

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Hill R5016

f47NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 2]

State of North Carolina, County of Surry

On this 5 day of November 1856 Personally appeared before me Joel Denny one of the acting J. P. of the County and State aforesaid Richard Hill Claimant of a pension due to him for his Father's services William Hill in the revolution whose age was a hundred years when he died in 1840 who being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath, make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. That I heard my Father say that he enlisted in the Army of the United States in the year 1780 in February I do not recollect as I heard him say what day of the month, for five years or during the war, under Salathiel Martin who was [a] recruiting officer he said he was not organized into a Regiment for some considerable time but was kept in readiness to march when called for, he said they had many encounters with the Tories at length the Tories became so formidable that the Governor ordered out a Whig Regiment to suppress the Tories which Regiment he my Father said was commanded by a Colonel by the name of Cleveland [Benjamin Cleveland] it was nominated the Whig Regiment it was still not organized into a Brigade or Division – some [time?] not very long Before they marched for Guilford my Father said the Tories collected together about 900 strong and gave Cleveland's Regiment of Whigs Battle. The Battle was fought in Surry County State of North Carolina near the Shallow Ford [October 14, 1780]<sup>1</sup> of the Yadkin River – in sight of a little village called Hunter [?] the Branch they fought on is called Battle Branch to this Day But thanks to the God of war the Whigs proved Victorious and the Tories in turn had to scout. My Father said his Captain in this Battle was by the name of John Horne a very valiant officer. It was not very long from that time in the year 1781 that General Greene [Nathanael Greene] marched through North Carolina not very far from where we were stationed it was some time in the latter part of the year 1781 I do not recollect the month or day my Father said he marched to join General Greene's Army & was under Salathiel Martin who was my Captain and William Dix my Colonel, My Father said it was not long Before Greene's Army and the British under Cornwallis met at Guilford Courthouse [Battle of Guilford Court House, March 15, 1781].<sup>2</sup> There ensued the hard Battle known by the name of the Guilford Battle I never heard my Father say what was the number of the Regiment, Brigade or Division but he was certainly in some number I have heard my Father talk of numbers of officers he knew while he was in the service of his Country I have heard him speak of General Greene of William

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_shallow\\_ford.html](http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_shallow_ford.html) Benjamin Cleveland, however, is not known to have been at the Battle of Shallow Ford. The Whig forces engaged in that battle were commanded by Major Joseph Cloyd of Virginia.

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_guilford\\_courthouse.html](http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_guilford_courthouse.html)

Washington Colonel of a Regiment of Cavalry he said (he) Washington was a thunderbolt of war he acted a conspicuous part in the Battle of Guilford My Father said he knew Henry Lee Colonel of a Regiment of Cavalry Major Henry Warden a very Valiant young man and many others he named his said that many of the North Carolina and Virginia militia fled in the commencement of the engagement which made it harder on the poor Regulars From Guilford Courthouse we was ordered to march for little York and was there at the Surrender of Cornwallis [Yorktown, October 19, 1781] he said he saw the British troops march out to lay down their arms through an avenue made by a line of the American troops on one side and the French troops on the other side he said he saw General Oharry [sic, O'Hara] offer General Washington Cornwallis' sword but Washington refused to take it because O'Hara was not the Commander in chief Washington directed him to one of his Brigadier Generals to Direct O'Hara what to do my Father said after the surrender of Cornwallis we were detained in service until peace was concluded between the United States and Britain I do not recollect that I ever heard him say who was the Company or field officers he served under nor the Brigade, Division or Regiment their numbers &c I Recollect of some officers and soldiers coming to see him and talked with him about their trials and suffering while in service viz. Captain Edward Lovell Ellihu Ayres<sup>3</sup> and others not mentioned.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

Witness: S/ Joel Denny, JP

S/ Richard Hill, X his mark

1<sup>st</sup> question by the Court where was your father born and in what year.

Answer – By the Claimant in Southampton in Virginia on the Maherin River [sic, Meherrin River]

2<sup>nd</sup> Have you any Record of his age. Answer no none.

3<sup>rd</sup> Where were he living when Cald into Service. Answer: Surry County North Carolina – where they as he lived since the revolutionary war – Answer: in Surry County North Carolina – until he died in 1849.

4<sup>th</sup> how were he cald into service.

Answer: he Inlisted for five years or during the war.

5<sup>th</sup> State some of the names of the Regular officers who were with the troops where he served – as you can recollect. Answer: Col. William Dix, Benjamin Herndon – Major

6<sup>th</sup> Did he ever receive a discharge from the service and if so by whom was it signed and what has become of it

Answer, it is lost or worn out or mislaid – and I have [no] recollection of hearing father say by whom it was given

[Erasmus Canter a clergyman and L. A. Key gave a supporting affidavit.]

