

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Cooper VAS1835

4

Transcribed by Will Graves

4/3/15: rev'd 3/10/22

[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 'indecipherable' or 'undeciphered' 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. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

[From [Digital Library of Virginia](#)] Russell County Legislative Papers

To the Honorable Speaker and members of the House of Representatives of Virginia.
The petition of William Cooper & Sundry Citizens of Russell County and State of Virginia humbly sheweth that your petitioner was a soldier in the Revolutionary War, now is in his 78th year of age, and very feeble and sickly in body and destitute of all the means of comfort and necessaries of life save what are contributed by the hands of one or two charitable individuals. Your petitioner was engaged in a skirmish at Bunker's Hill [Bunker Hill, June 17, 1775] and there by his own activity and courage took a prisoner of the enemy and delivered him to Gal. Washington [General George Washington], he was also engaged in the Battle of Long Island [August 27, 1776] under the Command of [Lt.] Col. Hand¹, on account of sickness he was thence discharged & enlisted a substitute; after his recovery your petitioner was enrolled in the Malitia [sic, militia] under the command of Genl Putnam² and acted as Sergeant-Major; he was under the command of Genl Potter [?]³ at the Battle of Brandywine [September 11, 1777] and acted as Adjutant in a skirmish near Philadelphia and at the Battle of Germantown [October 4, 1777] he was also engaged. Your petitioner had formerly some property which he gave to his sons on condition they would support him during his life, they by misfortune and bad management became insolvent, so that they were unable in any endeavor to contribute the comforts or even the necessaries of life to your petitioner, who is as destitute as possible to be, and has been so for a year or more and is indebted for his subsistence for that length of time to the charity of one or 2 individuals as above stated; the prayer therefore of your petitioner is that he may be placed on the Pension List and he as in duty bound will ever pray &c
S/ William Cooper



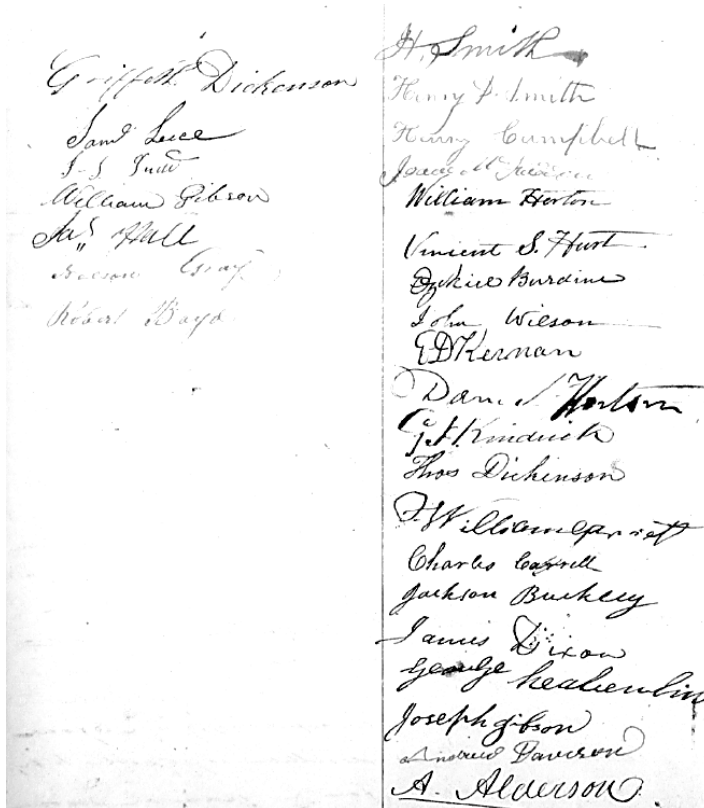
¹ Probably then Col. (later Brigadier General) Edward Hand of the Pennsylvania rifleman on the Continental Establishment.

² Probably then Major General Israel Putnam of the Connecticut Continental Line

³  Perhaps Major General James Potter of the Pennsylvania militia

Griffith Dickenson
Samuel Luce
S. S. Sand [?]
William Gibson
James Hall
[signature too faint to discern]
ditto

H Smith
Henry D [could be P] Smith
Henry Campbell
[signature too faint to discern]
William Herton
Vincent S Hurt
Ezekiel Burdine
John Wilson
E. D. Kernan
Daniel Hartson
G? Kindrick
Thomas Dickenson
William Garrett
Charles Carrell
Jackson Buckley
James Dixon
George healienlin
Joseph Gibson
Andrew Davison
A. Alderson



[Note: Even though the following document refers to “Wm Cooper” in the 3rd person twice, I believe the document is a more detailed by Cooper of his services in the Revolution. The image of this document is very faint so use my transcript with great care.]

In the year 1775^{August} I entered in to the Revolutionary war. I marched from York town in Pennsylvania, under the command of Captain Michal Dawdle [sic, Capt. Michael Dowdle]⁴ belonging to the first Rifle Regiment of Pennsylvania, Commanded by Colonel Edward Hand. We marched to Cambridge & there^{we} ware [were] attached under the Command of Gen. Washington, Captain Dawdle's^{company} marched Down to Bunkers Hill-neck, where we attacked the British picket gard [sic, guard]: we ware caused to retreat, in the march I was so fortunately as to take a prisoner and Deliver him to Washington – 30 days afterwards I killed a British mager [sic, major] fare [sic, far?] off off the british Brest work. In 1776 March, – we marched for New York in April and from that to long Island, & on 27th of August 1776 where Wm Cooper stood in defense of America, The enemy being two [sic, too] strong we ware compelled to retreat in to New York under the Command of Captain Henry Miller. Then said Cooper was taken sick, and was discharged and sent home. In the year 1777 I marched to Jarseys [sic, Jerseys] under the command of Captain James McFarlane[?]⁵ attached to the regiment commanded by Mag. [sic, Major] James Dill an [sic, and?] then acted as Sergeant magor [major] under Mag. Dill & served three months. Colonel James Thompson appointed me as Adjutant and we march[ed] from York town in the year 1777 to Brandywine the Brigade being Commanded by General Potter, and was in the battle at Brandywine on the 11th day of September 1777 and also in the Battle of Germantown. I also acted as Adjutant on 4th day of October 1777

78 years of age

[the document ends here and bears no signature or date]

William Cooper Detail of the war

F. L B. Shaver [????]

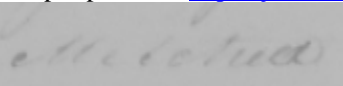
William Cooper's Petition

H. Gray

December 19th 1828

Referred to Revolutionary Claims

⁴ See pdf posted at <https://journals.psu.edu/pmhb/article/viewFile/26517/26274>

⁵ 

Anne Lineberry, who has done extensive research relating to her ancestor, William Cooper, suggests that this officer is likely to be Capt. James McFarlane.