

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Hereford <sup>1</sup>W1425

Sarah Hereford

f166VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

3/19/14

[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 'indcipherable' 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.]

[p 71]

Logan Ch. Va. Aug. 3, 1828

Honorable Richard Rush

Sir I am about to procure the affidavit of Judge Lewis Summers of this district which will be to this effect, That in the summer of 1825 he was in company with General Lafayette who informed him that I John Hereford was a major in the Continental line of the United States and that he was well acquainted with me and further that I was with him at the siege of York and Gloucester and many other engagements. You will be pleased to inform me whether an affidavit to this amount will be sufficient for me to claim the sum allowed me by the act for benefit of revolutionary officers.

Respectfully

S/ John Hereford

[p 56]

For the purpose of obtaining the benefit of an Act for the relief of certain Surviving officers and Soldiers of the Army of the revolution approved on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of May 1828 I John Hereford of Mercer's Bottom in the County of Mason in the State of Virginia do hereby declare that I was raised in the town of Leesburg in Loudoun County Virginia that in the summer of 1777 I enlisted under Lieutenant Erasmus Gill a recruiting officer, belonging to the Second Virginia Regiment on the Continental establishment for three years that I marched with the said officers and under the command of Captain Marcus Calmus [Marquis Calmes] another recruiting officer with about 100 recruits from Leesburg and joined the American Army near Philadelphia and was annexed to Captain Payton Harrison's Company in said Regiment as Sergeant and continued in such during my stay in the Regiment: As well as my memory serves me; in the winter 1778 – 9 in the State of New Jersey there were came out General orders that all the Three years Soldiers who would reenlist for and during the war should have a bounty of one hundred fifty dollars Continental money and a furlough till the 8<sup>th</sup> April 1779. Accordingly I enlisted for during the war with a number of others belonging to the Company and returned to Leesburg to see my Parents. That I never received a certificate for the reward of eighty dollars nor was I ever on the Pension list.

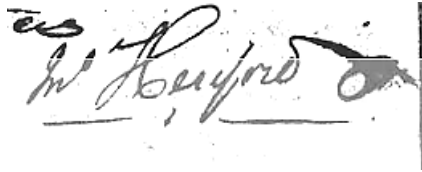
That before my furlough expired I enlisted a Substitute to take my place by the name of John Sorrell, when about to march he was claimed by Lieutenant Colonel Leven Powell of the

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<sup>1</sup> BLWt28613-160-55

16<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment as a Soldier in his Regiment; I then hired another Substitute in Sorrell's place and sent him on with the 16<sup>th</sup> Regiment the said John Sorrell served during the war (as I believe) returned to Leesburg and died in a few years. That I received a favorable discharge from Captain Christian Febiger who commanded the Regiment that I always took a part in defense of my country during the Revolutionary War; that I bore arms in an Independent Company in Leesburg before I was sixteen years of age. That on the invasion of Cornwallis I marched with a Regiment from Leesburg commanded by Colonel John Alexander as Adjutant and joined Lafayette's Army between Richmond and was with him during his retreat in the mountains where we were reinforced with General Wayne's [Anthony Wayne's] division when we made them retreat in turn. We drove Cornwallis to Williamsburg and from thence to Old Jamestown where they took Shipping for Norfolk. I also acted as Adjutant in a Regiment commanded by Colonel Charles Dabney of Hanover County Virginia & Lastly as Adjutant in Colonel George West's Regiment from Loudoun County. Served as such during the Siege of York and after the Surrender of Cornwallis our Regiment had the honor of taking one division of the prisoners to Potomac where they were received by the Maryland troops, and that the undersigned is seventy years of age and in reduced circumstances.

S/ Jno. Hereford

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jno. Hereford", is written over a horizontal line. To the right of the signature is a vertical black bar.

[Charles Clendenin and Matthew W Stribling gave a standard supporting affidavit.]  
[Attested in Mason County Virginia August 6, 1828]

[p 60]

Revolutionary Claims  
Treasury Department,  
August 30, 1828

John Hereford of Mercer Bottom in the County of Mason in the State of Virginia has applied to the Secretary of the Treasury for the benefits of the act, entitled "An act for the relief of certain surviving officers and soldiers of the Revolution," approved the 15th of May, 1828. He states that he enlisted in the Continental line of the Army of the Revolution, for and during the war, and continued until its termination, at which period he was a Sergeant in Captain P. Harrison's Company, in the Second regiment of the Virginia line; and that he received a certificate for the reward of eighty dollars, provided by the resolve of the 15th of May, 1778; and further, that he was not on the 15th of May, 1828, on the pension list of the United States, and that he has received as a pensioner since the 3rd of March, 1826, nothing. He states that he served personally in that Regiment until 1779 and then by a substitute named John Sorrell, who was excepted in his place.

