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REAL ARCHIVAL FILE — This report reads the genuine Southern Claims Commission file of John A. M. Whealton of Chincoteague Island, Accomack County, Virginia (claim No. 20,184, allowed in full), a public record of the United States National Archives (RG 217). Chincoteague voted 138–2 to remain in the Union in 1861. It is published as a demonstration of the report itself.

A SOUTHERN CLAIMS COMMISSION REPORT

John A. M. Wheaton (also spelled Whealton)

*Southern Claims Commission claim No. 20,184 (also numbered 43,099), Accomack County,
Virginia; submitted to Congress 4 December 1876*

Family Keepsake Edition · Researcher-Reviewed

Prepared September 20, 2026

Every fact in this report is traced to the page that states it.

Prepared from the original Southern Claims Commission records of the United States National Archives (Record Group 217, allowed claims; Record Group 233, barred and disallowed claims).

John A. M. Wheaton (also spelled Whealton)

Short Biography

John A. M. Wheaton — his name written 'Whealton' on most of the file's covers — was a merchant and oyster planter of about forty-five on Chincoteague Island in Accomack County, Virginia, who stayed loyal to the Union through the war and even acted as an assistant provost marshal and pilot for federal forces. When Union soldiers stationed on the islands ran short of rations, he supplied them provisions from his store and hauled firewood to their camps, and never got paid for it. After the war he filed a Southern Claims Commission claim for \$82.10; the Commissioners believed his loyalty 'beyond a reasonable doubt' and, in December 1876, recommended payment of the full amount, which the Treasury paid in 1877.

The Story of John A. M. Wheaton of Chincoteague Island

John A. M. Wheaton lived his whole life on Chincoteague Island, in Accomack County on Virginia's Eastern Shore. He was about forty-four years old when he swore his deposition, a merchant and oyster planter who described himself in 1875 as a 'Revenue Boatman for the District of Cherrystone' (p. 9). His island, he said, 'gave only one vote for the ratification of secession, and one hundred & thirty five I think against it,' and he counted himself one of its leading Union men (p. 9).

This is a **Southern Claims Commission** file — the Commissioners of Claims created by the Act of March 3, 1871. To be paid, Wheaton had to prove two things by sworn testimony: that he had been **loyal to the Union throughout the war**, and that the property he claimed had been **taken or furnished for the use of the U.S. Army**. His claim, numbered 20,184 (and also carrying the settlement number 43,099), was for **\$82.10** worth of provisions and firewood.

Wheaton's loyalty story was a full one. He swore he never joined the U.S. Army but 'aided in recruiting Lieut Thomas' company of loyal Virginians' — some forty-seven or forty-eight men from the island — accompanied the captain of the U.S. gunboat *Louisiana* as a pilot in 1861, and, when Confederates removed the light apparatus from the lighthouse on the adjoining island, returned from Philadelphia two days later and 'with the aid of six other citizens replaced the light' (pp. 9–10). He said he gave Lieut. Thomas's company sixty dollars toward equipping it, had several nephews in the U.S. Army, and served as assistant provost marshal for Chincoteague Island, collecting the charges on goods exported (p. 10). Through Mayor Henry of Philadelphia he was allowed to bring supplies to the island and run his vessels to Philadelphia and New York, a permit he said the Secretary of the Treasury granted 'in recognition of my loyalty' (p. 11). He also swore he was once assaulted on the mainland by a man named Bauman, who then 'crossed the Bay and joined the Confederate army' when Gen. Lockwood's cavalry came searching for him (p. 11).

Six witnesses backed him, all examined the same day — 23 November 1875 — before Special Commissioner Thomas W. [surname uncertain] on Chincoteague Island (p. 5). William Risley, a 48-year-old oyster dealer 'of no connection of the claimant,' swore Wheaton 'voted and worked against secession' and was 'so recognized by the United States Authorities' as assistant provost marshal (pp. 15–16). Joseph S. Kenney, a merchant who came to the island in November 1863 as a member of Co. G, 1st Regiment Eastern Shore Maryland Volunteers, said Wheaton always 'expressed himself as a friend of the Union' (p. 17). Dr. Nathaniel S. Smith, an acting assistant surgeon in the U.S. Navy, called him 'an

avowed opponent of secession, and an unconditional Union man' who raised a very tall flagpole in 1861 with an American flag that 'could be seen on the Ocean' (pp. 18–19).

