State of Pennsylvania
Cumberland County SS:

On this 29th day of January A.D 1853: personally appeared Catherine Hoffer, before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for said County, who being duly sworn according to law declares and says that she is the mother and heir at law of John Hoffer deceased, who was late a private in the "Texian Army" under command of Genl. Sommerville, that he served in said Command about nine months, and that he afterwards joined the Expedition of 300 under Command of Col. Fisher, known as the "Mier Expedition", that he was taken to the City of Mexico in said Expedition as a prisoner of War, and there compelled to labor upon the roads and highways near the City of Mexico, that they were for some time confined in the "Santiago Prison", and from thence the whole Expedition including her said son was taken to the "Castle of Perote", were they remained until the 8th day of October 1844, when they were finally liberated by order of the Mexican Government, that her said son was set at liberty at that time, he having suffered confinement and imprisonment for the period of more than 21 months, and further that he was in the Company of Capt. Cameron in said Expedition, who was shot near the City of Mexico by order of Capt. Genl. Santa Anna, and that after her son aforesaid returned from captivity in Mexico, he went to Texas were he is reported and believed to have died, that she has heard nothing from him since his her said son liberation, that she has learned upon inquiry that he is dead, that he died in Independence, Texas, after his return from captivity in the year 1845, and further that the late Hon. D. S. Kaufman, Member of Congress from Texas, made strict inquiry in regard to her said son and that he learned, that he was dead, and further that William Bentz of Carlisle, Pennsylvania at the request of Melchior Hoffer the father of the aforesaid John Hoffer decd. addressed Captain Walker a letter in relation to her said son's reported decease, and he replies by stating that he has learned with sincere regret the death of his Companion in Arms and Misfortunes, and further that Melchior Hoffer the father of the aforesaid John Hoffer decd, died on the 1st day of January A.D 1849, and that her said son was never married—

She makes this declaration for the purpose of Obtaining the benefits of "an Act Entitled an Act for the relief of the Mier Prisoners, passed by the Legislature of Texas, also for a balance of undrawn monthly pay &c. for services previous to his captivity—

Sworn & Subscribed before me
this 29th day of January 1853 —
M. Holcomb (Seal)
Justice of the Peace

Catharine Hoffer (Seal)

I, Certify that Catherine Hoffer who has sworn to the above statement in reference to the services and captivity of her son John Hoffer deceased, is well known to me for the period of thirty five years, that her statement can be relied upon, that her aforesaid son was well known to me, and that he is the identical person who was one of the Mier Prisoners, and who was taken prisoner at the "Battle of Mier" —

Witness my hand & seal this 29th day of Jany. A.D 1853:

M. Holcomb (Seal)
Justice of the Peace