The Third Auditor is requested to report how far the several statements are corroborated by the records in his Office.

By order of the Secretary  
S/ F. A. Dickins

Treasury Department,  
Third Auditor's Office,

3<sup>rd</sup> September 1828

~~It appears by the records of this office, that a certificate for the reward of eighty dollars has been issued to \_\_\_ in the \_\_\_~~

It further appears that John Hereford is not now on the pension list of any agency, and has not been so since the 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1826 ~~at the rate of \_\_\_ dollars per month.~~

Neither the name of John Hereford nor that of John Sorrell can be found among those of the Virginia line to whom Certificates for the gratuity of \$80 were issued.

S/ Peter Hagner, Aud.

General Land office 30 April 1829

The name of John Hereford does not appear on the List of Warrants issued by the Register of the Land Office at Richmond Virginia so far as they have been received.

S/ G. W. Graham, Commissioner

War Department: Bounty land office

30 April 1829

The records of this office do not show that John Hereford of the Virginia line ever received or is entitled to bounty land of the United States.

S/ Robert Taylor

[p 10]

State of Virginia Mason County to wit

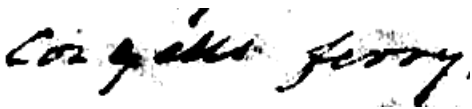
On this 19<sup>th</sup> day of September 1832 personally appeared before the Judge of the Superior Court of Law and Chancery for the County aforesaid in open Court John Hereford a resident of said County in the Commonwealth aforesaid who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the act of Congress passed June the 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.


I John Hereford, a soldier of the Revolution, now residing in Mason County, in the Commonwealth of Virginia, was born on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of February in the year of our Lord 1758 in the County of Fairfax in the State aforesaid, as appears by the Register in our family Bible, on the banks of the Potomac River on the national [?] estate of my great grandfather who came from Wales, in England, as I have been informed by my ancestors. I was raised in the town of Leesburg, Loudoun County, Virginia. In the summer of 1777, I enlisted under Lieutenant Erasmus Gill a recruiting officer belonging to the Second Virginia Regiment, of Infantry of the line, on the Continental establishment, for the term of three years. I marched with the said officer, and under the command of Captain Marcus Calimas [Marquis Calmes], another recruiting officer of the same Regiment, with about one hundred recruits from Leesburg, and joined the American Army near Philadelphia. I was annexed to Captain Peyton Harrison's Company in said Regiment as Sergeant and continued as such during my service in the Regiment. In the winter of 1777 – 78, the Army took up their winter quarters at the Valley Forge. When the spring campaign opened we left our huts and lay on the plains below on the Schuylkill [River], until the enemy left Philadelphia. As soon as the news of their movement arrived in our Camp the whole of American Army was put in motion and crossed the Delaware at

Corgalls [?]<sup>2</sup> ferry, as well as my memory serves. Orders were given to the Troops to divest themselves of knapsacks and blankets in order to go with as much expedition as possible on a forced march to overtake the enemy. The day was exceedingly hot and as our march was through a dry, barren, sandy country destitute of water many of our soldiers became exhausted, and fell by the way. Our Army passed through Mount Holley, an English [?]<sup>3</sup> town in the State of New Jersey. The principal action took place between the Church and Monmouth Court House, where we passed the retreating troops under General Charles Lee. This battle was fought on the 28<sup>th</sup> of June 1778, and my Regiment was in the latter part of the action. The division to which I belonged formed near the Church. The Regiment in which I served, was then commanded by Colonel Christian Febiger, an old Swede, who told me he had been in thirty-six actions in Europe and America. The English having gained the heights of Monmouth, commenced a heavy fire from their artillery, which was returned by Colonel Harrison of Virginia, commanding our artillery – We lay on the field of battle that night and on the next day buried the dead of both armies. The British having made their escape during the night, our Army took up the line of march, for the heights of Brunswick, and lay there, some time. From that point, we were ordered to cross the Hudson River, and passed that River at Kings Ferry (as near as I can recollect) and marched to White Plains in the State of New York. At the commencement of winter, Army recrossed the Hudson and took up our quarters (if I recollect right) at Bond brook [Boundbrook] or Middlebrook in the State of New Jersey. About Christmas we began to build our huts, and about this time a general order reached us that all the soldiers enlisted for three years who would reenlist for and during the term of the war, should have a bounty of \$150 Continental money, and a furlough until the 8<sup>th</sup> of April 1779. I complied with this general order, and enlisted for the whole term of the War, with a number of others belonging to the same Company, and returned on furlough to Leesburg, to see my parents. Before my furlough expired I enlisted a substitute to take my place in the Army by the name of John Sorrell, and sent him with several other soldiers to headquarters, where they were mustered into Captain Peyton Harrison's Company, and in consequence thereof, I received an Honorable discharge from Colonel Febiger who commanded the Regiment, which discharge has been lost, but how long since, I am unable to say as I never expected it would be of any use to me after the war had terminated.