The property itself falls into two parts. The first seven items — flour, coffee, sugar, and pork — were furnished from Wheaton's store to a company of Union soldiers stationed at the Assateague lighthouse who 'got out of provisions' when their rations failed to arrive (p. 3). He charged them regularly on his books, and swore that both his clerks who could have proved the entries, William Wheaton and Isaac W. Wheaton, had since died (p. 13). The eighth item was **16 cords of wood** — 13½ cords delivered to Capt. Watkins's company of the 1st Eastern Shore Maryland Volunteers, and 2½ cords to a company under Capt. Montgomery, 10th Regiment U.S. Colored Troops (p. 13). He had a receipt for the 2½ cords but had mislaid it, and never made the fifty-mile trip to Salisbury to present it 'as the trip would have cost me more than the claim was worth' (p. 13). Two witnesses, Alfred Ewell and Zachariah George — both of whom afterward enlisted in Co. D, 10th U.S. Colored Troops — swore they were hired by Wheaton to haul the wood and delivered it to the troops (pp. 20–21).

The Commissioners found for him on both tests. 'That he was a loyal adherent to the Union cause there can be no reasonable doubt,' they wrote, and, noting 'No payment had ever been made,' recommended 'the payment of the amount claimed — \$82.10' (p. 3). The claim was submitted to Congress on 4 December 1876, allowed in full, and paid: the Treasury's certificate of March 1877 records 'Eighty two dollars and ten cents / \$82.10' payable in care of his attorney George C. Round of Manassas (p. 32).

One loose end runs through the paperwork. The claimant signed 'John A M Wheaton,' but nearly every printed cover and the Treasury records spell the surname 'Whealton' — the same man, differently rendered by different clerks (see the notes).

The loyalty case, read under the basis test

Wheaton's own deposition is the most interested evidence in the file — the claimant swearing to prove his own loyalty, the very thing the claim needed. He is an eyewitness/participant to his own acts (recruiting aid, piloting, replacing the light, the provost-marshal role), but recorded is not established: the oath proves he swore these things on 23 November 1875, not that each occurred as stated.

The corroborating witnesses were all examined the same day before the same special commissioner (p. 5), so their accounts are not fully independent even though the certificate affirms they were 'examined separately and apart.' Two of them — William Risley and Nathaniel S. Smith — each open their loyalty answers by echoing the single-vote-for-secession claim and the Philadelphia trading permit, showing a shared theme running through the neighborhood testimony (pp. 15–16, 18–19). Risley, Kenney, and Smith each swore to no connection with and no interest in the claim; Kenney's and Smith's knowledge came partly from being posted to the island during the war (a member of Co. G Md. Vols., and a Navy surgeon) rather than from lifelong acquaintance. The special commissioner added on the 'Last Page' that 'of the justice of this claim and the loyalty of the claimant I have no doubt whatever' (p. 22).

Wheaton answered 'No' to the long run of disqualifying interrogatories (Nos. 19–43), denying Confederate service, oaths, arrests, or aid to the rebellion (p. 12). Those answers satisfy the printed test; they are the claimant's own sworn denials.

The property and the army-taking

The claim listed eight items totaling **\$82.10** (p. 3): item 1, 25 lbs flour (\$1.25); item 2, 5 lbs coffee (\$2.00); item 3, 5 lbs sugar (\$.80); item 4, 100 lbs flour (\$5.00); item 5, 50 lbs pork (\$6.25); item 6, 5 lbs sugar (\$.80); item 7, 5 lbs coffee (\$2.00); and item 8, 16 cords wood (\$64.00).

The first seven items were furnished from Wheaton's store to Union soldiers stationed at the Assateague lighthouse who had run out of provisions (p. 3, p. 13). The wood was hauled to the troops' camps: 13½ cords to Co. G under Capt. Watkins, 1st Regiment Eastern Shore Maryland Volunteers, and 2½ cords to a company under Capt. Montgomery, 10th Regiment U.S. Colored Troops (p. 13). Alfred Ewell swore he hauled 9½ cords to the Methodist Protestant Church on Chincoteague and delivered it to Co. D, 10th U.S. Colored Troops (p. 20); Zachariah George swore he hauled thirteen and one-half cords to Capt. Watkins's camp (p. 21) — the two haulers describe overlapping deliveries, and both later enlisted in the 10th U.S.C.T. themselves.

