

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters](#)

Virginia document pertaining to John Hacker VAS1749

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[From [digitalcollections of the Library of Virginia.](#)]

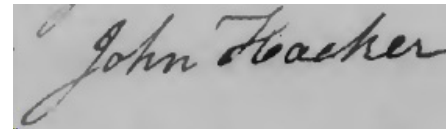
The Honorable the General Assembly of Virginia.

The petition of John Hacker humbly sheweth, That in the year 1777 he served ninety one days as a Private under the command of Captain James Booth, who commanded a company of Militia in defence of that part of the (then) western frontier of West Augusta which now composes the Counties of Harrison & Lewis, during which time he, our petitioner furnished his own rations, as will appear by a discharge accompanying this petition.

Your petitioner has never recieved any pay, either for the services or rations aforesaid, and begs leave therefore to remind your honorable body, that his claims originated at a time when individual happiness was abandoned, as well by himself, as thousands of his brave countrymen, who sought the liberty and independence of this our beloved country in the field. And although your petitioner was not employed, immediately against the British Arms, he was defending the Western frontier against their merciless Allies, the savages, whose known rule of warfare is such, as to render the service much more fatiguing and dangerous than to meet a civilized foe in the field of battle.

Your petitioner is now old and infirm, standing as it were on the brink of the grave, and hopes that while tottering downward to the time when all earthly comfort and enjoyments shall be to him of no avail, The hand of Justice may be opened, so as to smooth the latter end of his journey through life and make it a contrast to the first. Then may she smile and say, "Though I have heretofore aided in placing in your road, I will now strew it with roses;

Your petitioner therefore humbly prays that a law be passed affording him ample relief and he as in duty bound will ever pray &c.

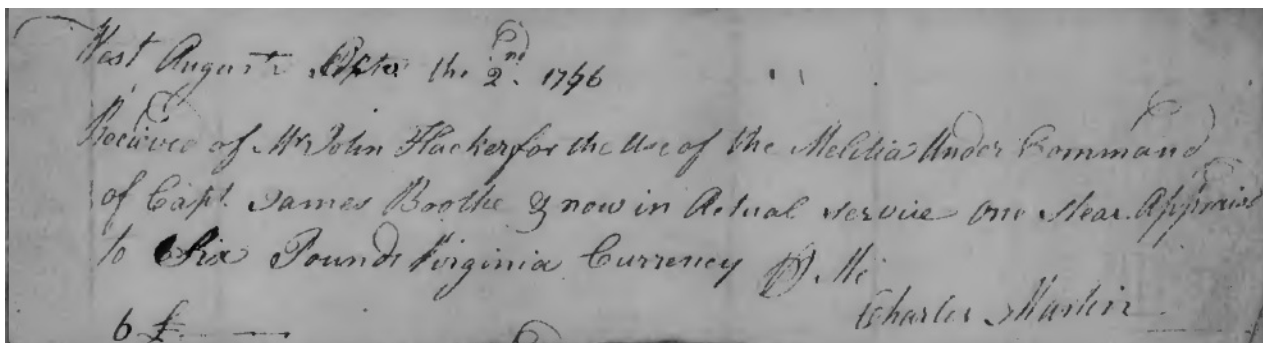


[In different handwriting on same page] there are no books or Papers in this office, to shew that the Petitioner was in service, nor is any thing to shew that he ever rec'd pay. I can only say that I have never Paid this claim.

Jno. Br[rest of name illegible]

Aud'r off B Lands [Auditor's Office Bounty Lands]

[In different handwriting] John Hacker's Pet'n ref'd. to Claims Dec'r. 13th 1819/ Reasonable Bill drawn Jany 6th

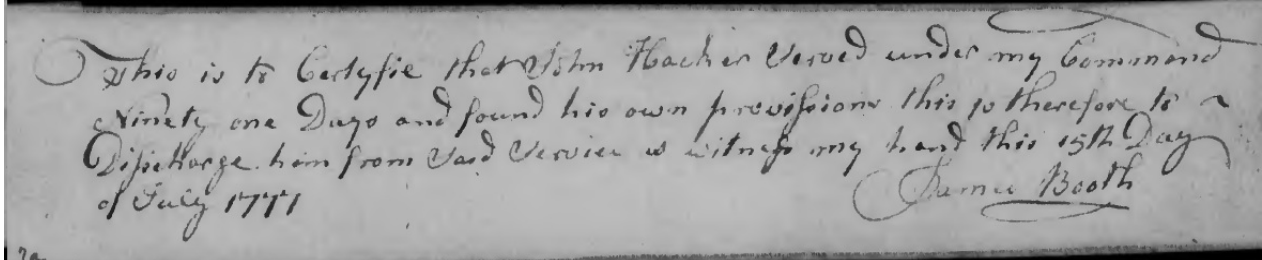


West Augusta Sept 2nd 1776
Receipt of Mr John Hacker for the use of the Militia under Command
of Capt. James Booth & now in Actual service on West Augusta
to Six Pounds Virginia Currency D. M.
Charles Martin

West Augusta Octo the 2nd 1776

Received of Mr John Hacker for the use of the Militia Under Command of Capt. James Boothe & now in Actual service one Stear Appraisd to Six Pounds Virginia Currency
6£ QM [Quartermaster] Charles Martin

[See endnote regarding the following discharge.]