[p 9: On September 14, 1857 in Surry County North Carolina, Joel Denny gave testimony that Mrs. Hill, widow of William Hill, died to the best of affiant's recollection during the winter of 1846; that Richard Hill is the son of William Hill.]

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May 8<sup>th</sup> 1856 Thomas Ayers Declaration

This my Declaration relative to William Hill's services in the revolutionary war. Viz. – I was acquainted with William Hill ever since the year 1780 he came in Surry County North Carolina in the above date with a wife & 2 Children he was Married in the time of the war he enlisted in the service of the United States shortly after he came here for the term of 5 years or in

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3 Sic, [Elihu Ayers \(Ayers\) R335](#)

during the war But the Tories in this Country being Formidable he was obliged to take a brush with them before he was attached to the regular Army. I was too young to be put on a list of soldiers But I performed a Voluntary servitude as hard as any soldier that is against the Tories I had to run many a time when overpowered by them to save myself I know that William Hill was in the Battle at the Shallow Ford on the Yadkin River under John Horne as Captain in that Battle. His Colonel's name was Cleveland I fought with Hill in said Battle in my father's place he being old and [I] young had to fight it was a time of trouble in this country as I before stated the Tories was so bad that the Governor of the State ordered 900 men to protect the settlement there was about the same number of Tories – my Father & 2 Brothers Nathaniel [Nathaniel Ayers]<sup>4</sup> & Elihu [Elihu Ayers] my Father's name was Thomas Ayers were all in the Revolutionary service and they all say that the above named William Hill was in the service with them & I know to my certain knowledge that I see [saw] the said William Hill march off with them to join General Greene. The Colonel they served under was William Dix when in the Battle of Guilford Courthouse my brother said that said Hill went with them to Little York and was at the surrender of Lord Cornwallis, thus continued until Discharged from the service of the United States as for the Captain he served under in the Battle of Guilford, it has been so long since the Battle was fought that I cannot tell the name of the Captain he served under in the Guilford Battle but I think it was either John Horne, Salathiel Martin or David Umphris [David Humphreys]

S/ Thomas Ayers, X his mark

[p 24]

State of North Carolina County of Surrey: SS

On this this 7<sup>th</sup> day of November personally appeared before me R. E. Reves one of the acting Justices of the peace of the County of Surrey and State of North Carolina Thomas Ayres [sic] and made oath in Due form of law that the following Declaration contains a true Statement of his knowledge of old William Hill's services as a regular soldier in the Revolutionary war, Sworn & assigned and Subscribed to below.

I stated in my other Declaration that I was in the engagement at the shallow ford with William Hill against the Tories in Surry County North Carolina commanded by Colonel Cleveland & Captain John Horne &c this battle was fought February 19<sup>th</sup> 1781. In addition to a former Declaration that I have given I was well acquainted with old William Hill since the year 1780 as I have stated Came into this Country with a wife and two Children he enlisted in the service of the United States shortly after he came here in the fore part of the above date near the shallow ford on the Yadkin River not far from a little village called Huntsville in Surry County North Carolina for five years or During the war Salathiel Martin was the recruiting Officer he enlisted under he served some 13 months under Captains Martin, John Horne fighting the Tories frequently, until he marched away from this Country to join General Greene's Army but a little while before the Battle with Greene and Cornwallis at Guilford Courthouse When he marched away from Surrey North Carolina it was the last of my personal knowledge of Hill's services But I had two Brothers in the service of their Country Ellihu & Nathaniel who was with said Hill in the Guilford Battle under Colonel William Dix I cannot recollect who they said was there Captain but it was either Salathiel Martin, Umphries or Poindexter from the Battle of Guilford they said they marched for little York under Greene to join Washington and was at the Surrender of Lord Cornwallis they said they remained in service rather the service of the United States until peace was finally concluded between the United States of America and Great Britain I was not in the service with them but I as much Believe that what they said was true as if I had been there, for said Hill and one of my Brothers came home together and I have listened to them many hours

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<sup>4</sup> probably the same man as [Nathaniel Ayers R336](#)

telling over their trials and sufferings in the service of their Country I cannot tell whether I ever heard them say whether Colonel Dix remained there Colonel after they left Guilford or whether they were transferred to another Colonel I never heard them say what was the number of the Regiments they served in the [indecipherable word] of their conversation was on the sufferings they underwent William Hill was said to be a hundred years old when he died &c – he died in 1840 in Surry County North Carolina at the same place where he had lived for 60 years.

Sworn to and subscribed before me the 7<sup>th</sup> of November A.D. 1856

S/ Thomas Ayres, X his mark

S/ R. E. Reves