

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of William Herndon S9575

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[The following pension application and some of the supporting affidavits are in the handwriting of Coleman Payne.]

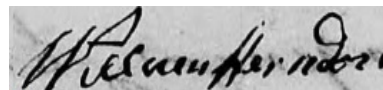
State of Virginia

Greene County S.S.

On this 12th day of June 1845 personally appeared in open Court before this County of said County [sic] now sitting William Herndon a resident of the said County of Greene in the State of Virginia aged about eighty two years who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

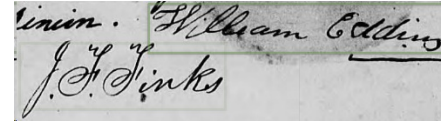
That he entered the service of the United States and served as herein stated: that in the year 1780 in the month of October – he was draughted for a three months tour in the war of the Revolution in Captain Ambrose Bohanan's [Ambrose Bohannan's] company of militia and proceeded to the lower Country passing through Louisa and the Southern part of Spotsylvania Counties – that his Company remained on duty first at one place then at another, but most of the time at a place called "Mobin Hills" a considerable distance below Richmond in Henrico County [sic: Malvern Hill 15 mi SE of Richmond], that during his second three months tour, and about one month after reaching the lower Country he was in the battle of Petersburg Virginia [Battle of Blandford Hill, 25 Apr 1781] – and during that battle his Company was under the command of General Muhlenburg [sic: Peter Muhlenberg] – that after this battle his company under Bohannan & others retreated to Chesterfield C. H. where they remained a day or two and then all hands[?] followed the British light Horse down to the Bay – after serving said three months the men in his Company were discharged by Major Saunders, of Bohannons company [sic]. That during this three months tour his Company was attached to the Regulars under command of General Muhlenburg in rear of his company: that some time before Christmas in the year 1780 he returned home and remained there till the next Spring when he was again draughted in the militia for three months and that the company he went down under was commanded by Col. James Slaughter and Major Robert Hill of Culpeper County – this was in the Spring of 1781 and Slaughter's company marched down below Richmond passing over nearly the same road that Bohannans company went through Spotsylvania Louisa and other Counties – that his company during that tour spent most of its time at "Morbin Hills" somewhere near Chesterfield County and that his company was stationed at another time during this tour at a place called "Camp Holly" not far from Richmond Virginia [probably Holly Springs about 10 mi SE of Richmond]: that during said tour some of Lafayettes soldiers were quartered at Morbin Hills where also his company frequently was that he was under Cap. Fisher Rice [sic: Ficher Rice] of Culpeper during said tour – that during said tour there was no regular battle; that he was however in a small skirmish between some British and Americans at "Camp Holly" below Richmond – that he frequently saw General Lafayette – General Muhlenburg – Major [Nathaniel] Welch Cap. James Broaddus regulars and others whose names he cannot now call; that his 3 months being out he came home and stood another draft of three months in the summer of 1781 under Captain Johnathan Cowherd [sic: Jonathan Cowherd] of Culpeper County and went on down to near Fredericksburg at "Jamanna" [probably Germanna] where we were stationed for almost two months – that his company left "Jamanna" and went to King & Queen Counties and were there discharged and came home the tour being completed: that at the time of said services he was a resident of Culpeper County about 3 miles from his present residence and that he knows of no one by whom he can prove said services. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares his name is not on the Pension roll of the agency of any State whatever

Sworn & subscribed in open Court the first herein written date.



Greene County Virginia

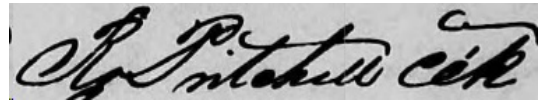
We William Eddins Clergyman residing in the above County and in the neighborhood of old Mr. Herndon, and James F. Finks residing in the same neighborhood hereby certify that we are well acquainted with Mr. William Herndon who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration: that we believe him to be eighty two years of age, that he is reputed and believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a soldier of the revolution and that we concur in that opinion.

A rectangular stamp containing two handwritten signatures in cursive. The top signature reads "William Eddins" and the bottom signature reads "J. F. Finks".

Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

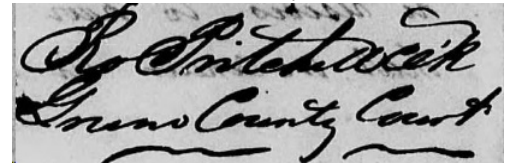
And the said court do hereby declare their opinion after investigation of the matter and after putting the interrogatories prescribed by the War Department that the above named applicant was a Revolutionary soldier and served as he States. And the Court further certifies that it appears to them that William Eddins who has signed the preceding certificate is a clergyman resident in Mr. Herndon's neighborhood; and that J. F. Finks Esqr. one of the justices of the County who has signed the same is a resident of the same neighborhood and is a creditable person and that their statement is entitled to credit. The words "his second" put in in Court by request of the claimant. Teste

[Robert Pritchett Clk]
Greene County Court.

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "R. Pritchett Clk".

Virginia, Greene County To Wit

Robert Pritchett Clerk of the Court of said County, do hereby certify that the foregoing contains the original proceedings of the said Court, in the matter of the application of William Herndon for a pension. In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand & seal of Office, this 13th day of June 1845.

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "R. Pritchett" followed by "Greene County Court" written below it.

[Inscribed sideways below the above certification, apparently by the Pension Office:]

No 37.068

William Herndon Private

9 Months service

\$30 per Annum

Act June 7, 1832

Virginia Roll

Coleman Page [sic]/ Harrisonburg Virginia

At a Court held for the County of Greene on this 12th day of June 1845 the following questions and answers were [illegible word] by the Court and certified to the War Department at Washington. The same being upon the application of William Herndon for a pension under the Act of Congress of June 7th 1832.

1. Where and in what year were you born?

Answer.

I was born in Albemarle County adjoining this County and in the year 1764.

2. Have you any record of your age and if so where is it.

Answer.

Yes I have always had a record of my age, it is in my family bible and if necessary will send it to the department.

3. Where were you living when called into service; where have you lived since the Revolutionary war; and where do you now live?

Answer.

At the time of my entering the war I was a resident of Culpeper County now Madison County, in and about three miles from where I now live; since the Revolution I have lived where I now live in Greene County Virginia formerly Orange County which was recently divided and Greene take from it.

4. How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute; and if a substitute for whom?

Answer.

I was a draughted soldier during the three tours – and was never a substitute for any one.

5. State the names of some of the Regular officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service?

Answer.

At the Battle of Petersburg the company in which I was was commanded by General Muhlenburg in the rear of his brigade. The battle was fought about one month after we were draughted, the Americans having to retreat, my Company escaped to Chesterfield Court House where we remained a day or two untill the British left Petersburg and went from the Bay. The Regulars were then marched to the lower country in pursuit of the British light Horse on land, and my company followed the regulars to the Bay and the British having left we came on back. The battle of Petersburg was in the year 1781 – about one month after we reached the lower Country. I also knew Major Nat. Welch who married in my County of Culpeper he was a regular officer and my company at one time during my service. In proof of this I shall always remember that Welch in laying off platoons struck Stephen Ham who was standing between me and George Bradley three times over the head with a stick – in consequence of the pan of his gun being open. I also knew Major Hardyman who was also a regular officer. I remember he wore a red coat invariably.

6. Did you ever receive a discharge from the service; and if so by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Answer.

I never received a discharge from either the first second or third tour – but nevertheless we were invariably discharged verbally by our officers which I remember quite well.

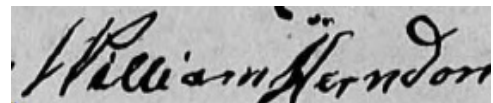
7. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution?

Answer.

For the last 60 years I have resided at my present residence and I suppose allmost the entire neighborhood are acquainted with me. I know James F. Finks, Cap. Edward Cason, William Eddins minister of the Gospel, Franklin Finks, Richard D. Simms – Cap. William Simms – Robert Brookin and a host of others all of whom are neighbors to me and have known me for many years past.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year above

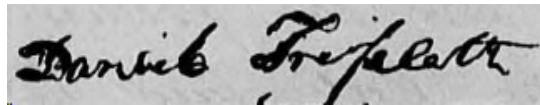
Teste. Ro Pritchett Clk



Virginia/ Rockingham County towit:

