

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Petition of Joseph Pill VAS1898

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Transcribed by Will Graves

4/22/15

[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' 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 [Digital Library of Virginia](#)] Nansemond County Legislative Petitions

To this Honourable the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of delegates, the Petition of Joseph Pill Humbly Sheweth that your Petitioner entered as surgeon on board of the *Norfolk Revenge* Galley sometime in the year 1777 then under the command of Capt. John Calvert¹ that he continued on Board as Surgeon under the said Calvert & Capt. Wright Wiscott [Wright

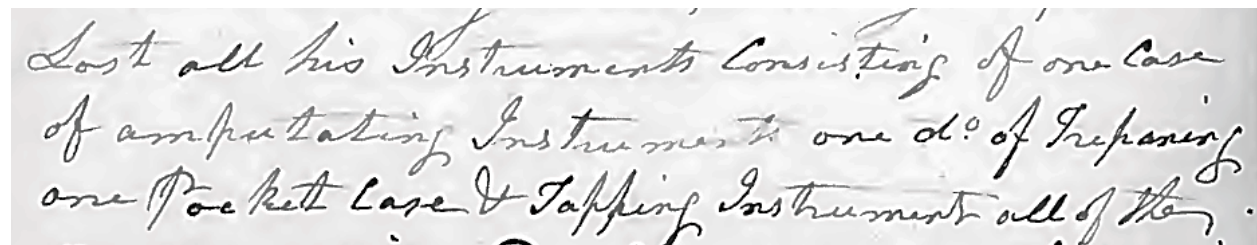
¹ CALVERT, JOHN: VA: Captain, Virginia Navy : John Calvert was a resident of Norfolk, Virginia. [Stewart, 160] On 8 February 1776 he was appointed to superintend the construction of a galley for the James River by the Virginia Committee of Safety. [Cross, 21] He was commissioned as a Captain in the Virginia Navy and assigned to the Virginia Navy Galley *Norfolk Revenge* in June 1776 [8 June 1776?]. On 13 July 1776 he was ordered down the James River to attack and harass the enemy. [NOAR, 48] Calvert was to proceed "down the James River & into the Bay as far as . . . safe and necessary for the purpose of annoying or distressing the Enemy . . . taking care at the same time to afford all the Protection in your Vessels to such of the Inhabitants on the Shores as may be exposed to the attacks of the Enemy." She sailed on 13 July 1776. [Cross, 21-22] On 20 August 1776 one John H. Norton was paid £19.11.06 for whiskey furnished to the *Norfolk Revenge*. [NOAR, 48] By the late summer of 1776 the *Norfolk Revenge* was cruising in the Bay, with orders to Calvert to use his "power & Abilities in Captivating and annoying and distressing such of the Enemy's ships" as he encountered. [Stewart, 16-17] On 6 August 1776 the Virginia Navy Galley *Manley* (Captain Edward Travis), Virginia Navy Brig *Liberty* (Captain Thomas Lilly), and Virginia Navy Schooner *Revenge* (Deane) were ordered to join the Virginia Navy Brig *Raleigh* (Captain Cocke) and Calvert of the *Norfolk Revenge* in Hampton Roads to act in conjunction with them against the enemies of America, "or separately as you think best." [Stewart, 44] In September 1776 there was a change of command. Calvert was transferred to the Virginia Navy Sloop *Defiance*. [Stewart, 160] On 11 September 1776 he was ordered to transport troops to New York. [NOAR, 48] This new command was short, for Calvert was soon back in the *Norfolk Revenge*, giving up the *Defiance* to Captain GREEN. [Stewart, 17] He resigned his commission on 8 September 1777, although later (September 1778) he was said to be in the galley *Revenge*. [Stewart, 160] <http://www.awiatsea.com/Officers/Officers%20C.html>

Westcott]² until she was overset in March 1778 in Nansemond River & Lost by which means your Petitioner lost all his Instruments consisting of one case of amputating Instruments one do Trepaning [?] one Pocket Case & Tapping Instrument³ all of the Best quality and did actually cost Thirty Guineas your Petitioner therefore Prays that your Honourable Body will take his matter under consideration and grant him such relief as you may think Just and your Petitioner as in duty Bound will Pray

[Reverse]

Pill's Petition
Referred to Claims
19th of October 1791
Mr. K. Godwin
Rejected
Reported 23rd of October 1791

² WESTCOTT [WESCOTT], WRIGHT:VA: Wright Westcott [Stewart, 265] (Wescott) [NOAR, 332] was commissioned on 18 June 1776 to command the Virginia Navy Sloop *Scorpion*, on the Potomac River. On 7 September 1776 he was ordered to Portsmouth, and then to join Commodore BOUCHER in Chesapeake Bay. On 11 September he was ordered to transport troops to New York. [NOAR, 332] He was aboard the *Scorpion* in December 1776. [Stewart, 265] Westcott later commanded the Virginia Navy Galley *Norfolk Revenge*. On 28 May 1778 the *Norfolk Revenge* was sunk in Nansemond River with a loss of prisoners, including Lieutenant EDWARD MORTON. [Stewart, 53] Westcott and the members of the crew who escaped were ordered by the Virginia Navy Board to proceed to Jamestown for reassignment. [Stewart, 53] After the *Norfolk Revenge* was sunk Westcott transferred to the Virginia Navy Galley *Henry*. He was one of the retained officers of the Navy. He was the guardian and near relative of Stephen Wright, who started with him to Martinique. They were captured by HMS *Cerberus* and put in prison [Stewart, 265] Westcott died 1 February 1784. [Stewart, 266]
<http://www.awiatsea.com/Officers/Officers%20W.html>



Lost all his Instruments consisting of one Case of amputating Instruments one d. of Trepaning one Pocket Case & Tapping Instruments all of the