

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Hickman R4953 Rebecca B. Hickman f34VA
Transcribed by Will Graves 3/24/14

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

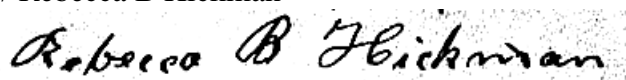
State of Virginia Jefferson County: SS

On this 16th day of September in the year 1839, personally appeared in Open Court, before the Justices of the County Court of Jefferson, Rebecca B Hickman a resident of Shepherdstown in the said County of Jefferson, aged 68 years, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July 7th 1838 entitled "an act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows" –

That she is the widow of William Hickman, who was aide-de-camp to Lord Sterling [William Alexander, Lord Stirling] in the War of the Revolution, she is informed and believes that he volunteered under Colonel Charles M Thurston in the County of Frederick in the State of Virginia about the first of January 1777. That soon after he joined the Army, he was appointed aide-de-camp to Lord Sterling, and served in that capacity more than six months. She further declares that she was married to the said William Hickman on the thirtieth day of January in the year 1787. That her husband the aforesaid William Hickman died on the thirty first day of January 1827. That she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service but the marriage took place previous to the first of January 1794: Viz. at the time above stated. –

Sworn to and subscribed on the day and year above written in open Court, before the Justices aforesaid.

S/ Rebecca B Hickman



State of Maryland Washington County to wit

On this 13th day of November 1839 personally appeared before the undersigned Justices of the peace for the County aforesaid in and for the State of Maryland Samuel B Harris aged seventy-four years who made oath that he is the brother of Rebecca B Hickman of Shepherdstown Jefferson County Virginia who is the widow of William Hickman formerly of Jefferson County Virginia, that the said Rebecca B Hickman was married to the said William Hickman in January 1787. That the said William Hickman died on the 31st day of January 1827, and that the said Rebecca B Hickman has never been married to any other person and we do hereby certify that the said Samuel B Harris is a highly respectable and credible witness. Given under our hands and seals this 13th day of November 1839.

S/ Jacob Powles

S/ Jno. Cook, JP

Virginia Frederick County Sct.

This day personally came before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for the County aforesaid General John Smith,¹ and having been duly sworn, the truth to say – made the following statement – to wit – that he was well acquainted with the late Major William Hickman of the Revolutionary Army – and well remembers that the said William Hickman joined the volunteer company raised during the said War by the late Charles M Thurston, about the first January 1777 – and accompanied the court to the North directly after – also, that soon after, Major Hickman joined the Army he was appointed aide-de-camp to Lord Stirling – in which capacity he served some time – the exact time is not remembered – but said John Smith believes that it was more than six months. Thurston's Corps was raised to serve four months – and it was sometime after the expiration of that time that Major Hickman resigned the commission he had in consequence of a quarrel with Lord Stirling. In witness whereof the said John Smith half hereunto signed his name.

S/ John Smith

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "S" at the beginning.

[Attested August 8, 1833]

[p 24—Copy]

Saturday Evening 20th March 1819

Sir,

Learning from Governor Meigs that his Department, in which you were pleased to suggest to my friend F. Fairfax Esquire your wish that I might find employment, affords no situation, either in the Arkansas Territory or Florida suiting my circumstances; and learning also that there is no near prospect of such a Clerkship as would support me, in any of the other Department; and being anxiously desirous of fulfilling a duty I owe to a numerous and dependent family, while I am favored with the capacity of exerting myself for their support at this late period of my life; I take the liberty of addressing this note to state briefly to you, Sir, a few considerations which have induced me to think that I have some claim to the favor of the chief Magistrate of my Country. I am one of those, Sir, of whom you must have known several, who entered into the military service at the darkest hour of the Revolution, as a volunteer, intending to except of no compensation therefor. I was then very young, and possessed a competent support for a single man; and, true to my purpose, I have neither asked nor received any pay for myself, or for a valuable Parade Horse lost in the service; or even for expenses incurred to considerable amount then, and in executing various duties which I was called on to perform for the Public after leaving the Army; some of these are alluded to by General John Smith & Colonel William McGuire in their letters of recommendation which you have seen: – the form of being at that time County Lieutenant of Frederick County, where I then resided: nor should I even now bring into the you those little matters (so common in those days of real Patriotism) but for unavoidable misfortunes which attend my Honest exertions in Business, and which have left me in the decline

¹ [John Smith S6114](#)

of life under the necessity of seeking the aid of some respectable public Employment, in supporting a numerous young Family.

Presuming therefore, that it will not be thought too much to ask, and that you, Sir, have sufficient assurance of my competency to discharge its Duties, I solicit your goodness in giving me the appointment of one of the eight Offices shortly to be filled in Ohio & Indiana of Register & Receiver.

With Great consideration & Respect

I am, Sir,

York Obedient Servant

William Hickman

[Letter addressed to "The President of the United States"]

Virginia Frederick County Sct.

James Reiley this day appeared before the subscriber a justice of the peace in and for the State and County aforesaid and made oath that he was well acquainted with Captain William Hickman – that he volunteered under Colonel Thurston of this County about the first of January 1777 for four months then joined General Washington's Army in New Jersey – with a brother of the said James Reiley who went from Berkeley County in this State under Captain William Morgan – and that he believes the said Captain William Hickman continued longer than the four months in the Army – because he understood that the said Captain William Hickman was appointed aid to Lord Sterling – but how long he remained after the expiration of the four months he cannot now say – The said James Reiley also made oath that in June 1781 orders were received from the Governor of Virginia directing the County lieutenants of Frederick and Berkeley to appoint officers in each county to raise a troop of horse in each of said Counties by impressment and that Captain William Hickman was appointed by the Lieutenant of Frederick County – Captain of the Troop to be impressed in said County and that after impressing in training the horses for some time – he the said Captain William Hickman was ordered with his company to York Town whither they went and remained until Cornwallis surrendered [October 19, 1781] – And that he the said James Reiley belonged to a troop of horse which had been impressed under Captain Francis Willis of Berkeley County who had been appointed by the County Lieutenant to raise said company – and that before Captain William Hickman marched – orders came from Governor of Virginia that the Horses only – and not the men of the Berkeley Company (to which the said James Reiley belonged) were wanting – that the said Captain William Hickman and his company went to Berkeley and received the horses from Captain Francis Willis and took them to York Town.

Given under my hand this 29th day of May 1834

S/ Charles H Clark

[p 32: On November 6, 1834, Mary Hickman of lawful age gave testimony that she resides in Front Royal Warren County Virginia; that she is the sister of Rebecca the Hickman (formerly Rebecca B Harris); that she was present at the wedding of her sister to William Hickman; that the wedding was solemnized at the house of their father Benjamin Harris in Calvert County Maryland January 30, 1787.

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