

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Petition of John Copin [sic, John Coppin] VAS1857

11

Transcribed by Will Graves & Kristie Cornett

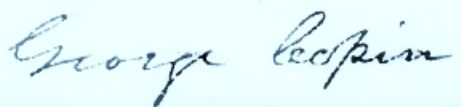
4/12/15 rev'd 8/27/16

[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 'indcipherable' 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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[From [Digital Library of Virginia](#)] Prince William County legislative papers

To the Honorable: the General Assembly of Virginia the petition of the undersigned George Copin respectfully represents: that sometime since your petitioner became entitled, as sole representative of John Copin deceased to a large sum of money, say one thousand dollars, the same having become due, at the expiration of the revolutionary war, to the said John Copin deceased in consideration of his services as a revolutionary soldier on state establishment, during that arduous Struggle for our independence; as your petitioner was certainly informed by Samuel Shepherd formally Auditor of Public Accounts. But unfortunately for your petitioner circumstances prevented him from presenting his claim to the auditor, until after the expiration of the period of limitation, which the said Shepherd informed him the law had prescribed in bar of all Claims for pay, not presented with[in] such period. Your petitioner was totally ignorant of the existence of any such law, both by reason of the circumstances of his situation and his condition in life. Your petitioner has been deprived of a portion of the evidence of his claim by their destruction at Washington, with others sent there from the state Auditor's Office; but your petitioner hopes that the papers he [here]with presented will induce your Hon. body to all [allow] him the amount which was formerly due to the said John Copin deceased & which was never paid as your petitioner was certainly informed by said Shepherd – Your petitioner humbly represents that he is very poor & advanced in life & has to support a family & that this boon [?] which was due to his brave brother who replied when he was solicited by his father to return to his family, replied he was determined to protect & defend his "country, & to be a scourge to British tyrants as long as life should last" – all which your petitioner respectfully sheweth & as in duty bound will ever pray:

S/ George Copin



[Reverse]

George Copin's Petition for Revolutionary Services

Do you to John Copin deceased

December 19<sup>th</sup>, 1827

George W Macrae

referred to Claims 1827 December 19<sup>th</sup>

laid on table  
1828 January 4  
rejected  
5 Reported

[Letter in the handwriting of John Coppin (note his signature below)]

Camp Kakiate [?] State New York Octr 16<sup>th</sup> '79

Honoured Sir,

Yesterday Evening, I received a letter from you dated May the 4<sup>th</sup> '79; and I am exceeding happy to hear that you and all Friends is well But I am very Sorry to hear that you should be informed with a falsity concerning my being impos'd [imposed] upon by my Company But am [indecipherable word]<sup>1</sup> more a maiz'd [amazed] to think that you should believe so unlikely a Story for the fellow that you say told Mr. Rigby that he was in company with me and saw me impos'd upon is a Grand & Grrant [great] Lyar [Liar]: for I never saw his face as I know of: Neither do I believe that Ever he saw mine. Neither has any person living saw me impos'd upon by my men: No, deth [death] would be Sweeter, and the Grave more welcome to me, then to live and enjoy the world [?] and to have the Command and Authority over men, and not be capable of compelling them to obey my orders. What me impos'd upon by my men: I suppose you mean insolence of Language and Disabedience [Disobedience] of orders: No it is entirely a vorse [adverse] to that, for my men, stands in as much Submission, and pays as much honour & respect to me as though I was a commissioned Officer. What I to be the first and orderly Sergeant of the Company, in whose hands lies the whip case and Command of the Company; to Suffer my self to be impos'd upon by my man; No – my Sergeants & Corporals are in more Submission and pays more honour and Respect to me than some other Sergeants' Private Soldiers do to them. I am filled with a maze [amazement] & a stonishment [astonishment] to think that you should believe so unlikely a Story for I thought that you always know'd that my Spirits was too great to Suffer myself to be impos'd upon, by any man living – What me impos'd upon No never as long as Life, health & strength last, will I ever Refuse a challeng [challenge] or take an affront from any man Living

But if anyone doubts my manhood, [paper damaged and text missing] Conduct or carrecter [Character], Let them apply to the Officers and Soldiers of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Virginia Regiment where I am Satisfied they will find Sufficient Proof of each kind

I wrote you a Longe [long] Letter dated October 8<sup>th</sup> '79 wherein I gave you an account of all Present affairs, which I believe to be in very trusty hands and I believe you will not fail to get it. I have nothing new to inform you of at Present.

