

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Hughlett VAS1658

vsl 10

Transcribed by Will Graves

5/14/14

[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 '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.]

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

Edward Sorrel of the County of Northampton [County Virginia] aged 81 a soldier of the Revolution after having first been sworn for that purpose deposeth & saith that he was well acquainted with William Hughlett that the said William Hughlett enlisted under Captain John Thomas commander of the Galley *Protector* that he was a considerable time in said Galley but how long this deponent does not know he this deponent having enlisted in the Army and marched into the state of South Carolina &c

S/ Edward Sorrel, X his mark

Report upon the Claim of the heirs of William Hughlett or Hughlett, midshipman in the State Navy, for bounty land for his services

To the Governor

Sir,

I have a similar remark to make in this case with that made in the case of the heir of midshipman Henry Harcum – to wit – that, when I reported William Hewlett, or Hughlett, entitled to land as midshipman &c, I must have been in possession of proof of his having been midshipman, and having served three years, which I cannot now called to mind. I formally ascertained that he was midshipman on board the Brig *Northampton*<sup>1</sup> – Captain Francis Bright<sup>2</sup> – the only proof of this fact, which I can now referred to, is an order of the Navy Board of September 18, 1778 – page 468 of that Journal – that the keeper of the Public Stores should

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<sup>1</sup> Possibly the same as

<http://www.awiatsea.com/Privateers/N/Northampton%20Virginia%20Schooner%20%5bPowell%5d.html>

<sup>2</sup> BRIGHT, FRANCIS VA Captain, Virginia Navy Francis Bright was a resident of York County, Virginia. He was appointed as a Captain in the Virginia Navy by the Virginia Council of Safety. [Stewart, 155] On 29 April 1776 he was commissioned to the "first armed cruiser for the Eastern Shore," [NOAR, 33] the Virginia Navy Brig *Northampton*. [Stewart, 155; he indicates that Bright commanded the *Northampton* from January 1776.] Bright resigned on 11 May 1778. [Stewart, 155] He was commissioned on 29 May 1782 to the Virginia Navy Brigantine *Courtney* (a privateer commission although the vessel was state owned) [NRAR, 261] and served to the close of the war. [NOAR, 33] Following the war Bright continued in service. He made a voyage to England in the Virginia Navy [unknown] *Perseverance* with a cargo of tobacco. He died 10 December 1811. [Stewart, 155] <http://www.awiatsea.com/Officers/Officers%20B.html>

delivered to William Hewlett sundry articles for himself & for the men on board the Brig *Northampton*. The orders of the Navy Board for clothing & other articles were generally made in favor of the midshipman and other warrant officers, and the commissioned Officers.

The Petitioners have said in their Petition, that they rely upon the testimony of Edward Sorrel, in support of their Claim. The  
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I will respectfully suggest (without having had any communication with the Petitioners or with that counsel) that this case ought to be postponed until the Petitioners can have an opportunity of laying before the Executive the evidence on which they rely.

I have, at present, nothing further to report

Respectfully submitted

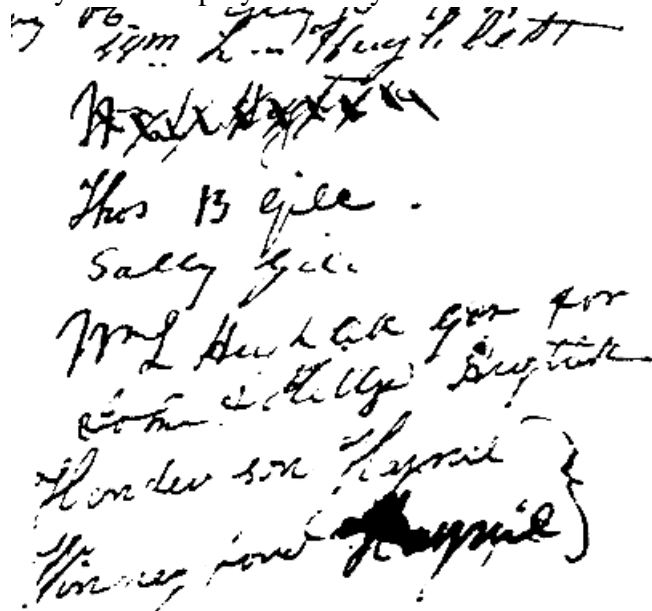
John H Smith, Commissioner &c

June 20, 1835

To his Excellency L. W. Tazewell Governor of Virginia

The Memorial of William Hughlett, Thomas B Gill, Sally Gill, Wm L. Hughlett for himself & as guardian for John and Kitty Hughlett, Henderson Haynie & Winifred Haynie respectfully represent that they are the only heirs of William Hughlett a midshipman in the Virginia state Navy during the revolutionary War & that they are residents of the County of Northampton & State of Virginia – as was also the said William Hughlett Midshipman &c

The undersigned would respectfully refer to the affidavit of Edward Sorrel & the report of Mr. Smith the agent appointed by the Virginia legislature in support of their claim, which they hope will be sufficient to satisfy your Excellency of the service & that you will direct the Register of the land office to issue a land warrant to them in virtue of the service of the said William Hughlett deceased & they will ever pray &c. May 16<sup>th</sup> 1835



Wm L. Hughlett  
Thomas B Gill  
Sally Gill  
Wm L. Hughlett for  
John & Kitty Hughlett  
Henderson Haynie  
Winifred Haynie

Virginia Northampton County to wit

John S Kesterson of the said County after having been first sworn for that purpose deposed and saith that he was intimately acquainted with William Hughlett that the said William

Hughlett enlisted during the Revolutionary war under Captain John Thomas commander of a Galley that he remained board said Galley with said Thomas until the Galley was burned after that time he the said Hughlett was transferred aboard the ship *Dragon*<sup>3</sup> and was in service until after the surrender of Cornwallis [October 19, 1781. This deponent knows he was in service more than three years but how much more at this remote day he does not recollect.  
Given under my hand this 12<sup>th</sup> day of October 1835

S/ John S. Kesterson

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John S. Kesterson". The signature is written in black ink on a white background. Below the name, there are several horizontal strokes and a small circular mark, possibly representing a flourish or a seal.

Inadvertently the rank of William Hughlett was omitted and the object of this certificate is to express the rank – he the said Hughlett was a midshipmen in the Navy and served as stated in the foregoing affidavit. Given under my hand this 3<sup>rd</sup> March 38

S/ John S. Kesterson

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.awiatsea.com/sn/VA/Dragon%20Virginia%20Navy%20Ship-Galley%20%5bCallender%20Markham%20Singleton%20Travis%20Chandler%20Joel%5d.html>