

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Robert Hall R40

VA Sea Service

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 15 April 2020.

State of Virginia, Richmond County

This third day of January A.D. 1842.

It appears to the satisfaction of the court of the County aforesaid now in session, in the evidence on oath, of Thomas Yeatman aged 71 years and Nancy Yeatman aged 78 years, and Ransdell Pierce aged 76 years, that the said Thomas Yeatman, Nancy Yeatman, and Ransdell Peirce knew Robert Hall, who served as a Lieutenant in the Virginia, State Navy, in the war of the Revolution; that the said Robert Hall died on or about the month of April or May in the year 1802, leaving three children, and that Robert H. Montgomery, Frances L. Montgomery, Robert H. Sedwick, John H. Gibbs, Adoniram J Sedwick and Frances V. Sedwick are the only heirs of the said Robert Hall now living which is ordered to be certified by the clerk of this Court.

[The following two statements appear to be in response to claims made in behalf of other alleged heirs of a Robert Hall who served in the state navy.]

The affidavit of Jno Neal of lawful age taken subscribed & sworn to this 7th day of April in the year of 1846 before William G. Walker a Justice of the peace for the county of Westmoreland in the State of Virginia.

The said affiant being first, duly sworn, deposeth & saith, as follows to wit: That he was well acquainted with a certain Robert Hall, who was an officer in the Navy of Virginia, in the Revolutionary War. This affiant is not able to say that the said Hall went into service at the commencement of the war, but this he does know that every man, who was able to bear arms & perform military duty, in his neighbourhood, and as far as his knowledge of the country extended, did go into the service. He first served as Lieutenant, And afterwards as Master or Commandant until the close of the war. the affiant says he was acquainted in the Northern Neck of Virginia, (The upper part of it) during the Revolutionary war; that he was at the time about twelve or thirteen years of age, and knew of no other man by the name of Robert Hall who served in the Navy dureing the war from the Northern Neck, nor any man, by that name, living at that time. The said Robert Hall lived not more than a mile & a half from this affiant. He the said Hall, had three daughters that survived him, who were his only heirs at law, And who intermarried with the following persons to wit, The eldest Ann, who was intermarried with Andrew Montgomery, Elizabeth who intermarried with Jas. Montgomery, And Sarah who intermarried with Geo C. Sedwick, with all of whom the Affiant was intimately acquainted for a number of years until the death of the two former, the said Montgomerys, & with Geo C. Sedwick, until his removal from the country having been Associated with him in the Gospel Ministry. Ann died, leaving Robert L. Montgomery Eliza Ann, who intermarried with Jno Powers, and Sarah who intermarried with Jno. F. Morriss. The latter two, are still living with their husbands, the said Powers, & Morriss. Robert L. Montgomery has died leaving several children, One of whom has died intestate, & without issue, & the other Robt. H. Montgomery, who is still living Sarah died leaving four children, towit Robt. H. Sedwick, Elizabeth Ann, intermarried with Jno H. Gibbs. A. J. Sedwick, & Frances V. who intermarried with Thos S. Wilson. The affiant further states that he, with a servant carried clothes & provision to, his father at Leed's Town, when the troops were at that place, His father being then in the country's service. He also recollects the names of Major Mazzard, and Col Hungerford [possibly John P. Hungerford], & officers by the names of Hodge & Jett, who were at Leeds Town about that time. He also well recollects the fact of his father making cartouch boxes for the men, & his mother melting up pewter basins into musket balls.

This affiant further saith that he is a Minister of the Baptist Church in full fellowship in that Denomination of christians, and further this affiant, saith not. [signed] John Neale

[Punctuation partly corrected.]

The Affidavit of James Scales, of lawful age taken, subscribed and sworn to this 13th day of May in the year of our Lord 1846 before William G. Walker a Justice of the peace of the county of Westmoreland and State of Virginia.

The said affiant being first duly sworn deposeth and saith, as follows, to wit: That he was personally acquainted with a certain Robert Hall of the Northern Neck of Virginia, and according to the best of his knowledge he was a commanding officer in the Virginia State Navy, during the Revolutionary war, and he believes firmly that he was the identical Robert Hall, who was Master Commandant in the Navy. He the (said affiant) is of the opinion that he was on board the ship Dragon or Jefferson.

This affiant cannot say, that the said Robert Hall, went into service at the commencement of the war

He further says he knew of no other man, by the name of Robert Hall in the Navy, nor any other man by that name who served in the war from the N. Neck or by that name, at that time whatever.