Upon the invasion of my native state by Cornwallis, there was a call for the militia of Loudoun County. A draft took place and the soldiers were mustered under the command of Colonel John Alexander of Loudoun. I substituted myself in the room of one of the drafted man, whose name I do not now recollect, and was appointed an adjutant in said Regiment. In discharge of the duties of this office, I marched with the Troops, from Leesburg and joined General Lafayette's Army, below Richmond and was with him during his retreat to the mountains. During the retreat, Colonel Alexander resigned his office commission and the command was given to Colonel Charles Dabney of Hanover County Virginia. At Raccoon Ford on the Rappahannock [River] we formed a junction with General Wayne's [Anthony Wayne's] division from the North. The British Army then retreated to Williamsburg, to which

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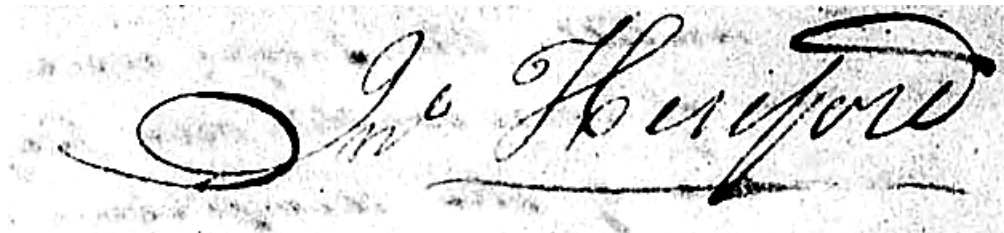
<sup>3</sup> 

neighborhood we pursued them. After the embarkation of the British troops, at James Town, our Regiment continued with the Army, until their term of service expired, when I returned home. Shortly after there was another call for militia from Loudoun, and the soldiers were put under the command of Colonel George West, a citizen of that County and I was appointed adjutant to his Regiment. We received orders to march to York Town Virginia, when arriving near that scene of action, we were ordered to cross York River and take a position near Gloucester, at which point we were placed under the command of General Weeden [George Weedon], who acted with the French Cavalry and Infantry, the whole commanded by the Count de Chouis [?]<sup>4</sup>. My services as adjutant continued during the siege of York and until the troops were discharged. After the surrender of Cornwallis [October 19, 1781], our Regiment had the honor of taking one of the divisions of prisoners to Noland's Ferry on the Potomac, where they were received by the Maryland Troops, and conducted to Fredericktown. My residence from the close of the war continued to be at Leesburg in Loudoun County for two or three years, when I removed with my father's family to Fairfax County, where I married and continued to reside until about the year 1810 – I then removed to the County of Mason Virginia, where I have ever since & and now, reside. My personal services as a Sergeant, as before stated, in the Continental line extended from the time of my enlistment to the date of my discharge, was about two years. My substitute I presume served for the residue of the war. My services as an adjutant of the militia as before was only evidenced by the muster rolls, and rosters and must have been six months or upwards, which rolls and rosters, I presume, are not now in existence. None of the officers or soldiers who served with me in the Continental service, or militia, are now known to me in this quarter of the Country, or so accessible as to enable me to obtain their testimony.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declare that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency of any state.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year first aforesaid.

S/ Jno Hereford

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jno Hereford". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper. The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent flourish at the end of the word "Hereford".

