

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Bounty Land Warrant information relating to Francis Hobday VAS1552

vsl 13

Transcribed by Will Graves

4/6/14

[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 [bounty land records in the Library of Virginia](#)]

This is to Certify, That it appears from a List in this Office of such Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia State Line, during the Revolutionary War, as settled their Accounts, and received Certificates for the balance of their Full Pay, according to an Act of Assembly, passed the November Session 1781, that a Certificate issued on the 27th day of July 1787, in the name of Francis Hobday, as a Seaman for £47.6.0, which Certificate appears to have been delivered to William Reynolds and was given for services prior to the 1st January 1782.

Given under my hand, at the Auditor's Office, Richmond, this
14th day of May 1834.

S/ Jas E. Heath, AUDITOR

The Heirs of Francis Hobday respectfully ask of the Executive the Allowance of Military Bounty Land for the services of their ancestor as a Pilot in the state Navy in the revolutionary war. For the evidence of sustaining the case they beg leave to refer to the Depreciation pay list and the Papers filed in the case the object of this petition is too big his Excellency the Governor to have the case place before the agent on Revolutionary Claims & to allow a Pilot what has been heretofore allowed.

May 6, 1834

Alexander Cunningham
one of the Heirs

Petition for Bounty Land

Francis Hobday – Pilot – S. N.

Six witnesses testified in favor of this claim – to wit – Lieutenant Joshua Singleton – Lewis Stokes – Benjamin Warnax – Henry Buchanan – William Figg & William Hogg – most of them say – Hobday was in service until the end of the War; and some of them say he was in service from early in 1776 – or "very early after the commencement of hostilities," (see affidavits)

I have not seen Francis Hobday's name on the Journals of the Navy Board – nor on the Papers & documents relating to the Navy. His name is on the Army Register, as Seaman, – William Reynolds received, for him, £47.6.0 the balance of his full pay as Seaman – (see Auditors Certificate.)

Respectfully submitted

John H Smith Commissioner &c
May 14, 1834

To his Excellency
Governor Tazewell

I William Figg of Gloucester County do hereby certify that I was well acquainted with Francis Hobday of this County, and know that he was a [indecipherable word, could be 'branch']¹ Pilot on board of the Navy vessels in York River, in the Revolutionary War, and very early after the commencement of hostilities. I lived on Sarah's Creek [?]², opposite York, and had frequent opportunities of seeing the said Hobday on board the Navy vessels and when he would occasionally come on shore to visit his family who lived not far from me. I often went on board the vessels myself when they were in the neighborhood: I recollect being on board of the *Henry*³, the *Tartar*⁴ and the *Draggon* [*Dragon*]⁵, and I believe others, the names of which, I do not now remember, and I saw the said Francis Hobday acting as a Pilot on board of some, if not the whole of them. I always understood that the said Hobday and Rowland Wadlington piloted the French fleet into York River, and I know he piloted the fleet out when they went away. I also remember the circumstance of his piloting out some of the French vessels that remained behind and went out after the rest of the fleet had gone, and a pilot boat was carried down to the capes to bring him back: I believe George Shackelford went in the boat. I am sure the said Hobday continued in the service to the end of the war – As witness my hand and seal this 28th day of May A.D. 1833.

S/ William Figg, X his mark

I Lewis Stoakes [sic]⁶ of the County of Gloucester and State of Virginia do hereby certify that I was well acquainted with Francis Hobday of this County who I know was a Pilot on board the Navy vessels in York River: I was in the militia service myself, during almost the whole of the war, in the neighborhood of Gloucester Town, and had frequent opportunities of seeing the said Hobday in passing from one vessel to another and when he would occasionally come on shore, particularly in the early part of the war: I always understood that he piloted the French Fleet into York River, and I have often seen him being engaged in piloting the French vessels about the River: I know he remained in service as a pilot to the end of the war: some time after the Siege of York I recollect his piloting down the River one of the French vessels that remained behind after the rest of the fleet had [word too faint to discern] out, and I remember George Shackelford

¹ *branch*

² *Sarah's Creek,*

³ *Henry*. Coggins:102, VANavy:157, M:389, ND5:938, ND7:1061, ND8:446, ND9:869, ND10:628, ND11:1159, 1166, galley in VA Navy, 1776-79, Cpts Robert Tompkins, Joshua Singleton, and Wright Westcott, dismantled in 1779. C64. <http://www.awiatsea.com/Other/Hough%20List%20H-I.html>

⁴ *Tartar*. Coggins:102, VANavy:162, Dandridge:186, ND9:266, 728, ND10:268, ND11:1155, 1166, ship in VA Navy, 1776-80, Cpts Richard Taylor, John Lurty, and William Saunders, sold after Aug 1780. Eller:202 shows it destroyed in 1781. Silverstone:20. Paullin:406, added to Navy in 1777.