I Daniel Triplett [pension application W6308] a revolutionary soldier and pensioner hereby certify under oath I was well acquainted with William Herndon of Culpeper, for at the time of the revolutionary war him and myself were residents of the said County and lived in the same neighborhood in that poriton of the County of Culpeper since taken off and now called “Madison” County. I remember in the latter part of September 1780 a call for men was made by Captain Ambrose Bohannan of said county and Mr. Herndon was drafted in his company for a three months tour together with others from the same neighborhood. Bohannans company got ready and marched as I understood to the lower

Country near Williamsburg. Mr. Herndon went in said militia company and he returned home accord to my memory in the Christmas of 1780 and I had a long talk with him about the war. In the following Spring of 1781 another call for men was made by Cap. Fisher Rice and Mr. Herndon again entered for a three months tour and was marched to the lower counties in Virginia about the middle of March 1781 – about one month after that time I joined a company from Culpeper under Captain [Elijah] Kirtley and marched down between Richmond & Williamsburg and fell in with Captain Rices company of militia men at a place called “Mobin Hills” a famous quartering place for soldiers. I thought the surrounding country at that place was the prettiest I ever saw in my life – found Mr. Herndon well and he was glad to see me and enquired how I left all at home – we were not seperated from that time till the draft of Rices men expired and then Herndon came on Home and I sent by him my best love to my relations – Whilst together during that tour he frequently told me of his having been in the battle of Petersburg a short time before our company marched his & he said it was “high time.” Rices company and mine remained together near on two months before his company were discharged. The Company in which I was remained on duty being a “volunteer company” and I never again saw Mr. Herndon till early in the month of July 1781 our company lay near Fredericksburg and Cap. Cowherd from Culpeper came down and joined us with a company of men & Mr. Herndon I well remember was a private in his Company – our companies remained together for some time at a place called “Jamanna” and from there went to the lower Counties – we were stationed a while in King & Queen and when we reached the C. H. of that County Cowherd discharged his company they having served out their time of three months. I again sent my love by Mr. Herndon to my relatives in Culpeper. After the war I moved from my old neighborhood to a distant part of Culpeper where I lived till a few years past I came to Augusta adjoining Rockingham and am now in the latter county attending “Taylors Spring” for my health. Mr. Herndon I think lives in Orange or Greene at this time but I have not seen him for a number of years I am eighty two years of age and my papers at Washington will shew the particulars of my service to which reference may be had. I think I draw a pension under an act passed about the year 1832.
[Certified on 2 July 1845 by Peachey Harrison J.P.]

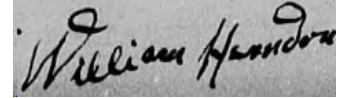


State of Virginia
Greene County S.S.

On this 12th day of June 1845 personally appeared before the Court of said County now setting Mr. William Herndon and who being duly sworn made oath in due form of Law to the truth of the following facts as his reason for delaying his application for a pension till this late day.

That more than 12 years ago he heard of the passage of a Pension Law and thinking himself entitled to pay for his services applied to Chas. Gibbs Esq'r. of Madison County adjoining this who was pension agent. That he was at that time prepared with witnesses to prove each of his tours and carried them with him to the Court House of said Madison County all which he can prove by individuals who remember the circumstances That he informed Mr. Gibbs of the particulars of his service that it was made in drafts of three months each and that thereupon Mr. Gibbs informed him he could not be pensioned because he should have served six months at one tour in order to entitle him to a pension and that his services being in tours of three months did not under the Law constitute a sufficient length of service at one time to come under its provision; that being the case he abandoned all hopes of success and made no further efforts to prosecute his claim not doubting but that Mr. Gibbs was fully advised of the Law on such cases – in which belief he remained untill the month of April last when he was informed by Coleman Payne another agent that his claim to a pension he thought a good one and that in his opinion Mr. Gibbs had given under misconstruction of the Law wrong advice. That at the time he applied to Mr. Gibbs he was prepared with witnesses to prove his tours but that now he knows of no one living by whom he could prove his services aforesaid – according to his memory all his comrades have since died.

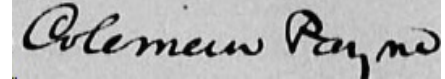
Sworn to and subscribed the day given above.
Teste Ro Pritchett Clk/ Greene County Court



Harrisonburg Virginia/ June 17th 1845.