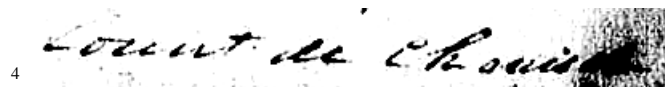
[Charles Clendenin and Matthew W Stribling gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 92]

The affidavit of Joseph Smith of Alexandria in the District of Columbia taken before me Francis Peyton one of the United States justices of the peace for the County of Alexandria in the said district on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of May in the year 1833.

The affiant being first sworn saith that he was intimately acquainted with John Hereford for more than fifty years, that this affiant was in the militia commanded by Colonel John Alexander in the year 1781 and marched from the County of Loudoun in the State of Virginia,

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A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Count de Chouis". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper. The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent flourish at the end of the word "Chouis".

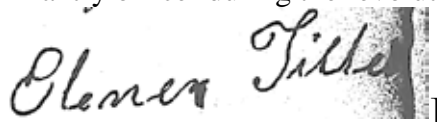
<sup>4</sup> in a letter transcribed below, the veteran refers to this officer as "Count de Chouisell." I have been unable to identify this officer. It is possible (but by no means a given) that the veteran was trying to identify Chevalier de Chastellux, a senior officer in Rochambeau's staff.

and joined the Army under the command of General Lafayette below Richmond in Virginia, that at the time of his service as aforesaid John Hereford was adjutant of the said Regiment commanded by Colonel Alexander and that the said John Hereford continued to act in that office until the tour of duty was in did and the Regiment discharged, he may have acted longer, but this affiant cannot say the exact time he remained in the service.

S/ Joseph Smith

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph Smith". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background and features a long, horizontal flourish at the end.

[p 76: On May 28, 1833 in Loudoun County Virginia, Mrs. Eleanor Tillett made oath that she was well acquainted with John Hereford and that he enlisted in the town of Leesburg under the affiant's brother Erasmus Gill, a recruiting officer, belonging to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Virginia Regiment of Infantry; the affiant also testified that her brother served as a cavalry officer as well as an infantry officer during the revolution.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eleanor Tillett". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background and is partially obscured by a dark rectangular mark.

[p. 95: On May 28, 1833 in Loudoun County Virginia, Samuel Tillett, gave testimony that he was well acquainted with John Hereford; that Hertford volunteered under Lieutenant Erasmus Gill in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Virginia Regiment of Infantry; that afterwards he served as a Sergeant in Peyton Harrison's company and thereafter as an adjutant for a time during the revolution.]

[p 102]

November 15<sup>th</sup>, 1844

Dear Sir

Your favor of the 7<sup>th</sup> of October I received on the 8<sup>th</sup> of the present month under cover from my friend G. W. Summers, I will now give you a distinct account as my memory will admit of my services in the War of the Revolution. I was raised in the Town of Leesburg Born on the banks of the Potomac near Mount Vernon. In the year 1776 I enrolled of my name as a soldier in a volunteer company in the Town of Leesburg to be held in readiness at aim minute's warning to March, during that winner Captain Callimus & Lieutenant Gill were sent in as recruiting Officers, the latter and intimate acquaintance and townsmen of mine. I enlisted for three years and was appointed a recruiting Sergeant, in the course of the summer they had enlisted upwards of one hundred soldiers, and marched from Leesburg and joined the American Army near Philadelphia and annexed to the Second Regiment of Virginia on the Continental establishment, Commanded by Colonel Christian Febiger and old Sneed who was formerly a Lieutenant under Captain D. Morgan [Daniel Morgan] and was taken prisoner at the Siege of Quebeck [Québec], I was annexed to Captain Peyton Harrison's Company and continued as Sergeant, the Army took their winter quarters at the Valley Forge and sufferings were well known in the history of the American War, I continued with the northern Army until 1779 & then enlisted for during the war and obtained a furlough for three months and came home and enrolled a substitute for during the War and sent him to head quarters where he was received by Colonel Febiger who sent into me an Honorable discharge. I then was appointed a deputy Issuing Commissary in the Town of

