

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John B. Hickman (John Berry) S18445

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 '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.]

At a Court held for Accomack County by adjournment on Tuesday the 28th day of August 1832

John Berry Hickman of the County of Accomack this day personally appeared in Court and made the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832 viz. "State of Virginia, Accomack County SS On this 28th day of August 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the County Court now sitting John Berry Hickman a resident of Accomack Parish in Accomack County aged 69 years who being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to enable him to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he served in Thomas Cope's & William Parker's Companies in the militia of Accomack in the time of the Revolutionary War, that he continued in the Militia from the time he was 16 years of age till he was free from duty by reason of his age – that during nearly all the war the Militia were very frequently called out to keep guard & were in service a considerable portion of the time each year – the Companies were sometimes divided & portions of them performed service alternately – that in consequence of the exposed situation of this County there were very frequent alarms given & the militia were compelled to keep guard almost constantly to prevent depredations from being committed – that he lived as an apprentice at Sergeant Grinalds during the most of the war and was often sent by him to aid in summoning the men to arms when alarms were given & then attended himself – and that he thinks he was in actual service under arms more than two years during the war. – That he kept guard at Colonel Cropper's [John Cropper's] barracks or blockhouse & other places – but never marched out of the County – that he has no other record of his age than an entry made by himself many years ago from information derived from his relatives & from the butt of his oldest child – that he was well acquainted with Colonel Cropper, Colonel Joynes [probably Levin Joynes], Major Poulson [probably John Poulson] & various other Continental officers who went from this County that the Militia of this County were commanded in the time of the War by Colonel Simpson, Corbin & Cropper – that he is now well acquainted with Thomas R Joynes Esquire, Levin S. Joynes, Major William R Custis & almost all the citizens of any note in Accomack County any of whom can testify as to his character for truth & veracity & as to their belief of his services – he says he was born in this County & always lived in this County – that there never were no written discharges given to the militia in the War – that he relinquishes all claim to all other pension or annuity than the present and declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of any agency in any State – Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ John B Hickman"

[William R Custis, JP, & William P Moore, deputy Sheriff gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

The deposition of John B Hickman an applicant for a pension under the act of Congress of June 1832 – This deponent is in answer to the 4th interrogatory (which was not satisfactorily answered when he made his original declaration) says that he was regularly enrolled in the militia at 16 years of age according to law & that during the War the militia were classed and portions of them performed duty alternately for eight or ten days each tour – that this arrangement or classification was made as this deponent supposed according to law & that of course he was called out under the laws of the State – that he did not volunteer but considered himself bound to attend alarms & perform tours of duty or guard – and therefore supposes that the proper answer to this interrogatory is that he was a regularly enrolled Militia soldier & perform duty under orders of the commanding officers, called out agreeably to the classification under the laws of the State –

In answer to the 4th objection he says that he was 16 years of age in 1779 & entered he thinks in the service in the spring of that year – and that he continued to serve regularly in his turn during each & every year till the war ended from 1779 to 1783 inclusive & for 20 years afterwards. –

In answer to the 5th objection he says that he performed tours of duty on guard for 8 or 10 days each during each & every year from 1779 to the end of the War once a month & sometimes oftener – and also attended all alarms, which were frequent & that he was on duty under arms fully half of the time after he was enrolled, until the War ended – that it is utterly impossible for any man to state the precise periods of entering & leaving the service each tour but he has no hesitation in saying that he served two years during the War. –

This deponent further says that the 9th Virginia Regiment was raised for the purpose of defending the Counties of Accomack & Northampton, and that in 1776 that Regiment was marched away & the Eastern Shore left undefended excepting by the militia, which circumstance compelled the militia to be in almost constant motion. That the County of Accomack lies between the Atlantic & Chesapeake & was more exposed to the enemy & to plunderers than any other part of Virginia excepting the County of Northampton & that attempts were made every few days to plunder the County.

In answer to the 6th objection – he says that he served under captains Copes & Parker & under Colonels Simpson, Corbin and Cropper in succession –

In answer to the 13th objection he says that he procured the affidavit of Mrs. Sarah Lang [could be Sarah Long] and aged lady who testify to his services – but that he does not now recollect any man living who served with him, but will endeavor to prove his services by further testimony if practicable. Mrs. Sarah Langs affidavit was filed in Court, but she is very old & infirm & this deponent did not request her to attend this day. He thinks he can obtain further proof –

S/ John B Hickman, X his mark

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It was also prove by the affidavit of Sarah Lang that she is well acquainted with the said John B Hickman and from her Knowledge of his Services, believes the facts set forth in the preceding Certificate are true"

A copy Teste: S/ Jas. J. Ailworth, Deputy for Thos. R. Joynes, CAC

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The affidavit of Thomas Cropper Senior age 70 years who says that he recollects distinctly that John B Hickman Guard at sundry times during the revolutionary War at the Blockhouse on his brothers land (the late Colonel John Cropper) & although he cannot state the particular periods of his so keeping guard as aforesaid he has no hesitation in saying from his knowledge of said Hickman that his statements respecting his services are true.

S/ Thomas Cropper

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas Cropper". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat slanted to the right.

[p 8: At a court held in Accomack County on October 11, 1850 it was ordered to be certified that John Berry Hickman or John Berry (one and the same person), a pensioner of the United States, died on or about the 25th of June 1843; his will was admitted to probate July 31st, 1843 in Accomack County; that John Berry Hickman or John Berry, Sr., died survived by the following children: Tinney Mears (formerly Tinney Berry), William P Berry, Samuel Berry, Charles Berry and Ann Lewis (formerly Ann Berry); that William P Berry and Samuel Berry were appointed executors of the estate of John Berry.]

[p 33: Affidavit signed September 25, 1850 by Samuel Berry, as executor of the estate of John B Hickman

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Samuel Berry". To the right of the signature is a small, rectangular, hand-drawn seal or stamp containing the word "Seal" in a stylized font.

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[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831 for service as a private for 2 years in the Virginia service.]