The file also contains two separately filed petitions with differing details: one (pp. 23–26) claims \$18.10 for the store provisions, naming Lieut. Richard Corse (reading uncertain) and Col. Wm. Corse of Co. D, 1st Eastern Shore Maryland Volunteers, and dating the furnishing to about the 13th, 14th, and 16th of November 1863; the other (pp. 27–30) claims \$64 for '16 cords Pine wood ... used as fuel,' naming Capt. Wm. H. Watkins, Co. G, 1st E.S. Md. Vols., about 25 January 1864. Together these sum to the \$82.10 headline figure. The Assateague/Chincoteague setting places the taking in the Union occupation of the Eastern Shore islands.

Item 8 rested partly on a mislaid receipt for the 2½ cords, which Wheaton never presented to the quartermaster at Salisbury because the trip would have cost more than the claim was worth (p. 13). No prior claim had been presented and no payment ever received (p. 13).

The adjudication and outcome — allowed in full

The Commissioners allowed the claim **in full**. On the itemized report (p. 3), each of the eight items shows the amount claimed equal to the amount allowed, totaling **\$82.10** allowed. The remarks conclude: 'No payment had ever been made. We recommend the payment of the amount claimed — \$82.10' (p. 3). The summary cover records 'Amount Allowed \$82.10' and 'SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS December 4 1876' (p. 2).

Payment followed. The settlement card (p. 31) gives Claim No. 43,099, Sett. No. 2643, '\$82.10 ... Due him,' out of the appropriation for 'Claims of Loyal Citizens for Supplies furnished during the rebellion,' with a requisition of March 1877. The Treasury certificate (p. 32) states the United States owed 'Eighty two dollars and ten cents / \$82.10,' allowed by Act of Congress, Private No. 70, approved March 3, 1877, payable in care of George C. Round, attorney, Manassas, Va.

Named people in the file

- **John A. M. Wheaton / Whealton** — claimant; merchant and oyster planter, Chincoteague Island, Accomack Co., Va. (pp. 2–14, 23–30).
- **William Risley** — witness, 48, oyster dealer, born Atlantic Co., N.J., resident of Chincoteague ~25 years; swore no connection or interest (pp. 15–16).
- **Joseph S. Kenney** — witness, 33, merchant, born Federalsburg, Md.; came to island Nov. 1863 in Co. G, 1st E.S. Md. Vols. (p. 17).
- **Nathaniel S. Smith** — witness, 34, Deputy Collector of Customs, District of Cherrystone; acting assistant surgeon, U.S. Navy, aboard gunboat *Wilderness* during the war (pp. 18–19).

- **Alfred Ewell** — witness, 32, oysterman, Accomack Co.; hauled wood for claimant, later enlisted Co. D, 10th U.S.C.T.; signed by mark (p. 20).
- **Zachariah George** — witness, 39, waterman, Accomack Co.; hauled wood for claimant, later enlisted Co. D, 10th U.S.C.T.; signed by mark (p. 21).
- **Thomas W. [surname uncertain]** — Special Commissioner who took the testimony (pp. 4, 5, 14, 22).
- **George C. Round** — attorney at Manassas, Va., prosecuting the claim (pp. 4, 26, 30, 32).
- **Capt. Wm. H. Watkins** — Co. G, 1st E.S. Md. Vols., received the wood (pp. 13, 21, 29).
- **Capt. Montgomery / Lieut. Corse (reading uncertain)** — named in connection with the 10th U.S.C.T. deliveries and the store provisions (pp. 13, 25).
- **Brig. Gen. H. H. Lockwood, Capt. G. W. P. Smith, Dr. G. T. Watson** — named as loyalty witnesses relied upon in the petition (pp. 26, 30).

Documented negatives, source conflicts, and research gaps

The file establishes what Wheaton and six witnesses swore, and that the Commission and Congress found for him and paid \$82.10. It does not independently verify the wartime acts beyond the sworn accounts; the loyalty narrative is adversarially shaped to satisfy the printed test.