Leesburg – Upon the invasion of Virginia by Phillips [William Phillips] and Arnold [Benedict Arnold] there was a call for about four hundred militia from the County of Loudoun, they were put under the command of Colonel John Alexander. I then was appointed Adjutant, after this time was up I was appointed Adjutant under Colonel Charles Dabney of the Louisa Militia and was in the retreat under the command of General Lafayette till we were joined by a reinforcement of General Wayne from the northern Army. There was another call from Loudoun and put under the Command of Colonel George West. I again was appointed Adjutant and joined the Army near Williamsburg at the commencement of the Siege of Yorktown. Our Regiment had orders to cross York River and joined the Army at Gloucester Point under the command of Count de Chouisille and General Weedon the former commanding the French infantry and horse the latter the Militia the whole under the command of the Count. We had but one night's [indecipherable word] the British had [one or more indecipherable words] our breastworks but we soon drove them under their forts & breastworks. After the surrender of Yorktown our Regiment had orders to take the prisoners that were captured at Gloucester Point on to Fredericktown in Maryland and marched with them to Nolan's ferry on that, where they was received by the Virginia troops, this ended my Military life. It was not for pay we volunteers fought for, if it was we got poorly paid or compensated for, it was the love of liberty. You mentioned in your letter you wished I would send you a copy of my declaration. I never kept one, my declaration was sent by Judge Summers at the Superior Court at Point Pleasant and Certified the same who knew me from his early youth. The judge addressed the Audience in the Courthouse on the patriotism and the sufferings of the Revolutionary Soldiers during the War, my claim to bounty land I never looked to the State of Virginia for, as our Regiment was on the Continental establishment, I never held a Commission in the line of the Army.

If the General government should think I should be further compensated for my services in the Revolutionary War it will be thankfully received. If not, I can say with Pope "Man wants but little here below nor wants that little long."

I wish you health  
I have the honor to be Sir  
Your most Obedient humble  
Servant  
John Hereford

[p 7: On June 6, 1853 in Mason County Virginia, Sarah Hertford, 71, filed for a widow's pension under the 1853 act stating that she is the widow of John Hereford a revolutionary war pensioner; that she married him in Fairfax County Virginia April 8, 1804; that her husband died May 13, 1846. She signed her application with her mark.]

[pp 5-6: family record:

#### Births

John Hereford the Honor of this Bible was Born the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of February 1758 on the bank of the Potomac River Fairfax County Virginia His Great Grandfather was from Wales (England)

His Children by the first marriage (viz.)

Thomas Patterson Hereford born June 26, 1786

James Madison born June 12, 1788

John Wesley born September 26, 1790

William Patterson born Made 28, 1794

James Henry born December 11, 1796  
Sarah Mauzey was born October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1781  
His Children by the Second Marriage (viz.)  
Warren Mercer Hereford born April 12<sup>th</sup>, 1805  
Robert Mauzey Born March 24<sup>th</sup>, 1807  
Elizabeth Ann born October 21<sup>st</sup> [could be 28<sup>th</sup>] 1809  
George Washington born June 17<sup>th</sup>, 1811  
Ann Elizabeth born November 27, 1814  
Margaret Ann born September 19, 1817  
Francis born December 14, 1814  
Benjamin Franklin born January 24<sup>th</sup>, 1820  
Mary Mauzey born April 23<sup>rd</sup> [year illegible]  
Lafayette born April 4<sup>th</sup>, 1825  
Ammon Barns born December 16, 1827 he was called after my Grandfather (Barns was my Grandfather's mother's maiden name)

#### Marriages

John Hereford was married to Betsey Patterson of Fairfax County Virginia July 22, 1781 Her father and mother was born Ireland

His second Marriage was with Sarah Mauzey of the above named County, French descent on Sunday the 8<sup>th</sup> of April 1804

His Sons marriage by his first wife

Doctor Thomas Hereford married a Miss Newman of Prince William County Virginia

John Wesley Hereford married his cousin Juliett Hertford daughter of Francis Hertford of Fauquier County

William Patterson Hereford married a Miss Cox of Cabell [probably Campbell] County Virginia

James Henry Hertford married a Miss McCormick of Cabell County Virginia  
[different handwriting]

G. W. Hertford was married to Mary S Harrison March 28<sup>th</sup>, 1842 in Mo.

[p 17: On April 20, 1855 in Mason County Virginia, Sarah Hereford, 73, applied for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of a revolutionary war pensioner; she states that she married John Hereford April 8<sup>th</sup>, 1804 in Fairfax County Virginia; that they were married about one Simpson, a minister of the gospel; that her name prior to her marriage was Sarah Mauzy; that her husband died in Mason County Virginia May 13, 1846. She signed this application with her mark.]

[Facts in file: The widow died September 28, 1855

[Veteran was initially pensioned at the rate of \$120 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831.

His pension was later increased to \$220.50 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831 and ending May 13, 1846 when he died. His pension was based on 16 months and 15 days as Sergeant and 6 months as Adjutant. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]