

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Lewis Hinton S10831 VA Sea Service
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 16 Nov 2013.

State of Virginia } SS On this 15th day of May 1834, personally appeared before the subscriber
County of Lancaster }

a Justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid Lewis Hinton a resident of the United States in the county of Lancaster in the state of Virginia aged 76 on the 20th of August next; who, being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed 7th June 1832 – that William Hinton [VAS1043; see endnote], who was at that time the master of the said Lewis, enlisted in or about the year 1777, for the term of five years to serve in the navy of Virginia, and entered service on board the ship Dragon – and after serving near one year, his health became so bad, that he was permitted to leave the service, provided he would furnish a substitute. That he the said Lewis Hinton took the place of the said William Hinton, and entered service on board the ship Dragon in the spring of 1778 as well as he recollects. The said ship was lying at that time at Frazier's Ferry on Mattapony river [sic: Frazers Ferry on Mattaponi River in King William County], and was commanded by Capt Callender. The other officers were, Lt. Hamilton, Lt. Chamberlayne, midshipmen Francis Webb, Allen Wilson, Saml Eskridge, Edwin Eskridge, Joshua McWilliams, gunner John Nuttal, Iveson Nuttall, boatswain Thos Allen, bows mates Alexander Hays, & John Battase, cook Jonathan Hall, capt's cook Isaac Fleetwood. [See endnote.] That some time, near two years as well as he can recollect, after he entered the service, Capt Callender left the command of the Dragon [15 Apr 1779] & she was then commanded by Lt Hamilton, & about that time Lt Joshua Singleton [pension application S7510] entered service on board sd ship. That whilst he was in service the Dragon cruised briefly at sea. that they had a fight with the British schooner Lord Howe, which schooner out sailed us & got away. That the said ship Dragon and several other vessels were besieged by the fleet of the enemy in James river, & they went up the chickahomony [sic: Chickahominy River], where after laying for some time, & finding no chance to escape, we left the said ship and we returned home. This was to the best of my recollection in the year 1781. The said Hinton states that he was in active service on board the said Dragon between three & four years. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity, except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state. He state that at at the time of his entering the service he resided at his present residence, in the lower end of Lancaster County Va, where the aforementioned Wm Hinton also resided. The said Lewis Hinton states that he was born in August 1758 in Lancaster County Virginia, and has resided therein all his life except when at sea. That he received no discharge when he left the service and has record of his age.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. Lewis hisXmark Hinton
And I James Harding a Justice of the peace in & for the county aforesaid do hereby declare my opinion that the above named applicant was a revolutionary soldier and served as he states, after having put the interrogatories prescribed by the war department. I further state, that the sd applicant has been for a long time personally known to me, that he has supported a good character and that he is generally reputed to have served in the navy in the revolution. Given under my hand this 17th day of May 1834. I also certify that the aforementioned applicant Lewis Hinton is unable from bodily infirmity to attend court.
[signed] Jas Harding JP

[The following are among the [bounty-warrant files in the Library of Virginia](#):]

To the Governor of Va
Lewis Hinton respectfully states that he enlisted in the State Navy to serve during the war of the Revolution and served the full term of his enlistment.

He asks the attention of your excellency to his declaration herewith filed to which he has made oath, & which contains a true and faithful account his services – also to the affidavit of Wm. M. James substantiating the statements in his declaration.

The books & papers of the Va. Navy will also bear him out in the statements therein contained. He would also refer to the reports of Mr J H Smith No. 33 p. 13. N 208 in which Mr. Smith reports him entitled to Land for three years service. which he prays may now be allowed him.

Thos. Green pr. Thos. Kenan/ Atts for Claimant.