Name spelling: the claimant signs 'Wheaton,' but covers and Treasury records spell it 'Whealton.' Same man; see flags.

Claim numbers: the file carries both 20,184 (the Commission claim number) and 43,099 (the settlement/Treasury number, p. 31; Fold3 lists 43099, p. 33). Both are correct for their respective stages.

Dates and amounts across petitions: two petitions give partial amounts (\$18.10 provisions; \$64 wood) that sum to the \$82.10 total, and give somewhat different dates (Nov. 1863 vs. Jan. 1864) and officers — details the outside record could reconcile.

Deceased witnesses: Wheaton's clerks William Wheaton and Isaac W. Wheaton, who kept the store books, had both died before the hearing (p. 13); the store books themselves are not in the file.

Illegible entries are flagged rather than guessed: the special commissioner's surname, the officer's given name ('Corse?'), and several faint deposition passages.

Artifacts in the File

The file holds more than paperwork. These pages are reproduced here exactly as they were filed — a caption beneath each tells you what the record itself says about it, and nothing more.

[Page 1 image unavailable — see the file itself]

Plate 1 — target/navigation page (page 1). inscribed/captioned: "Roll 1 Target 5 ACCOMACK COUNTY, VIRGINIA Wheaton, John A. M.". Fold3 roll/target cover; upright.

[Page 2 image unavailable — see the file itself]

Plate 2 — summary report cover (rotated) (page 2). inscribed/captioned: "No. 20,184 / 43,099 CLAIM OF John A. M. Whealton OF accomac Co, Va SUMMARY REPORT. Amount Allowed \$82.10 SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS December 4 1876". Narrow booklet cover imaged upright; text legible.

[Page 31 image unavailable — see the file itself]

Plate 3 — settlement card (page 31). inscribed/captioned: "Claim No. 43.099 Sett. No. 2643 John A. M. Whealton Accomac Co. Va \$82.10 Due him". Treasury settlement card; upright.

Document Inventory

Page	Document Type	Summary
1	Target/roll navigation page	Roll 1, Target 5; 'ACCOMACK COUNTY, VIRGINIA / Wheaton, John A. M.' Fold3 header.
2	Summary report cover	Claim No. 20,184 (and 43,099); Claim of John A. M. Whealton, Accomac Co., Va.; Amount Allowed \$82.10; submitted to Congress December 4, 1876.
3	Commissioners' itemized report and remarks	Eight items claimed and allowed totaling \$82.10; remarks on loyalty and the furnishing of provisions and wood; recommends payment of \$82.10; signed by the Commissioners of Claims.
4	Testimony index cover	Claim No. 20,184; lists deponents and pages, taken by Special Commissioner, attorney Geo. C. Round; fees \$10; Nov. 26 1875 stamp.
5	Special commissioner's certificate	Hearing 23 November 1875 at Chincoteague Island; names claimant and witnesses Risley, Smith, Kenney, Ewell, George; certifies separate examination.
6	Printed standing interrogatories (Qs 1–31)	Standard printed loyalty and property interrogatories.
7	Printed standing interrogatories (Qs 32–64)	Continuation of the printed interrogatories, including questions to loyalty witnesses.
8	Printed standing interrogatories (Qs 65–80)	Continuation, including property-ownership and taking questions.
9	Deposition of claimant (p.1)	Wheaton, age 44, Chincoteague; merchant/oyster planter; loyalty answers 1–8; recruiting, piloting gunboat Louisiana in 1861.
10	Deposition of claimant (p.2)	Continues answers 8–14; replaced the lighthouse light, gave \$60 to Lieut. Thomas's company, nephews in U.S. Army, acted as assistant provost marshal.
11	Deposition of claimant (p.3)	Answers 15–21; Philadelphia