This affiant was at that time of about sixteen years of age, He, the said affiant, lived betwixt two and three miles, from the said Robert Hall, the affiant further states that the said Robert Hall, had but three children that survived him, Namely, Anne, Elizabeth, & Sarah, Anne intermarried with Andrew Montgomery, Elizabeth intermarried with Jas. Montgomery, & Sarah who intermarried with Geo. C. Sedwick – with all of whom the affiant was intimately & personally acquainted. Anne died leaving R. L. Montgomery, Eliza Anne, who intermarried with Jno. Powers, & Sarah who intermarried with Jno. F. Morriss. Robt. L. Montgomery has since died, leaving several children. Elizabeth died leaving two children only, Frances V. Montgomery and Robert H. Montgomery. Frances V. Montgomery has since died intestate and without issue. Sarah died, leaving four children, the eldest of whom only, Robert H. Sedwick, the affiant is personally acquainted with.

This affiant says that he is a member of the Baptist church in full fellowship in that denomination of Christians. And further this affiant saith not. [signed] James Scales

[On 12 May 1846 William Omohundro made a statement similar to the above two.]

[A court document made in Mathews County VA on 10 May 1847 summarizes the claim made in behalf of other alleged heirs of Robert Hall. It states that he was a Master in the Navy in the revolutionary war, died intestate in the latter part of 1786 or in the early part of the year 1787 leaving the following heirs: Thomas Hall; Betsy Hall, who married Francis Brown; Nancy Hall, who married Peter Foster; Joicey Hall, who married Matthias Gayle; and the children of Spencer Hall. It further stated that “Thomas Hall died intestate in 1840, leaving Sarah Hurst the wife of William Hurst, Mary Gayle the wife of Joseph R. Gayle, Thomas Hall, Sarah Hall who married John Saunders and Thomas Hall the children of Robert Hall and John Hall a minor who was a son of John Hall – his sole heirs at Law – Nancy Foster who died leaving Richard Foster, Peter Foster Jr, William Foster, Susan R Foster who married William Foster who is since dead leaving two children Harriett & William Foster – Ann Foster who married Robert Dibnam Elizabeth Foster who married Joshua G. Brown who is since dead leaving five children, viz: Peyton J. Ann who married Beverly Waddle, Caroline who married Henry Baker, Selina F. who married Nathan Walker & Wilson R Brown and Polly Foster who married James Brownly her sole heirs at Law: Joicey Gale who was Joicey Hall died leaving Bartlett Gayle, Joshua Gayle, Nancy Gayle and Betsy Gayle his sole heirs at Law. Betsy Brown who was Betsy Hall died leaving six children, Viz: Robert Brown, Spencer H. Brown, Susan who married [blank] Oliver, Ann who married Joshua Gayle, Elizabeth Brown and Frances Brown who married [blank] Walden her sole heirs at Law.

[The following set of documents were copies certified in the Executive Department at Richmond on 26 March 1850. The originals are probably among bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia, but they are not posted online with other [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

I do certify that Robert Hall engaged on board of the Henry Gally on Jan'y 1777 and served as Masters Mate on board till Jan'y 1779. Jos. Singleton Lt. [Joshua Singleton S7510]]

I do certify that Robt. hall commanded the boat Liberty in sivity nine & from hir was on board the Brig Jefferson, where he cont'd. till Feb'y 1780, how much longer I am not certain. Given under my hand this 12 Sep'r. 1787. Joseph Sanders Lt. N.

Entitled to depreciation as Masters Mate from Jany 77 to Jan'y 79 & from thence as Master to Jan'y 80. Meriwether

I do assign to Wm Reynolds a good right to Robert Halls claim of depreciation and the land allowed hin for his services in the navy of this state. June 27 1787.

Test Jno. Brownley

Thomas Hall

note} Copy J Pendleton

The information desired, was the authority on which Thomas Hall assigned the claims of Robert Hall, to Wm Reynolds.

[On 24 March 1851 William B. Hall of Westmoreland County made oath that he was well acquainted with the family of Robert Hall, Sailing Master of the Virginia State Navy, and that he knew Master Robert Hall had no brother named Thomas Hall. On 29 March 1851 Robert Hall of Richmond County made a similar statement.]

Washington 26 May 1851.

Mr. Jas. E. Heath/ Comm. of Pensions

Sir. You informed me today, that another set of heirs have presented a claim for Half-pay, as the true Representatives of the "veritable" Robert Hall, who was a Master in the Va. Navy of the Revolution.

As the ancestor of the new claimants, is shown to have lived, to about the year 1822, I believe, and as the Records in Richmond, show the "veritable" Officer died before June 1787, it would seem very clear, the new claim is founded in mistake.

