

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Herndon W8925

Judith Herndon

f113VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

3/20/14

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

[p 5]

State of Kentucky Fayette County: Sct.

On this 15th day of November 1845 personally appeared before me, a Justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid, Mrs. Judith Herndon aged seventy-eight years on the 8th day of July last past, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Acts of Congress passed July 7th 1838, March 3rd 1843, and 17th of June 1844, entitled "And Act granting half pay and Pensions to certain Widows &c &c ["]].

That she is the widow of John Herndon who was an assistant Commissary during the War of the Revolution, appointed in the Southern District on the 26th of September 1777, as appears from the annexed Letter from N. P. Trist acting Secretary of State, to J. L. Edwards Esquire Commissioner of Pensions, dated October 5, 1845. She knows of no other record evidence, or of any living witness by whom the service of her said husband can be proven. Declarant is unable to state with any degree of certainty the length of time her said husband was engaged in service during the Revolution, but from the best of her present recollection, thinks it was upwards of two years – this opinion being formed upon inflammation derived from her husband during his lifetime, and from the lapse of time since his death, she may be mistaken in her recollections – by reference to the proper office at Washington it may be possible to ascertain at what time he left the Service; she therefore makes such reference, believing that it is the only probable means of ascertaining the time her husband was engaged in service as from the length of time that has passed since he left the service, she believes it would be impossible to find any living witness who could prove that fact; and she knows of no record evidence by which the proof can be made.

She further declares that she was married to the said John Herndon on the 11th day of December 1783, and that her husband, the aforesaid John Herndon died on the 13th day of February 1812, leaving this declarant his widow; that she has not intermarried, but continues the widow of the said John Herndon.

That she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the first day of January 1794, viz.: at the time above stated – She further declares that from age and infirmity she is unable to attend Court.

S/ Judith Herndon, X her mark

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Department of State

Washington October 5th, 1845

Sir,

In compliance with your request, I have caused the Washington Papers to be examined for evidence of the service of John Herndon as a Commissary in the Army of the Revolution, and find that he is returned by William Green Munford D. C. G. as one of the Assistant Commissaries appointed in the Southern District – the date of his appointment being the 26 September 1777. The letter of Mr. Hickman enclosed by you is here with returned

Very Respectfully

I am Sir

Your Obedient Servant

S/ N. P. Trist

Acting Secretary of State

James L Edwards Esquire
Commissioner of Pensions &c

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State of Kentucky Fayette County Sct.

On the 8th day of May 1848 personally appeared before me, a Justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid, Judith Herndon, a resident of the City of Lexington, in the County of Fayette and State of Kentucky, aged eighty years on the 8th day of July last past; who being first duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following Supplemental Declaration in order to obtain further or additional benefits from the Acts of Congress passed 7th of July, 1838, March 3, 1843 and 17th of June, 1844, entitled "An Act Granting half pay and pensions to certain widows," &c &c

That she is the widow of John Herndon who was an assistant Commissary and Assistant Deputy Quarter Master General in the War of the Revolution: She Further Declares, as in her original declaration, that she was married to the said John Herndon on the 11th day of December 1783, in the County of Frederick in the State of Virginia, and that her husband, the said John Herndon, died in the County of Scott in the State of Kentucky on the 13th day of February 1812; 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.

Declarant further states that she has obtained & received a Pension, under the above recited Acts, of \$120 per annum, which appears to have been granted her on account of the services of her husband, the said John Herndon, in the Commissaries Department. Since the receipt of said Pension, she has been informed, that in her original declaration it is not set forth that her husband served also in the Quarter Master Department. She had supposed it was so stated, but upon conversing with the friend who drew up that declaration and presented her application for a pension he informed her that after he had received from her a detail of the rank and Services of the said John Herndon, in a verbal conversation (and of which he made a memorandum in pencil) in which conversation declarant spoke of his services in the Commissary and Quarter Masters departments, he wrote a letter of inquiry to Colonel James L Edwards Commissioner of Pensions (before making out her declaration) from whom he received a reply, enclosing a statement from, he thinks, N. P. Trist Esquire of the State department, stating, in substance, that it appears from the records in said department, that John Herndon was appointed assistant to Deputy Commissary General Munford, on the 26 September 1777, that upon receipt of this statement, he concluded that the declarant had been mistaken in her statement "that her

