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. 14 Nov 2024.

[The file of John Rogers R88 in the Virginia Half-Pay pension records on fold3.com erroneously includes papers relating to John Rogers X648. The file includes no new information regarding John Rogers R88.]