

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Joseph Hutchings VAS1683

vsl 25

Transcribed by Will Graves

5/26/14 supp'd 4/16/15

[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 'indecipherable' 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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[From [pension records in the Library of Virginia](#)]

[p 2]

It appears to your Committee that at the Commencement of the Late War the Petitioner's Husband Joseph Hutchings late of the County of Norfolk entered into the service of his Country and was appointed to be Command of a Regiment of minute Men. That shortly thereafter he had the Misfortune to be taken a prisoner by Lord Dunmore [John Murray, Lord Dunmore, the last Royal Governor of the Colony of Virginia] at that time commanding the British Troops in this State. That during his Confinement on board of the Enemy's prison Ships he was treated with great Severity & contracted a dreadful disease, in Consequence of which he was paroled but before his Exchange could be accomplished he died leaving the Petitioner with six Children in the most needy & distressful Circumstances. It further appears to your Committee that Application has been made on Behalf of the Petitioner to the Court of her County to be placed on the Pension List but the same was refused her because the Law under which she claimed only provides for the Widows of any Officer or Soldier dying in the regular or militia Service and does not provide for the case of the petitioner as the [the image of this document cuts off at the bottom thereof at this point]

[next page]

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Ought to be put on the Pension List

Agreed to by the Senate

S/ H. Brooke, C. S. [clerk of the Senate]      Teste John Beckley, C H D [clerk of the house of delegates]

[p 3]

The above named Sarah Hutchings has six Children and is in very indigent circumstances. I conceive the age of the Children to be from 19 to 12 years – Richmond 19<sup>th</sup> December 1787

S/ P. Muhlenberg

Put on List with £75 from June 81  
certificates issued 19<sup>th</sup> of December

[p 4]

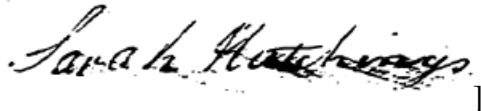
[The image of this document is cut off at the top thereof as posted online]

Assembly of the 15<sup>th</sup> day of October 1787, Sarah Hutchings widow of Joseph Hutchings, late commander of a Regiment of Minutemen is hereby ordered to be put on the list of Pensioners with an allowance of Seventy Five Pounds per annum to commence from the first day of January 1787.

Given under my hand as Governor of the Commonwealth this 19<sup>th</sup> day of December 1787.

S/ Edm. Randolph

[p 6: Receipt for the annual payment due her signed in Norfolk September 29, 1788 by the widow as follows:



Sarah Hutchings ]

[Note: The balance of the documents in this file reflect the annual authorization, appropriation, disbursement and receipt of the pension of 75 pounds do the widow through January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1797 when Governor James Wood authorized to the renewal of the pension.]

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[From [rejected pension records in the Library of Virginia](#)] 3-page file

Colonel Joseph Hutchings was an officer in the [word too faint to discern] State and died a prisoner aboard the British fleet in [words too faint to discern] – Herewith filed are extracts from the Journal of the Committee of Safety – showing that Colonel Hutchings was an officer & offer by Lord Dunmore to exchange him – Reference to 13<sup>th</sup> Henings Statutes, page 612 – the Preamble of the Act recites the fact that Colonel Hutchings died a prisoner on board of the British Fleet – he must have died before the exchange was effected – [The image of this document cuts off at the bottom thereof]

[Extract from Henings' Statutes: Vol. 13, Page 612:

CHAP. LXXXIV.

*An act authorising the auditor to issue to the heir and representative of colonel Joseph Hutchings, deceased, a loan-office certificate for property destroyed in the Borough of Norfolk.*

(Passed October 19, 1792.)

SECT. 1. WHEREAS it has been represented to the General Assembly, Preamble.  
that colonel Joseph Hutchings, deceased, as seized and possessed of  
certain property in the borough of Norfolk, which at the time of the  
destruction thereof was burnt by the troops of this Commonwealth; and  
whereas the commissioners by law appointed to estimate the value of  
property destroyed in the said borough, have valued that of the deceased

to the sum of one thousand seven hundred and seventeen pounds, and reported the same as of and belonging to a friend of the late revolution; but the said colonel Joseph Hutchings dying in captivity on board one of the British ships of war, and his children being of tender years at the time of his death, no application has been made for such compensation as has been extended to others in similar circumstances:

SECT. 2. *Be it therefore enacted by the General Assembly*, That the auditor of public accounts shall, and he is hereby directed, to issue to the heir and representative of the said colonel Joseph Hutchings, deceased, or to his

A loan office certificate to be issued to the heir of Joseph

613

LAWS OF VIRGINIA, OCTOBER 1792—17th OF COMMONWEALTH.

attorney legally authorised, a loan-office certificate or certificates for the said property, conformably to the valuation thereof by the commissioners, with warrants for the interest due thereon, after the rate of five per centum per annum from the period of the said valuation, in like manner as has been heretofore issued for property destroyed in the borough of Norfolk.

Hutchings, deceased.

SECT. 3. This act shall commence and be in force from and after the passage thereof.

[Note: This file also contains an extract from the minutes of the Committee of Safety dated Friday May 3d, 1776, in which it appears that Lord Dunmore made a proposal for the exchange of prisoners including Col. Hutchings, but the image of this document as posted online unfortunately is illegible.]

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[From [Digital Library of Virginia](#) ] Norfolk County Legislative Petitions

To the Honorable the General Assembly of the Virginia.

The Petition of Sarah Hutchings, widow of Joseph Hutchings, Humbly Sheweth that your Petitioner's Husband was in the year 1775 appointed to the command of a Regiment of Minutemen in the County of Norfolk: That he undertook the same with alacrity and was shortly after taken prisoner by Lord Dunmore who at that time commanded the British forces in this State: That from the severe treatment he received from Dunmore during his Captivity, he contracted a disease of which he died, before his exchange could be accomplished.

Your Petitioner begs leave to observe that, the loss of her Husband has left her destitute of support; that she has Six Children to maintain by her own industry. That the British having destroyed the Houses of her late Husband in the general conflagration of Norfolk, she has been deprived of the advantage of receiving from the bounty of the State the amount of that property

with those of her fellow sufferers who were more fortunate in procuring documents for the support of their Claims. Your Petitioner therefore prays that the General Assembly would take her case, and that her unfortunate Children, into consideration and grant them such relief as the wisdom of the Assembly shall deem good, and your Petitioner &c &c

[Reverse]

Sarah Hutchings's Petition

26 October 1786

Referred to Claims

October 31, 1787 Reasonable

to be stated openly – Upon report from court of County as to the petitioner being proper object

Reported

Sarah Hutchings

It appears to your Committee that at the commencement of the late War the Petitioner's said husband entered into the service of his country and was appointed to the command of a Regiment of Minutemen. That shortly thereafter he had the misfortune to be taken a prisoner by the Lord Dunmore at that time commanding the British Troops in this State.

That during his confinement on board the enemy's prison ships, he was treated with the utmost severity & contracted a dreadful disease – in consequence of which he was paroled, but before an exchange could be accomplished he died – leaving the Petitioner with six children in the most needy & distressed circumstances.

It further appears to your committee that application has been made on behalf of the Petitioner to the court of her County to be placed on the pension list – but the same was refused her because the Law under which she claimed does not provide for the case of the Petitioner as the widow of an officer. Widows of Officers or Soldiers dying in the regular or Militia service – & does not provide for the case of the Petitioner as the widow of an Officer dying in the minute service.

Resolved praying relief is reasonable And that the Petitioner ought to be put on the pension list & allowed half the pay of a Col. during life.