

R.020 HARDY HILL (REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIER) ORIGINALLY OF  
NANSEMOND COUNTY, VA., LATER OF PENNSYLVANIA &  
KENTUCKY.

Entered in March of 1992 by Robert R. Hill of Brandon, Fla.

Source: Letter from Mr. L. L. Hill dated 4th January 1972 to  
Mrs. Glenn R. Hackman of Indianapolis, Indiana.

Comment by Robert Hill: I have omitted parts of the letter  
that had nothing to do with the genealogy.

HARDY HILL (1774-1798)

I received your letter concerning William Elston Collings of  
Shelby County, Kentucky.

I will give you information on my ancestor Hardy Hill and the  
reasons why I am researching the Revolutionary Soldiers and  
other men in connection with him.

Hardy Hill was born in 1774, probably in Nansemond County,  
Virginia. His father was named Benjamin Hill, who died after  
Hardy Hill.

In 1762, Hardy Hill moved with his father and brother to what  
is now Pennsylvania, in the area of Fort Pitt, now Pittsburg,  
located at the junction of the Allegheny & Monongahela  
Rivers.

One afternoon in October 1762, old Benjamin with Hardy Hill &  
his brother (name unknown) were captured by two tribes of  
friendly (sic) Indians (probably of the Delaware Tribe). Old  
Benjamin Hill was bound to a log and was set adrift in the  
river. He later escaped his bounds and returned home.

(If these were friendly Indians wonder what would have  
happened to them if they had been unfriendly Indians).

Hardy's brother, who's name has not been preserved, was taken  
down river and was never seen or heard from again. In the  
meantime, Hardy Hill, now eight years old, was taken up river  
to an Indian village. Here he was made to run the gauntlet  
with a Indian boy of the same size and age. Hardy Hill came  
out ahead of the Indian boy and the old chief made Hardy his  
son, and took a flint and split the rims of his ears and put  
rings in his ear and nose, so as to mark him as the chief's  
son.

Sometime ca. 1774, when Hardy was about 20 years old, he was taken to a trading post on one side of the river. They always made Hardy stayed on the other side of the river as the white traders had made frequent attempts to get him and free him.

One day Hardy finally made his escape with the help of the traders, but no details have been preserved. The Pennsylvania Archives (6th series) gives his name in several references between 1777 and 1779 as a Lieutenant and 2nd Lieutenant in the Westmoreland Company of the Pennsylvania Militia, which at that time comprised Allegheny County (Pittsburg), Washington and Westmoreland Counties. Somewhere here, Hardy Hill became friends with William E. Collings.

On many occasions, General G. R. Clark (George Rogers Clark) often used the Westmoreland Militia as this was, at that time, a part of Virginia. It is not known if Hardy Hill took part in the Vincennes Campaign (however Hardy Hill received a 320 land grant at the present site of Vincennes, about 1782, although there is no extant record).

Sometime early in 1780, but before May, Hardy Hill came to the falls of the Ohio River (now Louisville) on the Beargrass region. He had by this time joined up permanently with Clark (in May of 1780, in Clark's accounts) against the state of Virginia. There are two entries in Clark's account, "paid Hardy Hill for 16 bushels of corn," and "paid Hill & Coleman for expressing from Falls to Fort Pitt."

He was now a Captain (no reference made of his promotion to Captain in Westmoreland). He was on several Indian expeditions with Clark, and in 1781 he was second in command of the Low-Dutch Fort located about 6 miles from Louisville (he and his men in company were engaged as spies by Colonel George Slaughter and Colonel John Floyd). Some of his men were captured by the Indians.

In 1786 he was with Clark in his Wabash Campaign (9th of September 1785). He and three other men were appointed by the Jefferson County Court as Captains of the Jefferson County Militia, which at that time embraced about 1/3 of what is now Kentucky.

In 1792 Hardy Hill was appointed Captain in the Shelby County Militia (there is now mention of him in Governors Shelby and Garrards executive Journals in 1782 and 1786).

