

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Bounty Land Warrant information relating to Richard Hill VAS1531

[vsl 19](#)

Transcribed by Will Graves

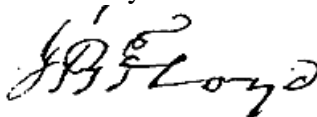
3/30/14

[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 'indecipherable' 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 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

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

The Commissioner Smith reports this man as a Lieutenant in the Continental line & settled his accounts for 2 years & 4 months – the depredations of Clark & Grammer do prove in my opinion that he was in service as late as 1780 or 81 – Claim allowed for service as Lieutenant in the Continental line for 3 years.

S/ J. B. Floyd



Lieutenant Richard Hill for Bounty Land

[indecipherable] 1 May 1839

The record evidence in this case shows a service of 2 years & nearly 4 months. The tenor of the affidavits of the witnesses Clark & Grammer seem to be misunderstood by the Agent of the petitioners. They do not prove that Richard Hill was an officer in the artillery after 1779 – they merely speak to seeing him in 1780 & 81 but do not pretend to say he was in the regular service – must be rejected 1839 May 1

S/ D C

To the Hon: the Executive of Virginia

The Heirs of Lieutenant Richard Hill of the Artillery, in the War of the Revolution, have desired me to ask of your Honorable body, Land bounty for the Services of their And sister – Reference is made to the Papers & vouchers now on file and the accompanying Record evidence, showing a service of two years & three and a half months, and the affidavit of Mrs. Mayo of this City, the widow of the late William Mayo of Powhatan & which is additional. The affidavits of William Clarke and John Grammar both of Petersburg, and men most [word written over and illegible] respectable, and vouch for, show Hill to have been in service in the year 1780, & 1781, which in connection with the Record proof, cannot leave a doubt of a service of at least 4 or 5 years – It is inconceivable to suppose when we see that Richard Hill was in service in the Artillery (by the Record) from 13th of January 1777 to May 1779," and then by the parole proof in the same artillery service in 1780 & 1781; that he could have served less than 4 or 5 years and that it was a continuous service – Mrs. Mayo's affidavit does not add much to what is otherwise shown, except in this; that she says she "distinctly recollects Hill in and about Petersburg during

the war but was generally away from that place until after the war, when he returned to his residence in Petersburg, and lived there till he died –" Now this is strongly confirmatory of Clarke's & Grammar's affidavits & I do think will be found conclusive of the Justice of this application. Mrs. Mayo is a lady of the highest character known to be about one of your Honorable body – I make this remark because I see there is nothing said on that subject by Justice who took her evidence.

May 1st 1839

With very great respect
s/ J. N. [illegible]

Report upon the claim of the Heirs of Richard Hill, Lieutenant of
the Continental line, for bounty land for his services

To the Governor

Sir,

The Journal of the Council of January 13, 1777 (or thereabout) shows that Richard Hill was 3rd Lieutenant in the regular service.

This officer settled his accounts with state auditors, for a service from January 13, 1777 to May 1779 (about 2 years & 4 months) and on that settlement received a certificate for the balance of his pay amounting to £209.12 – (See Books of Settlement of the accounts of Continental Officers by State Auditors &c).

The claimants have proved by the affidavits of John Grammar & William Clarke, that Richard Hill was in service in 1780 & 1781 – (See the affidavits of J. Grammar & William Clarke)

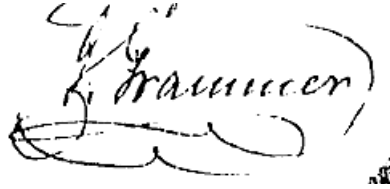
It does not appear that bounty land has ever been allowed for the services of Richard Hill Lieutenant &c.

Respectfully submitted
John H Smith Commissioner &c
July 22, 1834

I John Grammar of the town of Petersburg being called up to say what knowledge I had of Richard Hill deceased formerly of this place – do hereby State and certify That I resided in this town during the whole of the Revolutionary War & ever since – that I was well acquainted with Richard Hill, raised in this town, Brother to William & Francis Hill, went to school with him previous to the War – and was well acquainted with him until the time of his death. I well remember that he was in the Army considered as an officer wore uniform as such and I think belonged to the Artillery – at what time he went into the Service or left it, or whether continued to the end of the War, I cannot now recollect. At the time the British Ships of War were lying at City Point, one of their expeditions up James River either when their Troops landed at Westover, marched to Richmond & pursued up to Charlottesville, Jefferson then Governor, or in the spring of the year 1781 when Generals Philips [William Phillips] & Arnold [Benedict Arnold] marched to Petersburg I well remember one evening after dark we were here alarmed by a heavy cannonade or reports of Kennon [sic, cannon] a small number of young men with myself amongst them, mounted our horses, equipped and pushed off down the direction the Kennon was heard, City Point, after proceeding some distance we met some Troops and were informed of the Cause of the firing. It was said that Richard Hill had got a Kennon on the Hill at City Point, commenced firing on the British Shipping, which had drawn a tremendous fire from them in return – upon receiving this information I little company returned home.

Given under my hand at Petersburg aforesaid the 7th July 1835

S/ J. Grammar

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Grammar", enclosed within a large, loopy flourish that extends to the left and right.