		trading permit through Mayor Henry; notary/revenue boatman; assaulted by Bauman.
12	Deposition of claimant (p.4)	Answers 22–48; 'No' to Confederate-related interrogatories; owner of supplies furnished from his store.
13	Deposition of claimant (p.5)	Provisions to soldiers at Assateague lighthouse; wood 13½ cords to Capt. Watkins and 2½ cords to Capt. Montgomery 10th U.S.C.T.; mislaid receipt; no prior claim.
14	Deposition of claimant (p.6)	Wood ready for shipment, worth \$10–14 per cord; purchased by the named captains; signed John A M Wheaton, attested by Special Commissioner.
15	Deposition of William Risley (p.1)	Age 48, oyster dealer; no connection/interest; claimant voted and worked against secession, acted as assistant provost marshal.
16	Deposition of William Risley (p.2)	Answer 64; knew no act by which claimant could establish Confederate loyalty; signed William Risley.
17	Deposition of Joseph S. Kenney	Age 33, merchant; arrived Nov. 1863 in Co. G, 1st E.S. Md. Vols.; claimant expressed himself a friend of the Union; signed.
18	Deposition of Nathaniel S. Smith (p.1)	Age 34, Deputy Collector of Customs; claimant an avowed opponent of secession, unconditional Union man; raised American flag 1861.
19	Deposition of Nathaniel S. Smith (p.2)	Names Union men; acting assistant surgeon U.S. Navy aboard gunboat Wilderness; signed N. S. Smith.
20	Deposition of Alfred Ewell	Age 32, oysterman; hauled 9½ cords wood to Methodist Protestant Church, delivered to Co. D 10th U.S.C.T.; later enlisted; signed by mark.
21	Deposition of Zachariah George	Age 39, waterman; hauled 13½ cords wood to Capt. Watkins's camp, 1st E.S. Md. Vols.; later enlisted Co. D 10th U.S.C.T.; signed by mark.
22	'Last Page' commissioner's note	Special Commissioner: 'of the

		justice of this claim and the loyalty of the claimant I have no doubt whatever.'
23	Petition cover	Petition of John A M Wheaton; residence Chincoteague Island, Accomack Co., Va.; amount claimed \$18.10.
24	Petition (property schedule)	Items: flour, coffee, sugar, pork totaling \$18.10 furnished for army use at Chincoteague Island.
25	Petition (continuation)	Property furnished to Co. D 1st E.S. Md. Vols., commanded by Lieut. Corse/Col. Wm. Corse; about 13th–16th Nov. 1863; loyalty declaration.
26	Petition (verification/attorney)	Geo. C. Round of Manassas authorized as attorney; sworn 21 Feb. 1873; loyalty witnesses Gen. Lockwood, Capt. Smith, Dr. Watson; other-fact witnesses George, Ewell, Wm. Wheaton.
27	Petition cover (second)	20184, Feb 25 '73; Petition of John A M Wheaton; amount claimed \$82.10; filed by Geo. C. Round; Dec 4 '75.
28	Petition (property schedule, second)	One item: Sixteen (16) cords Pine wood at \$4, \$64; cord wood ready for shipment, used as fuel.
29	Petition (continuation, second)	Wood furnished to Co. G 1st E.S. Md. Vols., Capt. Wm. H. Watkins, about 25 Jan. 1864; loyalty declaration.
30	Petition (verification/attorney, second)	Geo. C. Round authorized; sworn 21 Feb. 1873; loyalty witnesses Lockwood, Capt. G. W. P. Smith, Dr. G. T. Watson.
31	Treasury settlement card	Claim No. 43,099; Sett. No. 2643; \$82.10 due him; reported Mch 21 1874; requisition No. 3064; warrant March 29 1877.
32	Treasury certificate of allowance	United States to John A. M. Whealton, \$82.10 ('Eighty two dollars and ten cents'), Private No. 70 approved March 3 1877; payable care of Geo. C. Round; Comptroller's and Auditor's offices, March 1877.
33	Fold3 source information page	Source metadata: Accomack, Va.; Claim No. 43099; Wheaton, John A.M.; claim date 4 Dec 1876; M2094; RG 217.

Every Fact and Its Source

Each substantive fact in this report, with the document that states it. Tier 1 = sworn or own-hand documents; Tier 2 = official contemporaneous records; Tier 3 = claim-process paperwork; Tier 4 = administrative material. Notes mark facts a witness learned second-hand, values worked out by calculation, uncertain readings, and postings whose movement is documented but whose claimed activity is not independently confirmed.