On the 27th June 1787, Thomas Hall, as Rep of Robt Hall, sold to William Reynolds, the Depreciation and Land Bounty due for Robert Halls services as a Master in the Navy. On 28 Sept. 1787 the claim of Wm. Reynolds as assignee aforesaid to the land bounty was allowed, and he drew the warrant No. 4311 for 2666a acres of land.

The vouchers, on which the claim was allowed in 1787 & the land warrant drawn are on file in the Executive department at Rich'd.

It would seem, almost impossible that the man, who died 30 years after 1787 could have been the veritable officer – unless there were two Robert Halls in the Navy – & both Masters, which is rather improbable.

In the case, in which I rec'd. the Half-pay, for the veritable officer you will find proof, that Thomas Hall was the elder brother & heir of Robert Hall, who died in the latter part of the year 1786 or early in 1787.

The claim, by way of very abundant caution, was paid only to the 1 day of January 1786. Nearly one years half-pay being left unpaid – I have been often requested, to apply for this small balance, on behalf of the true heirs, and as I am now admonished by the proper representative of the U.S. that there may have been a mistake in the former settlement, I have the honor to request, that all mistake's may be corrected, and that you will now pay the balance of Half pay still due.

I am yrs. very respectfully/ Thomas Green

[The following are from [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

In Culpeper County Court November the 20th 1839

On the motion of Thomas Hall to qualify as administrator of Robert Hall dec'd who was a manster commandant and midshipman in the state navy of virginia, it was shown by proof to the satisfaction of the court that the said Robert Hall died or was killed many years ago in a military expedition of the United States or the commonwealth of virginia against the western indians: that he had pay and half pay due him for his naval services in the war of the revolution in his capacity aforesaid, and lands also according to the several acts of Assembly and Congress for such cases made and provided; that Thomas Hall Jeremiah Hall and Ann Robertson their sister who was Ann Hall and heirs at law and distributees of the said Robert Hall dec'd former master and midshipman in the state navy of virginia as aforesaid: that the warrant for said lands has never been issued or located at the time of his death nor up to this time; that the said warrant being real estate by the Act of Assembly of virginia the inheritance thereof was cast at his death in his heirs at law the parties aforesaid, then and now residing in the county of Culpeper (except Mrs Ann Robertson); that the said Robert Hall had no known place of residence at his death in the state of virginia; and whatever of locations at that time his title to real estate had under the laws of virginia, his title to the land warrant, so far as this court can learn was at and after his death vested in his heirs living in Culpeper, and to that extent located here according to the acts of assembly passed in May 1779 [one or more lines missing at bottom of page] and midshipman in the state navy of the commonwealth he the said Thomas Hall having entered into bond and security &c &c.

A copy teste/ F. Mauzy. c.c.

To his Excellency the Governor of Virginia

Your Petitioners, Thomas Hall and Jeremiah Hall, two of the Heirs at Law of Robert Hall dec'd represent: that the said Robert Hall was a master Commandant and Midshipman in the State Navy of Virginia during the War of the Revolution and for his services in that capacity became entitled to land bounty agreeably to the several Acts of assembly for such cases made and provided. Which land bounty, (as they are advised and believe) amounts to Four thousand acres of land. That the said Robert Hall departed this life many years since, without marriage, without child or children, and without drawing his land bounty aforesaid. Your petitioners are also informed that one Thomas Hall and — Reynolds, the first claiming to be Heir at Law, and the second, his assignee, purposely procured from the Land Office, a warrant in compensation of the said Robert Hall's services, for 2666 $\frac{2}{3}$ acres of land. And your petitioners further represent that the said land warrant has never been located, and is now lost to its rightful proprietors; so that the Heirs at Law of the said Robert Hall; Master Commandant, in the State Navy as aforesaid, are now entitled to demand and have a land warrant for the service of their ancestor, the aforesaid Robert Hall dec'd. Your petitioners shew that they [one or more lines missing from bottom of page] of the said Court which accompanies this petition, and which exhibit the judgment of that Court upon the fact of heirship. Your petitioners, therefore, ask of Your Excellency that an order issue to the Register of the Land Office, requiring payment to them of the said land bounty, due them for the Revolutionary services of the said Robert Hall, in the State Navy of Virginia; and your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray

[signed] Thomas Hall Jeremiah Hall

NOTE: E. M. Sanchez-Saavedra's *Guide to Virginia Military Organizations in the American Revolution* does not list Robert Hall as an officer in the state navy. Among pension and bounty-land applications the only mention of an officer in the Virginia State Navy named Robert Hall is by Mathias Gayle (S16818) in a rejected claim by Francis Brown (VAS2691).