Being called on by the heirs of Richard Hill to state what I know about his services in the Revolutionary War; – do certify that I was well acquainted with the said Hill, he being a resident of the Town of Petersburg Virginia, where I frequently was during the war, having lived but a few miles at that time from the said Town: I recollect distinctly to have seen the said Hill dressed in uniform of blue & red, with a gold epaulet, several times, in and about Petersburg during the war; but was generally away from that place until after the war; when he returned to his residence in Petersburg and lived there till he died – I am satisfied in my own mind and to the best of my recollection that the said Hill was in the regular Service.

S/ Lucy F Mayo

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lucy F Mayo", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

[Attested in Richmond Virginia April 26, 1837.]

I certify that sometime I think in the spring of the year 1780 I was in the militia service & at a place in Prince George [County] called "the Oaks" where we had encamped for the night, we were alarmed & paraded from information that the Enemy were coming up from Hoods, where some British troops were lying, we remained on parade perhaps 2 or 3 hours, during that time a Gentleman by the name of Richard Hill, harangued the troops to animate them & inspire them with courage, I do not recollect ever to have seen him before though I knew him ever afterwards. We had some pieces of Cannon with us but do not know whether Mr. Hill was attached to that department or not, I think however that he was an officer in some command with us. Given under my hand this 7th day of July 1835

S/ Wm Clarke

To his Excellency the Governor & to the Honorable the Privy Council of the Commonwealth of Virginia

Your Memorialist Patrick H Hill, Harriett Hill Bassett M. Calvert & Frances W. his wife who before her intermarriage was Frances W Hill all of the County of Elizabeth City and Meter Cary & Arrianna his wife who before her intermarriage was Arrianna Hill of the County of Henrico beg leave respectfully to represent to your Honorable body, that Richard Hill formerly of the town of Petersburg & State of Virginia enlisted as a Lieutenant of artillery in the service of Virginia early in the War of the Revolution and as they have been informed continued in active service in the state troops on the Continental establishment till the end of the War but they cannot say in what Company or Regiment he served when or where he entered the service, how long he continued in the same exactly or when & where his service ended. They flatter themselves however that from the accompanying Affidavits of William Clarke and John Grammar to highly respectable witnesses marked A and B the fact of his having been in active service as an officer

of artillery up to the spring of 1781 must be considered to be as well-established as the service of an officer of inferior grade can be at this distant period of time for the public archives & the history of the War corroborate & [indecipherable word or words] the testimony of their aged witnesses – Mr. Smith's Report (No. 2) of the officers of the Virginia & Continental & state lines & Navy whose names appear on the Army Register that have not received Land for Revolutionary services, shows that Richard Hill was in service from the 13th January 1777 till May 1779 and that he settled his accounts up to that time & history shows us that Virginia was invaded by General Arnold about the last of 1780 who ascended James River & landed at Westover the 4th of January 1781 the time alluded to no doubt by Mr. Clarke in his Affidavit and the enemies ships were at City Point early in 1781 the time alluded to by John Grammar and the conclusion is irresistible that as officer [several indecipherable words] the affiants prove Richard Hill to have been [one or more indecipherable words] left his post at such a Crisis but that in all probability he continued in service to the end of the War or to the siege of York in the following October & never quitted his post during the invasion of Arnold, Phillips and Cornwallis all in the same year – After the termination of the War Richard Hill settled in Petersburg & died intestate in 1798 survived by his brother's William Hill & Frances Hill his only heirs & distributees. That said William Hill died intestate in 1799 survived by your Memorialist Patrick H Hill, Harriett Hill, Francis W Calvert & Arrianna Cary his only heirs & distributees. And the said Frances Hill died in 1820 after having first made his last will and testament in writing without children but intestate as to any military Land bounty to which said Richard Hill was entitled at the time of his death until the same is disbursed of to his residuary legatees who are your memorialist the children of said William Hill and a copy of which will is hereto annexed & is marked C. Under the foregoing circumstances your memorialist are advised that said Richard Hill at the time of his death was entitled to military land bounty for his services as a Lieutenant of artillery in the State Troops of Virginia on the Continental establishment in the War of the Revolution from the 13th day of January 1777 till the siege of York or certainly till the spring of 1781 by the evidence of the witnesses a period of 4 years & 3 months & if your Honorable body is satisfied that Richard Hill continued in service during the whole time of the invasion of the state as aforesaid a period of 4 years & 9 months & to which your memorialist are now entitled as the heirs & distributees of said Richard Hill deceased. They therefore respectfully prayed that your Honorable body will allow to them so much land as by the laws of Virginia they are entitled to receive under the foregoing circumstances and as in honor bound they will ever pray &c.

S/ Miles Cary for himself and as agent for
Patrick H. Hill
Bassett M. Calvert
Harriett Hill

[Note: pp 16-19: copy of the will of Francis Hill of Greenville County Virginia late an attorney at law all but now a Baptist Minister in which he names his wife Sally to receive a life estate and certain other property; his nephews and nieces, children of his brother William Hill; he a emancipated some of his slaves (namely Jacop, Dread and wife, Amy and her son James) effective upon his death with the balance of his slaves being emancipated upon the death of his wife, Sally.]