Fact	Source document (page)	Tier	Notes
Claimant John A. M. Wheaton (signed 'Wheaton'; covers spell 'Whealton'), a merchant and oyster planter of Chincoteague Island, Accomack Co., Va., about 44–45 years old.	Claimant's deposition (p. 9)	1	—
Southern Claims Commission claim No. 20,184 (also settlement No. 43,099), Accomack Co., Va., under the Act of March 3, 1871.	Summary report cover (p. 2)	2	—
Claim submitted to Congress December 4, 1876, with amount allowed \$82.10.	Summary report cover (p. 2)	2	—
Petition sworn 21 February 1873 before the special commissioner; George C. Round of Manassas, Va., authorized as attorney.	Petition verification (p. 26)	1	—
Hearing held 23 November 1875 at Chincoteague Island before Special Commissioner Thomas W. [surname uncertain]; witnesses examined separately and apart.	Special commissioner's certificate (p. 5)	2	—
Claimant swore Chincoteague Island 'gave only one vote for the ratification of secession, and	Claimant's deposition (p. 9)	1	—

one hundred & thirty five I think against it,' and that he was one of its leading Union citizens.			
Claimant swore he aided in recruiting Lieut. Thomas's company of loyal Virginians (~47–48 men), acted as pilot on the U.S. gunboat Louisiana in 1861, and helped replace the lighthouse light after Confederates removed the apparatus.	Claimant's deposition (p. 9)	1	—
Claimant swore he acted as assistant provost marshal for Chincoteague Island, collecting charges on goods, and gave Lieut. Thomas's company \$60 toward equipping it.	Claimant's deposition (p. 10)	1	—
Claimant swore he obtained, through Mayor Henry of Philadelphia, permission to bring supplies to the island and run his vessels to Philadelphia and New York, granted 'in recognition of my loyalty.'	Claimant's deposition (p. 11)	1	—
Claimant answered 'No' to the disqualifying interrogatories (Nos. 19–43) denying Confederate service, oaths, arrests, or aid.	Claimant's deposition (p. 12)	1	—
William Risley (age 48, oyster dealer, no connection/interest) swore the claimant	Deposition of William Risley (p. 15)	1	corroborated by second source

'voted and worked against secession' and was recognized by U.S. authorities as assistant provost marshal.			
Joseph S. Kenney (age 33, merchant; arrived Nov. 1863 in Co. G, 1st E.S. Md. Vols.) swore the claimant 'expressed himself as a friend of the Union.'	Deposition of Joseph S. Kenney (p. 17)	1	corroborated by second source
Nathaniel S. Smith (age 34, Deputy Collector of Customs; wartime acting assistant surgeon U.S. Navy) swore the claimant was 'an avowed opponent of secession, and an unconditional Union man' who raised a tall American flag in 1861.	Deposition of Nathaniel S. Smith (p. 18)	1	corroborated by second source
The special commissioner recorded on the 'Last Page' that 'of the justice of this claim and the loyalty of the claimant I have no doubt whatever.'	Last Page commissioner's note (p. 22)	2	—
The first seven items (flour, coffee, sugar, pork) were furnished from the claimant's store to Union soldiers stationed at the Assateague lighthouse who had run out of provisions, and charged on his books.	Commissioners' report / claimant's deposition (p. 3)	2	—
Item 8 was 16 cords of wood: 13½ cords to Co. G under Capt.	Claimant's deposition (p. 13)	1	—

Watkins, 1st Regiment Eastern Shore Maryland Volunteers, and 2½ cords to a company under Capt. Montgomery, 10th Regiment U.S. Colored Troops.			
Alfred Ewell (age 32, oysterman) swore he was hired by the claimant to haul 9½ cords of wood to the Methodist Protestant Church on Chincoteague and delivered it to Co. D, 10th U.S.C.T., later enlisting in that company.	Deposition of Alfred Ewell (p. 20)	1	corroborated by second source
Zachariah George (age 39, waterman) swore he hauled thirteen and one-half cords of wood to Capt. Watkins's camp (1st E.S. Md. Vols.), later enlisting in Co. D, 10th U.S.C.T.	Deposition of Zachariah George (p. 21)	1	corroborated by second source
Claimant swore both his store clerks, William Wheaton and Isaac W. Wheaton, who kept the books, had since died, and that he had mislaid the receipt for the 2½ cords, never presenting it at Salisbury because the trip would cost more than the claim was worth.	Claimant's deposition (p. 13)	1	—
First petition claimed \$18.10 for provisions furnished to Co. D, 1st E.S. Md. Vols., about 13th–16th November 1863.	Petition (first) (p. 24)	1	source conflict
Second petition	Petition (second) (p.	1	source conflict