Hardy Hill was a Justice of the Peace in Shelby County in 1796 and was one of the leading citizens of that county, which is today Spencer County, Kentucky.

About 1783 Hardy Hill married Miss Margaret Wallace in Kentucky. She was born ca. 1763 in Drumfriesshire, Scotland

(tradition says)/ They had the following children:

Reverend Isaac Hill.

Martha Hill married a Mr. Cunningham.

James Hill.

Sarah Hill married a Mr. Carrithers.

Hardy Hill Jr.

John Hill.

Margaret Hill married a Mr. Kester.

Archibald Hill.

Hardy Hill Sr. died in December of 1798 and his will was proved in Court of March of 1799 by Isaac Miller, Archibald Cameron and William E. Collings.

The Hills held their land on Brashears Creek until 1816 when they sold most of the land to Nathaniel B. Wood and the rest encumbered by Hardy's widow until sometime between 1827 and 1835 when she died or sold it.

Margaret Wallace, widow of Hardy Hill remarried in 1812 to Jonathan Osburn of Loudoun County, Virginia.

Research in Kentucky, Pennsylvania and Virginia for information on Margaret Wallace and her family have been in vain. The name of Wallace does not show up in any of the settlements of Hardy Hill's estate, which lead us to believe that she may have been without parents in Kentucky, but she must have been brought to Kentucky by someone.

It is possible that Hardy Hill met her through some of his soldier friends, and is the reason for a search (by me) of the names of some of the men that served with him is being conducted.

A Captain Isaac Ellis was born in Frederick County, Maryland (now Washington County) in 1752 and came with his father, Captain Ellis Ellis to Catfish Camp in old Washington County, Pennsylvania. (See book "West Augusta, etc..") Isaac Ellis married Ann Downing and they removed in 1784 to Jefferson County, Kentucky and in 1791 to Shelby County, Kentucky.

Isaac Ellis' name appears on the settlements of Hardy Hill's estate. He was a Justice of the Peace for Shelby County, also the Sheriff at one time. Two of his children married children of Robert Jefferies. Two daughters of a Private George Cravenston married children of Robert Jefferies.

Both Robert Jefferies & William E. Collings held the securities on the estate of Hardy Hill. William E. Collings & John Crawford held securities on the estate of Isaac Pennington in 1801.

The appraisers of Pennington's estate were: Richard Basye,

Thomas Forman, George Cravenston & James Stark. Isaac Pennington married Polly Lockhart in February of 1799. All of these people seem to have been close neighbors and believe William E. Collings and others served together in Pennsylvania or Kentucky.

A Robert Lasley married Sarah Collings, daughter of Zebulon Collings on or about 6th June 1792. Robert Lasley lived next to Hardy Hill in Shelby County, Kentucky on his 70 acre tract in November of 1795, on Salt River & Brashears Creek. Hardy Hill owned a 447 acre tract next to him. Robert Lasley died in November of 1797.

The Collings were in Kentucky as early as April of 1780 if not before that date. I have the following land entries in Jefferson County, Kentucky, which is now probably located in Nelson, Shelby or Spencer Counties.

1. Spencer Collings entered 260 acres of Floyd's Creek on 29th June 1780.
2. Thomas Collings entered 400 acres on Crooked Creek on 7th June 1780.
3. Zebulon Collings entered 500 acres on Coxes Creek on 5th April 1781.
4. Thomas Collings entered 400 acres on Wilson Creek on 25th December 1782.
5. Zebulon Collings entered 18 acres next to William E. Collings on 27th January 1783.
6. William E. Collings entered 325 acres on Coxes Creek on 14th April 1784.

I consider myself a pretty good expert on the early families of Nelson County Kentucky and if your Collings came from New Jersey they were the first I have come across that came from New Jersey to Nelson County. Most of the early families of Nelson County came from Maryland and the northern neck counties of Virginia, which at that time bordered both Maryland & Pennsylvania.

SIGNED/ L.L. HILL

END OF DATA