

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Elias Cotton S34606

f11Blank[Mass/Navy]

Transcribed by Will Graves

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.]

[p 5]

State of Massachusetts

I, Elias Cotton, a Citizen of the United States, now resident at Boston in the County of Suffolk in the State aforesaid, do on oath testify and declare, that in the War of the Revolution, in April of the year 1779 I entered and engaged in the naval service of the United States on the Continental establishment, and served accordingly from that time to sometime in the fall of the year 1780, as a seaman and topman against the common enemy, without any interruption or absence: that I belonged to the frigate *Deane*¹ Commanded by Captain Nicholson [Samuel Nicholson]² and that I left the service in the fall of the year 1780 and by reason of my reduced circumstances in life and poverty, I stand in need of assistance from my country for support, being now of the age of Sixty Two years.

And I hereby relinquish all claims to every pension heretofore allowed me by the laws of the United States, if any may be or hath been so allowed.

S/ Elias Cotton



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I Peter Saint Medard of Boston in the State of Massachusetts a practicing, licensed Physician, do testify & declare that I was Surgeon's mate on board the *Deane* Frigate at the time the within named Elias Cotton testifies that he was a seaman & topman on board, & well remember that he was on board, & served accordingly for more than nine months uninterruptedly. I was on board about four years myself.

S/ P. St. Medard
Surgeon U. S. Navy

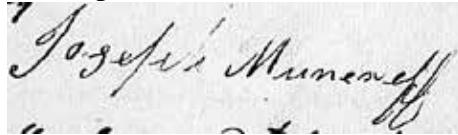
¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Deane_%281778%29

² "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)



I Joseph Moncrieff [sic]³ of Boston in the State of Massachusetts do testify that I was a boy on board the frigate *Deane* at the time mentioned in the within declaration of Elias Cotton, & was stationed in the moizen [mizzen] in top & well remember that the said Elias Cotton, served on board as he has therein stated more than 9 months uninterruptedly.

S/ Joseph Muncreff



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District of Massachusetts, SS

On this Eighth day of July 1820 personally appeared, in open Court, being a Court of Record, viz. The District Court of the United States for the said District, Elias Cotton aged Seventy-one years, resident in Boston in the County of Suffolk, in said District, rope maker, 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 the month of June 1781 as nearly as he can recollect in the United States frigate *Dean* commanded by Captain Nicholson and served on board said frigate until the Spring of 1783 in cruising when he was honorably discharged but not in writing. The above dates are as near as he can recollect. He made his original application on the first of April 1818 and the number of his pension Certificate is 11,003

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, disposed of my property, or any part thereof, with intent thereby so to diminish it, as to bring myself within the provisions 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 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/ Elias Cotton

Sworn to and declared, on the 8th day of July A.D. 1820 before

S/ John Davis, Judge of the Massachusetts District Court

Schedule

11 Chairs	\$4.00
Desk	2.50
Tables	1.50
Spoons	.50
Knives & forks	.50

³ [Joseph Muncreff \(Muncriff\) W10540](#)

Pots Kettles & Skillets

2.00
\$11.00

The above is a true inventory and schedule of all my property I have no real Estate whatsoever. I have three persons residing with me my wife whose name is Elizabeth aged sixty-seven years, and from age and infirmity not able to earn her subsistence my daughter Maria aged twenty years and able to earn her subsistence. My granddaughter named Mary Ann Tucker aged five and too young to earn her subsistence. I am Seventy-one years of age a rope maker by profession but from age and infirmity not able to earn my subsistence.

S/ Elias Cotton

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$8 per month commencing April 1, 1818, for service as a seaman in the U.S. Navy.]