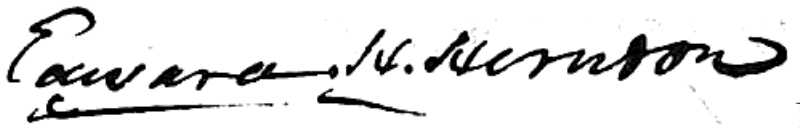
husband had served in the Quarter Masters Department," and had used the term "Commissary & Quarter master" interchangeably without being aware of the difference, and consequently in making out the original declaration he had omitted "Assistant Deputy Quarter Master General," the omission of which, was not observed by declarant, when read to her, but had supposed it was set forth in said declaration. Declarant now state the facts, has learned from her husband, the said John Herndon, in his lifetime, that he was in the service some two years or more, first in the Commissaries & afterwards in the Quarter Masters departments, but how long he served in each declarant cannot state, but the whole period of his service, she thinks, was two years or upwards as above stated.

Declarant knows of no living witness (except what is now on file with her original declaration) by whom she can prove the services of her husband, or any documentary evidence, other than what may be found in the different departments at Washington, to which Departments and documents she refers, in support of this her application for an increase of Pension under the above recited acts of Congress; She further asked for the benefits of the Act of Congress passed 2nd February, 1848, entitled "An Act making further provision for surviving Widows and Soldiers of the Revolution."

She further declares that she is still the widow of the said John Herndon, and from age and infirmity she is unable to attend Court.

Sworn to & subscribed the day and year above written, say May 8, 1848, before me
S/ C. J. Sanders, JP FC
S/ Judith Herndon, X her mark

[p 7: On November 17, 1845 in Mason County Kentucky, Edward H Herndon gave testimony that he is the son of John and Judith Herndon who immigrated from Virginia in the year 1811 and settled in Scott County Kentucky; that his father departed this life in Scott County on February 13, 1812 leaving widow; that Judith Herndon, the widow, now resides in Lexington, Fayette County Kentucky and is still a widow; that his father kept a family record which the affiant transcribed into his own family Bible shortly after his father's death and that said record shows under the heading marriages the following "John Herndon & Judith Hampton were married December 11th 1783"; that the original was in his father's handwriting but cannot now be found.



Edward H. Herndon]

[p 3: Family record:

Marriages

John Herndon & Judith Hampton were married December 11th 1783

Births

Hannah of the Herndon daughter of the same born May 10th, 1809]

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Department of State
Washington May 29, 1848

Honorable C. S. Morehead,
House of Representatives

Sir,

In compliance with your request, I have caused the Washington Papers to be examined

for evidence of the service of John Herndon in the Quarter Master's Department of the Army of the Revolution, and have to report as follows:

In a paper purporting to be "a return of persons engaged in the Quarter Master General's Department, under the direction of William Finnie, D. Q. M. G. at Williamsburg, Virginia, 6 July 1779," John Herndon is reported under the head of "Assistance and Clerks to the D. Q. M. General, at a compensation of \$140 per month wages, and \$20 per month subsistence.

I am, Sir, very respectfully

Your Obedient Servant

S/Jett James Buchanan¹

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "James Buchanan". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

[Facts in file: The widow died July 18, 1853 leaving the following children surviving: Edward H Herndon of Mason County, Kentucky, 3rd child; Hannah the Biggs, wife of Joseph Biggs of Lexington Kentucky, she was born May 10, 1809; and Mary C Hicks, wife of Beverly A. Hicks of Lexington Kentucky. That the oldest child of the veteran and his wife was named Charles C Herndon; their next child was a daughter named Sally. In 1846, William Frazer a resident of Fayette County Kentucky stated that he was born in 1796 or 1797 in Spotsylvania County, Virginia and that his mother and John Herndon were brother and sister. In 1846, William Duerson, 77, a resident of Fayette County Kentucky gave testimony that he was a cousin to John Herndon. The veteran was living in Spotsylvania County Virginia at the time he was appointed Assistant Commissary to Deputy Commissary General Munford.]

[Veteran's widow was initially pensioned at the rate of \$120 per annum, increased to \$480 per annum, and increased again to \$600 per annum commencing March 4th, 1836 for her husband service as assistant deputy quartermaster general in the Continental line.]

¹ Future 15th president of the United States of America; Secretary of State under James K Polk in 1848