

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Hill S32836

f14Mass

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 5/12/10 & 1/1/16

[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.]

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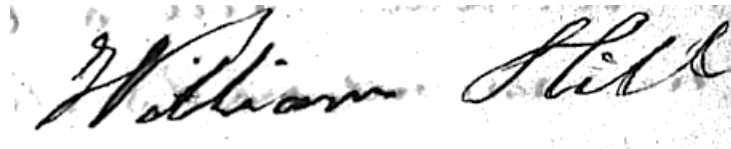
Boston April 11th 1818

I William Hill a Citizen of the United States now resident in Boston in the County of Suffolk and Commonwealth of Massachusetts do on oath testify and declare that in the War of the Revolution I served the United States in its naval establishment. That in the year 1779 I entered on board the *Providence*¹ Commodore Whipple² and in that ship had a cruise in the West Indies, made several captures and then rendezvoused with other Continental ship the *Boston* the *Queen of France* and the *Ranger* in the Port of Charleston South Carolina where our ship was dismantled the guns were distributed in the Ports, where I continued on duty until the place was surrendered [Charleston South Carolina was surrendered to the British on May 12, 1780] by General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] to the Enemies arms, where being made prisoner of War I was sent home in a Cartel to Providence Rhode Island.

That I again entered as a mariner on board the Ship *Dean* at Boston Samuel Nicholson³ Commander made a cruise in the said ship in company with the Ship *Trumbull* and continued in that Ship until her return to Port when I was discharged.

And that by reason of old age and other infirmities being now fifty-four years old, I am so reduced in my circumstances and in poverty that I stand in need of the assistance of my Country for support and that I have received any Pay or Pension from the United States.

S/ William Hill



Dr. Peter S. Medard [Peter Saint Medard], who was surgeon on board the *Dean* Frigate recollects that the applicant was on board.

Sworn before me

S/ Jno. Davis

D. J. M. D.

¹ The only description I've found so far is that the *Providence* was 32-gun frigate, See p. 45 of Carl P. Borick, A Gallant Defense: The Siege of Charleston, 1780 (Columbia, University of South Carolina Press, 2003).

² Abraham Whipple <http://www.whipple.org/abe/commodore.html> (viewed 5/11/10)

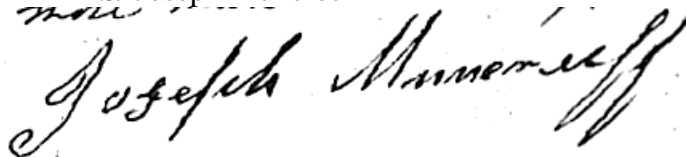
³ : "The son of Joseph and Hannah Scott Nicholson, he was born in [Chestertown, Maryland](#). Samuel Nicholson was a Lieutenant in [Bonhomme Richard](#) under [John Paul Jones](#); then, in command of [Deane](#), captured three [British sloops-of-war](#). Appointed Captain upon the reorganization of the Navy in 1794, he superintended the construction of [frigate Constitution](#) and commanded her during her first commission.." http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samuel_Nicholson (viewed 5/12/10)

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United States Massachusetts District:

I Joseph Muncreef⁴ of Boston in the County of Suffolk and District of Massachusetts, of lawful age, testify and save that I was a mariner on board the United States frigate *Providence* commanded by Captain Whipple, in the year 1780 -- or 1781 as nearly as I can recollect, and well know William Hill of said Boston to have served as a mariner on board said frigate, more than nine months at one time, and to have been a Seaman on board her at the time she was captured at the siege of South Carolina. I further testify, that I was afterwards a mariner on board the *Dean* frigate, commanded by Captain Nicholson, and well know that said Hill to have served more than nine months also on board the *Dean*.

S/ Joseph Muncreeff

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph Muncreeff". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

Suffolk, Boston, February 15th 1819

Personally appeared the above named Joseph Muncreef whom I certify to be in my opinion a credible witness and made oath that the statement by him above subscribed is true.
Before me

S/ Stephen Hooper, JP

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United States, Massachusetts District

I Elias Cotton⁵ of Boston in the County of Suffolk, and District of Massachusetts of lawful age testify and say, that I was a mariner on board the *Dean* frigate in the year 1780 or 1781 (as nearly as I can recollect) commanded by Captain Nicholson and well know William Hill to have been a mariner on board said frigate, and to have served on board her more than 9 months at one time, during the Revolutionary war.

S/ Elias Cotton

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elias Cotton". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

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District of Massachusetts, SS

On this fifteenth day of July 1820 personally appeared, in open Court, being a Court of record, viz. The District Court of the United States in the said District, William Hill 2nd aged 56 years, resident in Boston in the County of Suffolk, and said District, Wheelwright who, being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath declare, that he served in the Revolutionary War, as follows: viz. Enlisted in April 1779 on board of the United States frigate *Providence* commanded by Commodore Whipple, and served on board of said frigate until May 1780 when the *Providence* was captured at Charleston South Carolina. Immediately after his release from imprisonment he entered on board of the United States frigate *Dean* commanded by Captain Nicholson and served on board of her fourteen months when he was honorably discharged but not in writing. He made his home going application on the 11th day of April 1818, and a number of his Certificate is 1340.