I certify that I was well acquainted with Lewis Hinton a man of color of Lancaster County. He entered the service in the navy of Virginia early in the war and served on board the ship Dragon as long as the navy of Virginia was kept up, which was till near the close of the war. The said Lewis has lived all his life in my immediate neighborhood, and I have no hesitation in saying that he has supported a good character, and I would believe his statements as soon as any man's. His services in the neighborhood are now & have been a subject of general notoriety, and he is much respected by all persons who know him.
[21 July 1834] Wm M James

I Lewis Hinton a resident of Lancaster County in the state of Virginia, do hereby certify and declare, that I entered the service in the Va navy in the revolutionary war and served as follows viz – Not long after the war commenced, William Hinton at that time my master, enlisted in the service for three years, to serve in the navy of Virginia, and not long after his enlistment, the ship Dragon was fitted out at Freditsburg [Fredericksburg] on which the sd Wm Hinton entered the service. After my master had been in service about one year, his health became so bad, that he got released from his enlistment, by substituting me in his place, and I was taken as his substitute, provided, I would enlist for the war, which I did, my master consenting. It was to the best of my recollection in the spring of 1777 that I entered service on board the Dragon, then lying at the Brick house up York river [in New Kent County S of present West Point], commanded by captain Callender, Lt Jno Hamilton, Lt Fields [sic: Theophilus Field R60], midshipmen Frs Webb, Alvin Wilson, Joshua McWilliams, Sailing master Wooling Smith [Woolen Smith]. Gunner's mate Jno Nutall, Iveson Nutall gunner. Immediately after entering on board, we started on a cruize and were six weeks at sea, & returned to Hampton roads, then we took a cruize of eight weeks, & returned to Mobjack bay. On another cruize at sea, we had an engagement with the schooner Lord Howe, but she outsailed us & got away. After that we took two schooners loaded with flour near Cape Henry, which the enemy had taken from our people. Towards the close of the war the Dragon went up to the Navy Yard on Chickahominy river, where we left the ship. I remained some time at the navy yard, and was then discharged & returned home to Lancaster County, where I have lived to the present time. Whilst I was on board the Dragon there were several changes of officers. Capt Markham [James Markham R72] commanded the ship when I left her. Lt Singleton was also on board the Dragon & Lt Chamberlayne a part of the time I was in service. Lewis hisXmark Hinton

State of Virginia

Lancaster County To wit.

Lewis Hinton personally appeared before me a justice of the peace for the above named County and made oath that the above certificate contains the truth to the best of his knowledge and belief. I further certify that the said witness resides in my neighborhood, that I have known him personally for many years, and I have hesitation [sic] in giving[?] the fullest credit to his statements. The said Lewis is a colored man, but he is generally regarded as an orderly, truthful and respectable man, and his services in the revolutionary war have been a subject of general notoriety.

Given under my hand the 22nd day of July 1834 J Harding

The evidence is satisfactory, to prove a service of three years.

In addition to it, I will state the fact that Lewis Hinton was regularly enroll'd as a Seaman among the Crew of the Dragon, in the latter part of 1779: (see papers of the Dragon – Vol 1st Navy Papers.) and I

have reported him as one of those Seamen, who are entitled to land for a service of three years.

To Governor Tazewell} Respectfully submitted/ John H Smith Com[missione]r &c
August 8th 1834

NOTES:

The full names of the crew first mentioned by Hinton and the numbers of their pension applications (if any), are as follows: Capt Eleazer Callender, Lt. John Hamilton, Lt. Chamberlayne, midshipmen Francis Webb R105.5, Alvin Wilson VAS228, Samuel Eskridge, Edwin Eskridge, Joshua McWilliams R75, gunner John Nuttall VAS446, Iverson Nuttall (Nuttal) VAS445, boatswain Thomas Allen, boatswains mates Alexander Hays and John Battase, cook Jonathan Hall, capt's cook Isaac Fleetwood.

It is not clear from the above documents whether Lewis Hinton was the slave or the apprentice of William Hinton at the time of his enlistment. According to L. P. Jackson (J. Negro History 27: 247-287), he was a slave. Lewis Hinton was evidently a free person of color at the time he applied for a pension. By an act of the Virginia Legislature of October 1783 all slaves who had served on the American side during the Revolutionary War were supposed to have been emancipated (Hening's Statutes at Large 11, p 308. <http://vagenweb.org/hening/vol11-15.htm>).

Although William Hinton actually served only one year, he received a discharge for three years of service aboard the *Dragon*.