

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Hugh Mercer BLWt1527-850

f26VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

5/24/13

[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. 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 fails 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 8th of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

[cover sheet]

VA. Mercer, Hugh,¹ B.L.Wt.1527-850 Brig. Gen.
Issued July 5, 1791 to
William, John, Hugh and
George Mercer
and Lucy Patten,
the only surviving
children of H. M.
(no papers)

[Note: the file contains the standard response letters indicating that there are no papers relating to this file by reason of the distraction of the War Office in 1800 by fire. All of the documents in this file are either request for information or the standard response to such requests.]

[From [bounty land records in the Library of Virginia](#)] 4-page file + 10-page file

Committee of Safety March 5th 1776

Colonel Hugh Mercer and Lieutenant Colonel George Weedon of the 3rd Battalion subscribed the articles of war, and took the oath prescribed by the ordinance of convention, after which there Continental commissions were delivered to them.

Ordered that all the field officers of the 3rd Battalion be called into duty immediately and repaired to their Stations at Dumfries

from page 36

Thursday 18th June 1776

Warrant to Brigadier General Mercer £19.6.3 his pay rations & forage as Colonel to 3rd of August till 28th February at £3 paid a Drum Major & his wages

from page 133

Extracts from the Journal of the Committee of Safety

S/ Jas. E. Heath

Auditor's Office February 10 1834

¹ General Hugh Mercer died January 12, 1777 from wounds sustained at Princeton on January 3, 1777

I do hereby certify that it appears from the records in my office that Brigadier General Hugh Mercer was allowed land for 3 years service in the Virginia line of the Revolution & that the warrant issued for the same the 24th June 1785

S/ W Shelton Off
December 24 1833

To the Honorable Executive of Virginia

The heirs of Brigadier General Hugh Mercer most respectfully represent to you that they deem themselves entitled to additional bounty land for the services of General Mercer in the war of the Revolution – [indecipherable word or words] they submit to you the certificate of the register of the Land office, showing that bounty land was granted for the services of General Mercer for 3 years only – Now the heirs respectfully submit, whether or not they are entitled to an additional allowance for the war, inasmuch as General Mercer was slain in battle, a fact of historical notoriety with which you are familiar

[second file]

To his Excellency, David Campbell, Governor of Virginia –

Your petitioner, eldest son & Heir at law of Hugh Mercer deceased late a Brigadier General in the Army of the Revolution,

Respectfully sheweth, that his father the late General Mercer entered the Service at a very early period of the war, (as he has always understood & as a letter from the Honorable Francis H Brooke of the 15th instant & hereto annexed, fully establishes) served until the period of his death.

General Mercer fell in the battle of Princeton the 3rd of January 1777, as the History of the War of Independence will show, & was a Colonel in the minute Service in the spring or Fall of 1775 in command of three regiments of minute men, near Fredericksburg at that period, as the Testimony of Judge Brooke clearly establishes.

Your petitioner has reason to believe that he is entitled to an additional bounty of land. If General Mercer be allowed for eight years that is from 1775 to November 1783, as your petitioner has been informed was the principle upon which former Executives & the present executive settle such claims, his heirs it is believed would be entitled to 3333 acres deducting from that Quantity the amount of the warrant received from the Register of the land office under the authority of Governor Floyd towards the close of his term of service – and your petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray &c

Given under the Hand & seal of the Petitioner at Fredericksburg this 26 day of January 1838

S/ William Mercer {Seal}



Fredericksburg January 27th 1838

Sir,

I place undercover to you certain documents connected with & in reference to additional

bounty land supposed to be due you on account of the Revolutionary services of my honored father (whom I never knew, being an infant of five months at his death) General Hugh Mercer – who fell at Princeton January 1777, gallantly fighting for the liberties of his adopted Country & in support of the Holy Cause of our Independence –

My brother William, the eldest son & Heir at Law, petitions the executive on this subject – he is 72 years of age, is blessed with good health, & is uncommonly intelligent, with mental resources & information to an almost incredible extent, deprived as he was at his birth of the blessings of speech & of hearing he is a man of great kindness & benevolence in his character & disposition. He was a pupil of the celebrated Mr. Peale of Philadelphia at 18 years of age, for 4 years, & has been an accomplished Portrait – & Historical painter – & within the last 2 years, has completed several pieces of very great merit – He & or the only survivors of 5 children, 4 sons & one daughter – our sister the late Mrs. Patton –

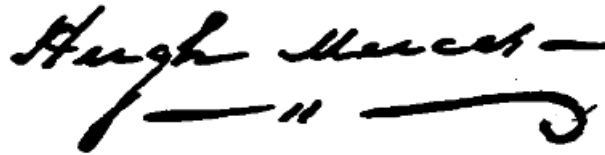
Should the Executive deem it just & proper to direct the issuing of a warrant for additional bounty land, any receipt will be given in any form & as we may be advised or the receipt of our respected Delegate in the Legislature, Oscar Crutchfield Esquire, will be equally binding on us.

