

## Ownership Stakes in Vessels/Ventures by Philadelphia Merchants, 1752-1776

These tables include all the available ship registry data available from 1752 through the spring of 1776, or a little over 21 years. (Data is missing for 1761-1763 and most of 1764.) These tables are limited only to the merchants with fractional ownership in at least ten vessels during this time period, and are sorted by four different metrics.

**Table 1: Sorted by total fractional tonnage owned**

Willing & Morris were far in the lead by this measure. And since the fractional ownership stakes would be cumulative, the total tonnage owned by Willing & Morris (including Thomas Morris and Charles Willing) was in fact 3,513.7 tons.

Merchant	Tons Owned	# of Vessels	Avg. Tons/Vessel	Owners/Vessel
<b>Willing, Thomas</b>	<b>1,649.2</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>37.5</b>	<b>3.07</b>
<b>Morris, Robert</b>	<b>1,320.8</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>34.8</b>	<b>3.26</b>
Mifflin, Samuel	1,111.5	26	42.8	1.96
Stocker, Anthony	943.2	20	47.2	2.40
Waln, Robert	890.9	18	49.5	1.94
Wharton, Joseph Jr.	873.2	13	67.2	1.77
Meredith, Reese	865.3	23	37.6	2.13
Scott, John	660.2	17	38.8	2.88
Wilcocks, John	638.7	15	42.6	2.20
McMichael, John	625.2	17	36.8	2.82
Howell, Samuel	606.3	16	37.9	2.56
Caldwell, Andrew	578.3	15	38.6	2.47
Carson, Samuel	572.0	17	33.6	3.35
McCall, Archibald	557.0	10	55.7	1.70
James, Abel	536.7	17	31.6	2.88
Ross, John	489.3	10	48.9	2.30
Fisher, Samuel	474.2	16	29.6	3.38
Yorke, Thomas	450.8	12	37.6	1.67
Miller, Magnus	440.0	10	44.0	2.10
Wharton, Thomas Jr.	439.2	11	39.9	2.45
Beveridge, David	415.0	10	41.5	1.30
<b>Morris, Thomas</b>	<b>406.2</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>36.9</b>	<b>3.91</b>
Pemberton, James	381.3	11	34.7	2.36
Smith, George	373.3	10	37.3	1.90
Conyngnam, Redmond	358.2	12	29.8	3.25
Bryan, George	347.8	11	31.6	1.91
Salter, Thomas	326.7	10	32.7	2.40
Nesbitt, John M.	323.2	11	29.4	3.36
Donaldson, Joseph	308.6	13	23.7	2.77
Drinker, Henry	302.5	13	23.3	3.08
Baynton, John	297.8	13	22.9	3.54
Morrell, William	286.7	11	26.1	2.91
Plumstead, William	282.3	13	21.7	2.31
Fisher, William	267.2	12	22.3	2.83
Bell, John	251.8	10	25.2	2.40
Shewell, Stephen	249.2	11	22.7	2.82
Hodge, Andrew	247.0	14	17.6	3.93
Eve, Oswell	233.8	12	19.5	2.00

**Table 2: Sorted by total number of vessels in which each merchant had an ownership stake**

Not included here is Charles Willing, who appeared as an owner on eight registrations during this period – one each in 1752 and 1754, and then another six in 1760 and 1761 (obviously well after his death). All of the ships registered with him as a partial owner overlapped with the 44 registered with Thomas Willing as an owner. (So did all 38 of those registered with Robert Morris’s name, for that matter, as well as all 11 of those of with Thomas Morris’s name.)

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Morrell, William	286.7	11	26.1	2.91
Shewell, Stephen	249.2	11	22.7	2.82
McCall, Archibald	557.0	10	55.7	1.70
Ross, John	489.3	10	48.9	2.30
Miller, Magnus	440.0	10	44.0	2.10
Beveridge, David	415.0	10	41.5	1.30
Smith, George	373.3	10	37.3	1.90
Salter, Thomas	326.7	10	32.7	2.40
Bell, John	251.8	10	25.2	2.40

**Table 3: Sorted by average tonnage owned per vessel**

This number is a function of two factors: the size of the vessel and the number of fractional owners with a stake in that vessel.

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**Table 4: Sorted by average number of owners per vessel**

This table could serve as a proxy for how “conservative” each merchant was; if more of them were fractional owners of a ship on any given venture, there would be less risk incurred by any one individual merchant.

By this metric, Willing & Morris were (not surprisingly) among the more conservative merchants.

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