claimed \$64 for 16 cords of Pine wood used as fuel, furnished to Co. G, 1st E.S. Md. Vols., Capt. Wm. H. Watkins, about 25 January 1864.	28)		
The Commissioners found each of the eight items allowed equal to the amount claimed, totaling \$82.10, and wrote: 'No payment had ever been made. We recommend the payment of the amount claimed — \$82.10.'	Commissioners' itemized report (p. 3)	2	—
Settlement card records Claim No. 43,099, Sett. No. 2643, '\$82.10 ... Due him,' from the appropriation for 'Claims of Loyal Citizens for Supplies furnished during the rebellion'; requisition No. 3064, warrant March 29, 1877.	Treasury settlement card (p. 31)	2	—
Treasury certificate: United States owed John A. M. Whealton 'Eighty two dollars and ten cents / \$82.10,' allowed by Act of Congress, Private No. 70, approved March 3, 1877, payable in care of George C. Round, attorney, Manassas, Va.	Treasury certificate of allowance (p. 32)	2	—
Fold3 source metadata: Accomack, Virginia; Claim Number 43099; Claimant Wheaton, John A.M.; Claim Date 4 Dec 1876;	Fold3 source information page (p. 33)	4	—

Hard-to-Read Entries

These are original handwritten records, in places faded or damaged with age. Where a word could not be read with confidence, it is flagged here rather than guessed at - nothing in this report is invented. A researcher reviewed each entry below against the original scans; some were made out on a closer look, and the rest remain genuinely unclear.

- **Page 5** - flagged as hard to read (The special commissioner's surname is written in a difficult cursive throughout (pp. 4, 5, 14, 22) and cannot be read with confidence). A researcher re-checked it against the original scan; it remains genuinely unclear, which we note honestly.
- **Page 25** - flagged as hard to read (The officer's name in the first petition (p. 25) is faint; 'Corse'/'Comegys' is a tentative reading of the cursive). A researcher re-checked it against the original scan; it remains genuinely unclear, which we note honestly.

Where the Documents Disagree

Here two or more perfectly legible documents say different things. That is a finding about the record, not a reading problem - both versions are shown, and neither was silently preferred. Where the evidence clearly favored one reading, the story above follows it, and the note here says why - a visible weighing, never a silent one.

- **Page 2** - the documents disagree here (The claimant signs 'John A M Wheaton' (pp. 14, 23–30) while the printed covers and Treasury records spell the surname 'Whealton' (pp. 2, 4, 31, 32)). Both readings appear in the report; review confirmed the disagreement is in the record itself. Our read: Same individual; both spellings denote the claimant. Fold3 indexes him as 'Wheaton' (p. 33). Not adjudicated as an error; recorded as a clerical variant.
- **Page 2** - the documents disagree here (The Commission cover shows both 20,184 and 43,099 (p. 2); later Treasury and Fold3 records use 43,099/43099 (pp. 31, 33)). Both readings appear in the report; review confirmed the disagreement is in the record itself. Our read: 20,184 is the Commission's original claim number; 43,099 is the settlement/Treasury claim number for the same claim. Both are correct.
- **Page 24** - the documents disagree here (One petition claims \$18.10 for provisions (pp. 23–24) and another \$64 for wood (pp. 27–28), while the summary claim total is \$82.10 (pp. 2–3)). Both readings appear in the report; review confirmed the disagreement is in the record itself. Our read: \$18.10 (provisions) + \$64.00 (wood) = \$82.10 total; the two petitions are components of the single consolidated claim.
- **Page 13** - the documents disagree here (The claimant's deposition and the two petitions give somewhat different officers, units, and dates for the wood deliveries). Both readings appear in the report; review confirmed the disagreement is in the record itself. The evidence is evenly balanced; we do not choose between them.

About this report: it was produced from the file provided, read page by page. It does not search records beyond that file - the Research Gaps section points to the outside records that could carry the story further.