⁴ [Joseph Muncreeff \(Muncriff\) W10540](#)

⁵ [Elias Cotton S34606](#)

And I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or in any manner whatever disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provision of an act of Congress entitled “an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war” passed on the 18th day of March 1818, and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property, or securities, contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed.

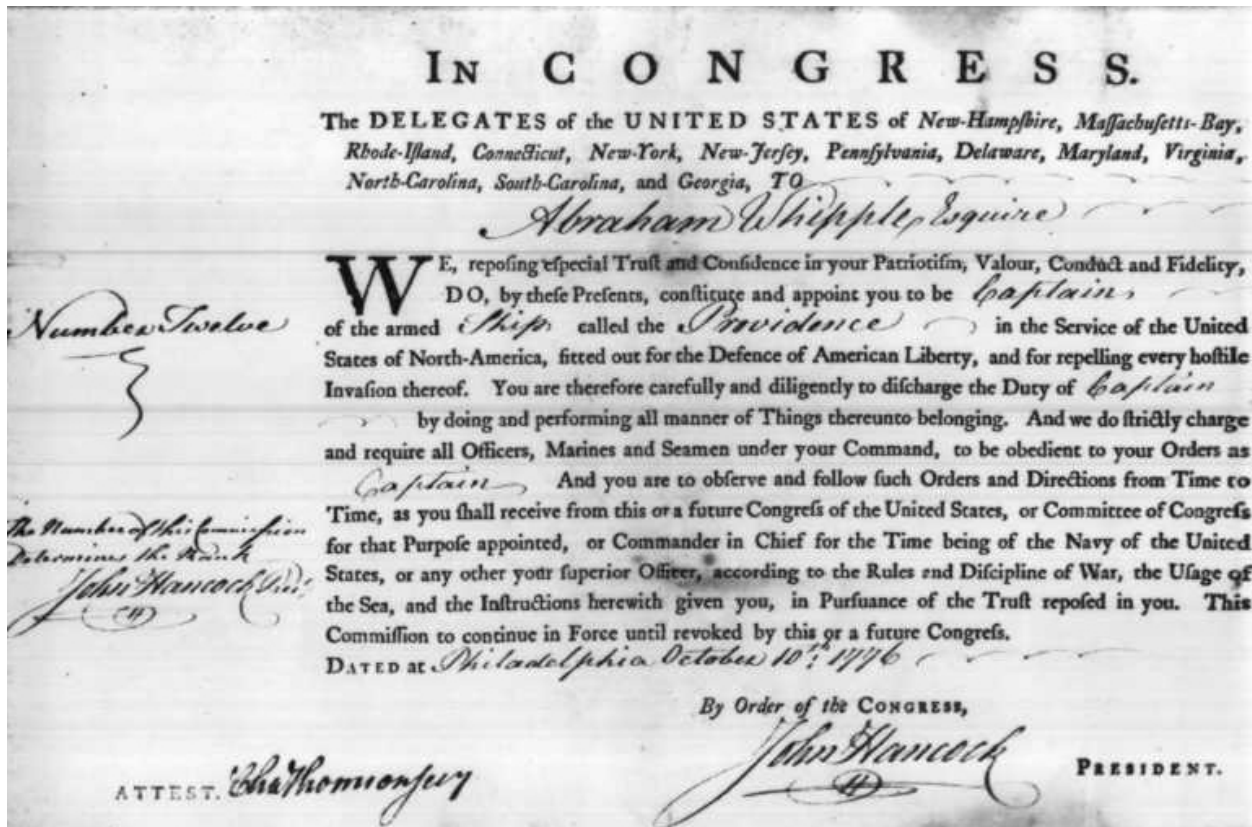
S/ William Hill

Sworn to and declared, on the 15th day of July A.D. 1820 before
S/ Jno. Davis, Judge of the Massachusetts District Court

Schedule		
5 Chairs \$2	2 Tables \$8	10
Desk \$10	Kitchen furniture \$3	13
Looking Glass		<u>3</u>
		26

The above is a true inventory of all my property. I am fifty-six years of age, a Wheelwright by trade but am unable to pursue it. There are three persons residing with me in my family this my wife whose name is Hannah aged sixty-three years but unable to earn her subsistence, my cousin Hannah Hill aged nineteen years able to earn her subsistence, my sister of Nancy Hill aged thirty-three years and able to earn her subsistence.

S/ William Hill



[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$8 per month commencing April 11, 1818, for service as a mariner for 9 months.]