I am in full health and Spirits, and may these lines find you in that happy state.

I am with Great Sincerity, your Affectionate Son John Coppin



[Another letter which appears to be in the handwriting of the veteran but the image as posted online is very faint and impossible to totally transcribe. Kristie Cornett, however, has provided a

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<sup>1</sup> *Spirit*

transcript as follow:

*Camp Mount Morris (New York), Oct. 19, 79'*

*Honored Sir,*

*Yesterday morning I received a letter from you dated Oct. 16, 79', in which I had the happiness to hear that you and all the family was well, but I should be very glad to know what you mean by my retiring from the indulgences of the army life. What would you have me to do, would you have me to come skunking home like a ? dog with it's tail tucked in his ? it the ? of the small sphere of 3 years or would you have me to ? self to the dull life of a farmer or some other country labor ? ? ? ? to build the wall of my house and not the ? So would you have me to ? ? ? when the fight is all in my own hands.....no. I am determined to be a Light Dragoon & for one of brave Washington. I'll protect & defend my friends & country & to be a scourge to the British Tyrants. ?????*

*I am your affectionate son*

*John Coppin*

A photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read "John Coppin". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper. The signature is positioned at the end of a line of text, and there is a small square mark at the bottom right corner of the image area.

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Revised and supplemented 8/27/16

[From [bounty land records in the Library of Virginia](#)] 8-page file

[p 2]

Fauquier County 13<sup>th</sup> September 1806

I do hereby Certify to the best of my recollection that there was a Soldier by the name of John Coppin who served in Captain Valentine Peyton's Company in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Virginia Continental Regiment during the late Revolution in America, the term of his service I cannot recollect neither do I know whether he served as a noncommissioned officer.

S/ John Blackwell, Junior  
Capt. in the late 3<sup>rd</sup> Virginia  
Continental Regiment

Fauquier County 19<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1806  
 I do hereby certify to the best of my recollection that  
 there was a Soldier by the name of John Copin  
 who served in Capt. Valentine Peyton's Company in the  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Virginia Continental Regiment during the late  
 Revolution in America. The term of his service  
 I cannot recollect neither do I know whether he  
 served as a noncommissioned Officer,  
 John Maxwell Junr.  
 Capt. in the late 3<sup>rd</sup> Virginia  
 Continental Regiment

[pp 3-4: Mostly illegible as posted a letter dated October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1826 sent from Prince William  
 County by George Copin in which he refers to his claim for the bounty land due for the services  
 of his brothers John Copin & Samuel Copin both of whom served in the revolutionary war. He  
 signed this letter as follows:

S/ Geo. Copin



A highly stylized, cursive handwritten signature of George Copin, featuring large loops and flourishes.

[pp 7-8: Partially legible affidavits dated August 20<sup>th</sup> 1806 given in Prince William County,  
 Virginia before Alexander Henderson, JP, by James Grindstead and James Holleday in which  
 both say that they were acquainted with William Copin of said County;  
 Grindstead states that William Copin had 5 sons, namely, William, John, Samuel, George and  
 Zacheus; that Samuel has been dead many years; that John enlisted in the service of his country;  
 that John has not been heard from for many years; that William, George and Zacheus are still  
 living;  
 Holleday states that William Copin had the 5 sons named above; that Samuel has been dead  
 many years; that John, as affiant believes, left his father's house about 20 years ago and has not  
 been heard from since; that the other brothers are still living; [a portion of Holleday's affidavit is  
 missing as posted online and picks up on page 8 as follows:  
 "the command of Captain Valentine Peyton that he remained three years in the Service being the  
 term for which he enlisted, and at the expiration of the term was regularly discharged – that he  
 acted as a Sergeant upwards of one year before his time expired – that the circumstances all well  
 known to this Deponent because he himself served in the same Regiment the whole of that time  
 and remained in the service after the said John Copin was discharged." ]