I am, Sir

with high respect

your most humble Servant

S/ Hugh Mercer

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hugh Mercer". The signature is written in black ink and includes a long horizontal flourish at the end.

To Governor Campbell,
Richmond
[reverse]

P. S. It may not be out of place for me to add, that conformably with the Calculations made by several persons who have paid great attention to these claims (having attended very little to them myself) it appears there is still due us 1460 odd acres of additional bounty land, or thereabout.

S/ H. M.

January 15 1838

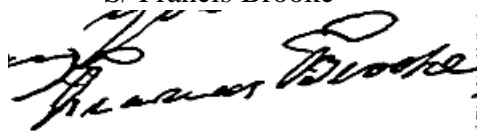
My Dear Sir

You request of me what I recollect of the Services of your father at the commencement of the war of the revolution, in the year 1775 I was at the grammar school in [indecipherable word or abbreviation, perhaps an abbreviation of Fredericksburg]² – I remember well (I was then in my eleventh year) that there were three regiments of minute men encamped beside the Massaponax [River]. I ran away from school and was present at a review of those troops, your father was the eldest Colo¹ and commanded them all[?] on that day, one of the regiments was commanded by Colonel Weedon and another by Colonel Willis this I think was in the Spring of 1775 though I [sic, it?] may have been in the fall of that year.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, possibly reading "Hugh Mercer". The signature is written in black ink and includes a long horizontal flourish at the end.

2

S/ Francis Brooke



On the 26th day of February 1834 a warrant No 76224 1723 acres of land issued to William Mercer heir of Hugh Mercer, for the said Hugh Mercer's services as Brigadier General in the Continental line from 5 March 1776 to the end of the war.

Teste S/ W. Seldon, Reg.
L. Off 2 Feb. 1838

[From [pension records in the Library of Virginia](#)] 27-page file

[Note: the cover sheet indicates that the file includes papers relating to Hugh Mercer, Richard Halbert, Larkin Chew, Charles Collins, and Ambrose Lewis]

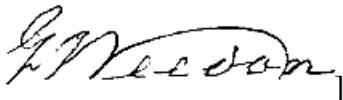
[p 2]

The Widow of the late General Mercer has drawn half pay for 7 years which [indecipherable word] expired the 3rd January 1784

Auditor's Office
10 December 85

S/ B. Stark
J. Pendleton

[pp 3-6—split image of a letter dated 1786 signed by George Weedon to Patrick Henry, Governor of VA



[p 8]

At a Court held for Spotsylvania County February the 7th 1786

It is Certified by the Court that Mrs. Isabella Mercer is the widow and relict of the late General Hugh Mercer deceased and that she is in low Circumstances.

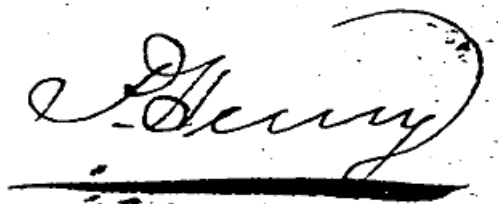
A Copy Teste Jno. Chew Jr DC

[p 10]

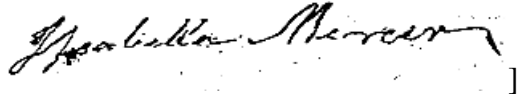
I do with the advice of Council hereby Certify that Mrs. Isabella Mercer widow and relict of the late Brigadier General Hugh Mercer who died in the Service of the United States is allowed the sum of one hundred fifty pounds yearly to commence on the first day of January last.

Given under my hand at Richmond this 24th day of August 1786

S/ P. Henry



[Note: balance of the documents in this file relate to the mechanics of the annual distribution of the pension to Mrs. Mercer. Below is her signature from one of these documents acknowledging receipt of the pension in 1790. She died September 16, 1791.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Annabella Mercer". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background. The name "Annabella" is written in a larger, more prominent hand, while "Mercer" is written in a smaller, more compact hand. The signature is enclosed in a small rectangular box.

[From [rejected pension records in the Library of Virginia](#)] 11-page file

[Note: the poor quality of the images posted in this file rendered it impossible to make a meaningful transcript of them. From what I could make out, the bulk of the documents is correspondence relating to a claim by the heirs of Genl. Mercer for more bounty land than the 40,000 granted his widow for his services in the Revolution. As best I could discern, the file does not contain a petition naming the heirs. The claim appears to have been made in 1835, presumably by the then surviving children and grandchildren of Genl. Mercer.]