<http://www.awiatsea.com/Other/Hough%20List%20T.html>

⁵ <http://www.awiatsea.com/sn/VA/Dragon%20Virginia%20Navy%20Ship-Galley%20%5bCallender%20Markham%20Singleton%20Travis%20Chandler%20Joel%5d.html>

⁶ [Lewis Stokes S6158](#)

carrying down a pilot boat to take him off and bring him home. As witness my hand and seal this 27th day of May A.D. 1833

S/ Lewis Stokes, X his mark

[p 8: Another affidavit but the image posted online is so faint that it cannot be read at all. It appears that this was an affidavit given by William Hogg⁷ who signed using his mark.]
I Henry Buchanan⁸ formerly of Gloucester, but now of the County of York, do hereby certify that I was well acquainted with Francis Hobday of Gloucester County: the said Francis Hobday was a pilot on board the Navy vessels from the commencement of the war: I was born in raised in the County of Gloucester near the said Hobday's residence on Sarah's Creek, and have often seen him engaged as a pilot in the neighborhood of York: in July 1778 I enlisted as a soldier, under Captain Addison Lewis, a recruiting officer of Bland's [Theodorick Bland's] Regiment in August following I joined the first Virginia Regiment of Cavalry at Petersburg and marched from thence to the North where I remained till December of that year when our Regiment returned to Winchester in this state. I was under the command of Captain John Hughes and belonged to the 5th troop of the first Regiment which was raised after the said first Regiment had been sometime in service at the North for the purpose of filling up the vacancy occasioned by Major Lee's [Henry "Like Horse Harry" Lee's] withdrawal of the 5th troop from that Regiment: I afterwards went with our Regiment to the South, where I remained through the whole southern campaign and returned to Virginia and was discharged about the last of July 1781. On my return to Virginia the said Francis Hobday was still in service as a pilot of the Navy vessels in York & the neighboring rivers: In September 1781, I again went into service as a substitute in the militia for Charles Brown of Gloucester, and was stationed at York town where I remained till after the surrender of the British troops when I was discharged and returned home: whilst I was stationed at York as a substitute, I frequently saw the said Francis Hobday engaged as a pilot and know that he piloted in the French fleet, which he remained on board of, a greater portion of his time, till that fleet left the capes of Virginia, when he piloted them out, after which he returned home & I do not know of his being in service afterwards as witness my hand and seal this 28th day of May A.D. 1833

S/ Henry Buchanan



I Benjamin Mornex⁹ of Gloucester County do hereby certify that I was well acquainted with Francis Hobday of this County: I was in the militia service in the neighborhood of Gloucester Town during the greater part of the war, and at the close of the war, and have often seen the said Hobday going to and from the American Navy vessels in York River, on board of which he acted as a Branch Pilot: I always understood that he piloted the French fleet into York River, and I know that he was in service, as a pilot, to the end of the war. I have frequently seen the said Hobday since the termination of the war and conversed with him about his services, and many little transactions that took place during the war. Witness my hand and seal this 24th day of May 1833

⁷ FPA S38040

⁸ [Henry Buchanan S37807](#)

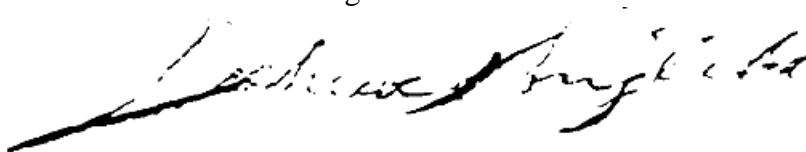
⁹ I could not find any pension records relating to this veteran. His affidavit may be the only record evidence of his service.

S/ B. Mornex



I Joshua Singleton¹⁰ of the County of Gloucester and State of Virginia entered into the Navy service in the early part of the Revolutionary war as a Lieutenant, under the command of Captain Ned Travis on board the Galley *Amanda*¹¹: From the *Amanda* I was transferred to the *Henry* Galley commanded by Captain Robert Thompkins, and from the *Henry* I was transferred to the Ship *Dragon* commanded by Captain James Markham, and I remained on board of the *Dragon* as a Lieutenant till the close of the war, when I returned home. I do hereby certify that I knew Francis Hobday of this County, who was a Pilot on board of the Navy vessels in and about York where I had frequent opportunities of seeing him and have a distinct recollection of his services as a Pilot. I cannot say precisely when the said Hobday entered the service nor how long he served though he was often on board the vessels to which I was attached and I know he served a considerable time. I always understood, and believed, he piloted the French fleet into York River. As witness my hand and seal this 22nd day of May 1833

S/ Joshua Singleton



[From [rejected pension records in the Library of Virginia](#)]

This is to Certify, That it appears from a List in this Office of such Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia State Line, during the Revolutionary War, as settled their Accounts, and received Certificates for the balance of their Full Pay, according to an Act of Assembly, passed the November Session 1781, that a Certificate issued on the 27th day of July 1787, in the name of Francis Hobday, as a Seaman for £47.6. which Certificate appears to have been delivered to William Reynolds.

Given under my hand, at the Auditor's Office, Richmond, this
22nd day of December 1832.

S/ Jas E. Heath, AUDITOR

[This file contains what appears to be 2 separate affidavits but the nincompoop who copied the documents for posting on the Internet chose to copy only the left-hand portion of those 2 affidavits.]

¹⁰ [Joshua Singleton S7510](#)

¹¹ In his own application, Singleton referred to this vessel as the *Manley*.