Dear Sir [James L. Edwards, Commissioner of Pensions:

Enclosed herein are the papers of Mr. Herndon for a pension which you will please act on and inform me of the result as soon as you can – And I should also like to know the reasons of my not hearing something of Mrs. Sarah Goodalls [widow of John Goodall, W5284] case in whose favour I sent in April last a bundle of testimony from which I have not since heard a syllable. In haste/ Your obt. Servant
Coleman Payne



Greene County Virginia

This 13th day of June 1845 personally appeared before me in my said County Mr. William Herndon and made oath in due form of Law that the annexed leaf containing births and deaths was taken from his family bible and contains a [illegible word] record of the births and deaths of his family and is the only record he has had for many years.

Given under my hand and seal the day and date above written [signed] J. F. Finks JP
[Certified by Robert Pritchett, Clerk of Greene County.]

Greene County Court. 15th October 1846

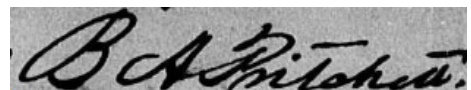
The Court doth Certify to the War Department at Washington City, that satisfactory evidence has this day been exhibited to said Court, that William Herndon Esqr a Revolutionary Soldier & pensioner is still alive, residing two and a half miles east of Ruckersville in Greene County Virginia; and that Capt Edward Cason and William T. Simms late Sheriff of Greene all his near neighbours, have been this day examined in open Court touching the premises; and they have seen and conversed with the said William Herndon within the last ten days – and that the aforesaid Edward Cason & William T. Simms are personally known to the Court, and are men of high standing and respectability – and it furthermore appears to the Court, that the said William Herndon made application for his yearly pay in the month of April last 1846, before Anthony Thornton Esqr. a Justice for the County aforesaid, and their being some irregularity in the papers prepared on that occasion, it was not paid by the agent at Richmond Va on presentation – and that said William Herndon being disappointed concluded to postpone further application till after the 4th of September 1846 so as to draw all monies due him up to that time. Accordingly in September last, he again made an affidavit in the usual form before Anthony Thornton Esqr. herewith enclosed, which was again rejected because the agent at Richmond thought under the regulations of the War office, it was [illegible word] by the length of time since the said William Herndons last draw – which accounts for the delay. All which is certified to the War Department.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto affixed my seal of Office and subscribed my name this 16th day of October 1846. [signed] Ro Pritchett Clk/ Greene County Court

Stanardsville 16th October 1846.

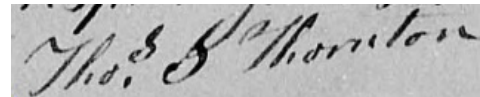
Sir [James L. Edwards, Commissioner of Pensions]
tried. Yours Respectfully.
B A Pritchett

Let me hear from the enclosed papers when



Greene County April 19th 1847

Dear Sir you will excuse me for troubling you at this time, you will see that Colman Pain was agent for William Herndon of Greene County Va pensioner in Sept. forty five he Pain informed Herndon that he had drawn for him two Hundred and forty dollars out of which the old gentleman gave him one hundred and twenty – so the old man has got only \$120 his yearly pension of \$30 a year Pain has denied drawing. in January last Herndon made me his agent giving me an order to Pain for his papers I applied and he told me that he had no papers of Herndons in his hands that Herndons yearly pension was rejected this conversation took place about the 10th of January last I amediently wrot to Mr Roberson pension agent in Richmond who sent me a statement of the money drawn for Herndon a Copy of which is hear annext and you will see that there is one draw of \$15 said to be paid at your office but doth not name to whom paid or at what time you will please answer this and state at what time and to whom paid as I have brought sute and wish to have every thing plain and with his (Pain) other deceptions he has withheld Herndons original Certificate therefore if it is consistant with law you will confer a faver on the old gentleman (Herndon) in sending a Copy of the certificate as he cannot draw his pention without it. please direct your letter to Savill post office Madison County Virginia/ I am with respect yours &c
Thomas S Thornton



William Herndon a Revolutionary Pensioner under Act of 1832 at \$30
Pension from the 4th of March 1831 to the 4th March 1845 \$420 paid 21 august 1841 to Pain
4 March to the 4 Sept 1845 \$15 paid at the treasury of the united states
4 Sept 1845 to the 4 March 1846 \$15 }
4 March 1846 to the 1 Sept 1846 \$15 } paid 2 Dec'r 1846 to Coleman Pain
Copy Test

William Herndon, Virginia roll, act of June 7, 1832, at \$30 per annum

Be pleased to say at what time, and to whom, the semi-annual payment due on the 4th September 1845, was paid.

