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Hezekiah and Charity Mills of Westport, Connecticut

John A. Drobnicki

Hezekiah Mills (*Daniel*⁴, *William*³, *John*²⁻¹) was born in Westport, on Nov. 7, 1792, and was baptized on May 15, 1794, the youngest of nine children of Daniel Mills and Abigail Roberts.¹ Charity Mills (*John*⁵, *Ebenezer*⁴, *Robert*³, *John*²⁻¹) was baptized on June 23, 1793 in Green's Farms, the third of eleven children of John Mills and Eunice Frasier.² Hezekiah and Charity – this author's great-great-great-great grandparents – were married on Jan. 22, 1810, in Westport, by David Judah, a justice of the peace.³ They were second cousins once-removed, since Hezekiah's grandfather (William) was the younger brother of Charity's great-grandfather (Robert), making them both descendents of John Mills¹ of Stamford.

Although Hezekiah's father Daniel had once had Loyalist sympathies,⁴ Hezekiah enlisted in Nov. 1814 for service during the War of 1812 and was a Private in Lt. John W. Hanford's Company of Infantry, 4th Regiment, Burr's Connecticut Militia. He served as a Shore Guard at Black Rock in Fairfield, and was present during an attack by a British ship upon Capt. Hart's schooner, during which the British were repulsed. He was discharged on Mar. 5, 1815.⁵ At some point, he received land warrants of 40 acres and 120 acres for his service.⁶ No occupation was listed for Hezekiah Mills on the 1850 Census, but both the 1860 and 1870 Censuses listed him as a blacksmith in Westport.

On Mar. 15, 1871, 78-year-old Hezekiah Mills applied for a War of 1812 pension under a law that had been passed one month earlier, and his application was approved for \$8 per month.⁷ He died on Nov. 30, 1875 at age 83 in Westport.⁸ Six months later, Charity Mills applied for a War of 1812 widow's pension, and was also granted \$8 per month.⁹ She died in Westport on Jan. 6, 1884 of old age.¹⁰ For their children and further generations, see Helen Schatvet Ullmann's book, *Descendants of John Mills of Stamford, Connecticut*. Please, no "kissing cousin" jokes.

¹ Donald Lines Jacobus, *History and Genealogy of the Families of Old Fairfield* (New Haven: Tuttle, Morehouse & Taylor Co., 1932), Vol. 2, p. 656; correspondence between the author and the Congregational Church of Green's Farms, Apr. 1, 1987.

² Jacobus, Vol. 2, p. 656.

³ Pension file for Hezekiah Mills, National Archives, in possession of the author.

⁴ Daniel had served in Capt. John Bell's company in 1776 along with his brothers Ezra and John, but must have become sympathetic to the Loyalist cause, for after moving to Dutchess County, New York, Daniel was tarred and feathered on Dec. 16, 1783, before eventually moving back to Connecticut. See Helen Schatvet Ullmann, "John¹ Mills of Stamford, Connecticut and Some of His Descendants [Part 4]," *Connecticut Ancestry* 48, no. 4 (May 2006): 163-169.

⁵ Military and pension files for Hezekiah Mills, National Archives, in possession of the author.

⁶ Pension file for Hezekiah Mills.

⁷ Pension file for Hezekiah Mills.

⁸ Pension file for Hezekiah Mills. According to correspondence between the author and the Westport Town Clerk, Mar. 10, 1987, Hezekiah died due to an accident. In her *Descendants of John Mills of Stamford, Connecticut* (Boston: Newbury Street Press, 2010), Helen Schatvet Ullmann cites (on p. 92) an unpublished family history by Cyrus Bradley as saying that Hezekian had a nightmare during a blizzard, "jumped out of the window in his nightgown," and then died the next day.

⁹ Pension file for Hezekiah Mills.

¹⁰ Certified copy of Death Record of Charry [*sic*] Mills from Connecticut State Department of Health, in possession of the author.