

**CAPTAIN THOMAS A. SCOTT;
MASTER DIVER: ONE
WHO WAS NOT AFRAID
AND WHO SPOKE THE TRUTH**

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Captain Thomas A. Scott; Master Diver: One who was Not Afraid and who Spoke the Truth by
F. Hopkinson Smith

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BOSTON
AMERICAN UNITARIAN ASSOCIATION
1908

CAPTAIN
THOMAS A. SCOTT
MASTER DIVER

CAPTAIN SCOTT

SOME sixty years ago — sixty-two, to be exact — there sailed out of a harbor on the Chesapeake, near the town of Snow Hill, Maryland, a craft carrying eight cords of wood — all on deck. She was what was known as a “bay pungy,” drawing but four feet of water, with a mast forward and a boom swinging loose. Aft of the stump of a bowsprit was a fo’castle the size of a dry goods box, in which slept the captain and crew.

The captain was Tommy Scott, a lad of fifteen,—strong, well-built,

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and springy, with a look in his face of one who was not afraid, and who spoke the truth; the crew was a negro boy of twelve. These two supplied the neighboring towns with wood in exchange for oysters and clams.

Some years later a straight, clear-eyed young fellow, with a chest of iron — arms like cant hooks and thighs lashed with whip-cord and steel, shipped as common sailor aboard the schooner John Willetts,— Captain Wever, Master. He was seven years older than when he commanded the pungy, but the look on his face was still the same,—the look of a man who was not afraid and who spoke the truth.

A leaf torn from the log of the Willetts — yellow stained and frayed at

CAPTAIN SCOTT

the corners — a fragment hidden in an old trunk in the garret all these years — furnishes a further record. From this fragment it appears that a certain Thomas Scott was hired at fifteen dollars a month, paid at intervals, as follows:

To cash at Port Richmond.....	\$ 2.00
To cash at New York.....	1.00
To cash for shirt.....	1.50
To cash for trunk off Barnegat....	2.00
Cash a dollar gold piece.....	1.00

At the bottom are the words, "All settled with T. Scott up to May 1st, 1852," and then the signature, "T. A. Scott."

Three years later (1855 now), another vessel loomed into view; this was the schooner Thomas Nelson, Capt.