Pension office/ Apl 27 1847.

Paid 21 Nov'r 1846 to Coleman Payne Attorney at Stanardsville Va.

A Copy.

State of Virginia }
Green County Ss }

Be it known that before me J F. Finks a Justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid personally appeared William Herndon, and made oath in due form of law, that he is the identical person named in the original certificate now illegally withheld by Coleman Payne, for no purpose that the undersigned (Wm Herndon can conceive of but to defraud him of his just dues by keeping him ignorant of the true amount he had drawn, as Coleman Payne informed the undersigned in Sept 1845, that he had succeeded in drawing for him Two hundred and forty dollars; and had the undersigned placed on the Pension List for Thirty dollars per Annum for life; and that he only accounted for two hundred and forty dollars; and that the undersigned knew not the fraud thus practised upon him until he received the intelligence from Mr. A. Robinson the pension Agent in Richmond, which shewed that Payne actually drew Four hundred and twenty dollars It therefore appears evident to the undersigned that had the certificate been exhibited the amount drawn would have been made manifest and plain

The undersigned being very old, and ignorant upon such subjects, only knows and presumes that he is entitled to two dollars and fifty cents per month for life for services rendered to the United States during the Revolutionary War, from information derived from C. Payne and from intimations from the statement of Mr A. Robinson, that he has no positive knowledge that the certificate was ever shewn to

him, and that he served in Capt Fisher Rices Company of militia (no of Regiment not recollected) the Commandant of the Regiment was Col. James Slaughter of the County of Culpeper, one tour, and in Capt Bohannans Company of Militia (no of Regiment not recollected) the Col of the Regiment was Muhlenburg, that he now resides in the County of Green County (formerly Orang) and has resided within the limits of said County about fifty five years as near as I can now recollect, and previous to that time, he resided in the County of Culpeper, now Madison County, Virginia (signed) William Herndon Sworn and subscribed this 22^d day of May 1847 before me/ Signed J. F. Finks. J.P.

State of Virginia
Green County Ss.

Conformably to the regulations of the War Department of the 27th October 1832. I. J. F Finks a magistrate in the County above named, do hereby certify, that I have the most satisfactory evidence from personal knowledge having been acquainted with the within named Pensioner William Herndon for the last sixteen years, and that the above named William Herndon, who this day appeared before me to take the oath of identity, is the identical pensioner he declares himself to be in the annexed Affidavits, and I am also satisfied that the statement made by him in relation to the Pension Certificate is true. Given under my hand the day and year above written. Signed, J F. Finks J.P.

[Robert Pritchett, Clerk of Greene County, certified that Finks was a magistrate.]

NOTES:

A pension certificate dated 7 Aug 1845 for \$30 per year was sent to "Coleman Page" of Harrisonburg, VA. Coleman Payne was involved in several fraudulent claims, as noted in my endnote to the pension application of John Gibson R3996. There is no indication that Herndon's claim was fraudulent.

The file contains the family record transcribed below.

William & mary Herndon the ages of our Children
William Herndon Son to Edward & Mary Herndon Was Born February the 29 1764
Mary Herndon was Born March 2, 17[page torn]
Thomas Herndon Born nvember 28[?] 17[page torn]
Edward Herndon Born May 13 1787
James Herndon Born January 23 1789
Ezekel Herrndon Born dcember 7 1790
Elesbeth Herndon Born June 6 1792
Mary Herndon Born May 2 1794
ABner Herndon Born January 22, 1796
Rachel Herndon Born august 25 1797
Henry Herndon Born September 9 1800
William Herndon Born January 29 1799
Manson Herndon Born June 29 1802
Joel Herndon Born July 27 1804
Tomas Herndon Born June 29 1807
Mary Herndon Departed this Life February the 26, 1835