State of Virginia: Lunenburg County to wit

On this 26 day of September, 1838, personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace in and for the County and State aforesaid, Mary Witherford a resident of Lunenburg County, Virginia 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 4th 1836: That she is the widow of William Witherford, deceased, who was a soldier in the war of the Revolution. That she knows very little as coming within her personal knowledge, respecting the services of her late husband in the Revolutionary War; but has always understood from him, and credible soldiers who served with him, and verily believe their statement to be correct, that in the County of Cumberland, he served in the militia two tours, of three months each, in the year 1777: that then he removed to the County of Lunenburg, and whilst a resident of Lunenburg County, and after the marriage of said William Witherford to said Mary Robertson, he enlisted under Captain Hopkins for the term of three years, in the Continental service, and marched to the South under General Green [Nathanael Greene], and served the said term faithfully and was honorably discharged from service. For evidence of service, length of service, rank in the line, and other particulars of service, she refers to the Public Records of the Army, and the accompanying certificates of old soldiers who served with him – She recollects distinctly that in October 1780 he enlisted in the Continental service and did not return home until about or near the time peace was made.

She further declares that she was married by publication of bands to the said William Witherford on the 3rd day of December 1778; that her husband, the aforesaid William Witherford died on the 31st day of January, 1819, and that she has remained a widow ever since that period, as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed and accompanying this declaration.

S/ Mary Witherford

Sworn to and subscribed before me on the day and year above written.

S/ George L. Bayn, JP
Benjamin Evans of Charlotte County Virginia gave testimony on November 11, 1839 that he has been acquainted with William and Mary Witherford for the last 64 years and all their children having lived in the same neighborhood with them; he listed the children of the veteran and his widow as follows: Judith the oldest child is about 60 years of age; Joseph, about 57; William is about 55; Polly is about 52; Josiah is about 51; Jonas is about 49; Tabitha and Peggy (twins) about 47; Ann is about 44; Mastin is about 41, and Hillery the last child is about 39 in all 11 children.

On October 2, 1839, Mary Witherford gave testimony that she married William Witherford in Cumberland County (now called) on the 3rd day of December 1778; that they were married by Parson McCray of the Episcopal Church; that she kept no family register. This document she signed by her mark.

On the same day, Mary Robertson made oath that she is the sister of William Witherford who married Mary on December 3, 1778; that they were married by Parson McCray of the Episcopal Church.

Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of $120 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for her husband's service as a Sergeant for 2 years in the Virginia Continental line.