This is to Certifie that John Hacker served under my Command Ninety one Days and found his own provisions this is therefore to Discharge him from said service as witness my hand this 15th Day of July 1777
James Booth

This is to Certifie that John Hacker served under my Command Ninety one Days and found his own provisions this is therefore to Discharge him from said service as witness my hand this 15th Day of July 1777
John Booth

This 20th day of November 1819 personally appeared before me a Justice of the Peace in and for Lewis County John Hacker and made oath that he never received pay for any part of the servis refered to in the petition of said Hacker
Given under my hand/ John McWhorter J.P.

Lewis County to wit

personally appeard before me a justice of the peace in and for said County James Keith and made oath that he knew James Booth to be a Militia Captain Commanding a Company in West agusty in 1776 or 77 Sworn to to before me this 29th day of November 1819
John Mitchel J.P.L.C

To the General Assembly of Virginia

your Petitioners beg leave to represent to your honerable Body that John Hacker now deces'd entered into the service of this state some time in the latter end of the year 1776 or early in the 1777 as a Ranger or Spy in a Company of Rangers Commanded by Capt James Booth and continued in service as a Ranger untill the death of Capt Booth in Spring 1778 [16 Jun 1778] – when he was killed by the Indians. that after the death of Booth not one of the company was ever able to get pay from the state for their services owing perhaps to the fact – that at the time this country was almost an entire Wilderness and scarcely a mongst them with learning enough to understand the rotine of doing business for the soldiers – your Petitioners haveing understood that the legislater of this State have in several instances made Provisions to pay individuls for services rendered in said company upon proff of their service they conceeve your honerable will extend to them the same act of justice upon prooff of the service of their decesed Parent. they conceeve it to be a debt justly owing and hardly earned and will not permit themselves to doubt the intention of your honerable Body to do equal justice to all upon like proff – They therefore pray your honerable body to pass a law directing the auditer to pay to the heirs of John Hacker deces'd for thirteen months service as a Ranger in the company of Captain James Booth and ever will pray &c
Jonathan Hacker/ Absalom Hacker/ Thomas S. Hacker/ Sarah Smith {Late Sarah Hacker
[In different handwriting] Jany 10th 1839 ref'd to Claims

Virginia Lewis County toWit

this day David W Sleeth [pension application S6111] personally appeared before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for said county and made oath that John Hacker decesed served as a Ranger in the Company Commanded by James Booth thirteen months in the year 1777 and 1778 and that this affiant verily

believes that John Hacker never did receive his pay for the said service this affiant further state that he is now in his 77th year of age and served in the same Company with the said John Hacker given under my hand this 19th day of December 1838
W. B. Barns J.P.

NOTE: The handwriting and signature on the discharge do not appear to be the same as on discharges signed by James Booth in the pension application of Joseph Koon (Coon) (VAS1748). See also Booth's handwriting and signature in the letter to Zadock Springer shown and transcribed below. (The letter is in the Draper Manuscripts 4 ZZ 10 and can be seen at <http://rondan.blogspot.com/2013/08/capt-james-booth-in-draper-manuscripts.html>.) I am grateful to David Houchin for bringing the apparent forgery to my attention.

Koon Fort 2^d August the 2^d 1777
By Certain and Satisfactory Intelligence from the Upper Garrisons we Learn tha on the 31st of last month a certain Charles grigsby Wife and Child was Kild and Skalpt and one mising seposd to Be Captivated But to inform you more flly he was Living on the waters of Elk Creek and had moved home Wint out in the Morning after his cows and on his Return found not his family and most every other thing Which convint him the were Takend and wen the news spred a Company posued them about four Miles and found her or child [found her as above?] – the number is seposd to be 13 or 14 our men intended to puse them 5 Day in which return shall be able to satisfy you more These from your friend
and Humbl Svt
James Booth

Sir
Koon Fort August the 2st 1777
By Sertain and Satisfactory Inteligence from the Upper Garrisons we Learn tha on the 31st of last month a sartain Charles grigsby Wife and Child was Kild and Skalpt and one mising seposd to Be Captivated But to inform you more flly he was Living on the waters of Elk Creek and had moved home Wint out in the Morning after his cows and on his Return found not his family and most every other thing Which convint him the were Takend and wen the news spred a Company posued them about four Miles and found her or child [found her as above?] – the number is seposd to be 13 or 14 our men intended to puse them 5 Day in which return shall be able to satisfy you more These from your friend
and Humbl Svt
James Booth