

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Dabney Cooper R2296

Henrietta Cooper

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Tennessee } On this 4<sup>th</sup> day of December 1832 personally appeared Dabney Cooper an  
Smith County } acting Justice of The peace for said County before me Patrick Fergusson another  
of the acting Justices of the peace for Smith County he the said Dabney Cooper being a resident of Smith  
County and State of Tennessee, who being first duly sworn deposeth and says on his oath that he is  
seventy four years of age on the 22<sup>d</sup> day of November last that he was born in Virginia Albemarle County  
he further he further under his said oath makes the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of  
the act of Congress passed the 7<sup>th</sup> June 1832

That he entered the services under the authority of the State of Virginia as a volunteer under Captain Wm  
Leftrich [sic: William Leftwich] he marched from bedford County Virginia through botetourt to the lead  
mines in Montgomery County [near Fort Chiswell in present Wythe County] in said State and was there  
stationed to guard the mines from the Brittish and Tories the Leutenant of their Company was named  
Jonathan Richardson the name of the other officers not at this time recolected this was in the month of  
June 1776 and continued a six months tour that he well recolects that their term of six months services  
expired a short time before the Christmas Holidays and the troops were anxious to return home in order  
to spend the time with their families that owing to the new troops not having arrived the officers were  
induced to call upon the soldiers then in service to continue one month longer until other troops could  
arrive that he with many others volunteered and staid another month making a seven months tour he  
does not recolet that any discharges were given to any of the company the great object was to guard the  
lead mines as much lead was made, and as he believes the army was mostly suplied from the lead that  
was made there. Colonel James Callaway was there at that time superintending the making of lead  
Shortly afterwards he thinks the year afterwards he volunteered again under Captain Henry buford and  
was in service a six months tour at the long Island in Holstein river [sic: Long Island of Holston River at  
present Kingsport TN] as a guard during a great treaty with the Cherokee Indians [Treaty of Long Island,  
20 Jun 1777] Thinks the comm[and] of the Virginia troops were under Col William Christie [William  
Christian] there were other troops from North Carolina but could not say under whose command  
Thinks Col [William] Preston was engaged as an officer of troops or to carry on the treaty. thinks this  
must have happ[page torn] in 1777 or 78 does not think that any discharges were given believes the  
volunteers generally did not demand any could name a great many soldiers that served at the same time  
but most of them are dead does not recolect any of the regular troops stationed there – was in no  
engagement, he still lived in Bedford County Virginia Thinks there were another Company from  
Pitsylvania [sic: Pittsylvania] County commanded by William Witcher

Again he served a third tower of six months as a volunteer and was stationed at the same lead mines he  
served his first tower he was this time under the command of Leutenant William Watts he acted this  
time as a Sergant to the Company thinks Edward Burgess acted as first Sergant cannot be certain as to  
the date of this service but it must have been shortly after his former services; he still lived in Bedford  
County Virginia received no dischare was stationed there for the purpose of guarding the lead mines  
from the Brittish and Tories and to protect the labourers while making lead, was in no engagement in  
none of the tours of service, affiant knew of several of the soldiers who served with him and had lived in  
reach of his accquantage but they are all dead knows of no person living in reach of him by which he  
could prove his servies Has no written testamony or other documentary evidence He hereby  
relinquishes ever claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is  
not on the pension roll of the agency of any state or teretory of the United States

[signed] Dabney Cooper

Question by the Justies of the peace

Where and in what year were you born

Answer that is mentioned and stated fully in my foregoing declaration

2<sup>d</sup> Have you any record of your age and if so where is it

Answer, my age is recorded in the family bible and was last in possession of my older Brother I saw it a few years ago it was formerly the property of my father

3 Where were you living when called into service Where have you lived since the revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Answer I never lived but in Virginia & Tennessee

4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> interogatories are answered in the foregoing declaration

7<sup>th</sup> State the names of the persons in your neighbourhood to whom you are known and who can testafy as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the revolution

Answer I believe my neighbours are all acquainted with these facts and will name only those who are now present to wit Dempsey Driver Willie Brown and Alexander Fergusson

State of Tennessee }

Smith County } On this 8<sup>th</sup> day of July 1833 personally appeared Dabney Cooper an acting Justice of the peace for County and State aforesaid (he being a resident and now living in said County and State of Tennessee) before me Patrick Fergusson another of the acting Justices of the peace in and for the County and State aforesaid at the house of Alexander Fergusson in said County of Smith he the said Dabney Cooper being unable through old age and bodily infirmity to attend the court of the County in order to make the declarations required and here contained, in open Court Who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benifit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. that he is 74 years of age on the 22<sup>d</sup> day of November last That he was born in Virginia Albemarle County. That he entered the services under the authority of the State of Virginia as a volunteer under Captain William Leftrick he marched from Bedford County in the same State through Botetourt to the lead mines in Montgomery County in said State and was there stationed to guard the mines from the Brittish and Tories The Leutenant of their Company was named Jonathan Richardson the name of the other officers not now recolected. This was in June 1776 he continued to serve as a volunteer as aforesaid for six months in this tour that he well recolects that their term of services for six months expired a short time before the Christmas holidays and the troops were anxious to return home in order to spend the time with their families. That owing to the new troops not having arrived the officers were induced to call upon the solders and volunteers then in service to continue one month longer until other troops could arrive – that he being young and not married agreed together with many others again volunteered and staid another month making in all a seven months tour – he would here state as it is a circumstance he well recolects but thought it uncessary to mention in his former declaration that after the new year come in he and the rest of the solders were writting the new date consisting of three sevens (1777) he does not recolect that any discharges were given to any of the company nor did they demand any the great object was to guard the lead mines as much lead was made there and as he believes the army was mostly suplied from the lead that was made there. Col. James Calloway was their comander and staid there all that time and superintended the the making of lead. Shortly afterwards he thinks the year following and to the best of his recolection in the month of april 1778 he volunteered under Captain Henry Buford and was in service a six months at the long Island in Holstein river as a guard during a great treaty was held with the Cherokee Indians believes the command of the Virginia troops were under Col William Christie, there were other troops from North Carolina but could not say under whose command Thinks Col Preston was engaged as an officer of troops or to carry on the treaty Thinks this must have happened in 1778 does not think that any discharges were given believes the volunteers generally did not demand any. Could name soldiers that

served at the same time but most of them are dead that are within his acquaintance. Does not recollect the names of any of the regular troops stationed there was in no engagement he still lived in bedford County Virginia from which place he marched in this tour to the long Island in Holstein river as before stated He served the full period of six months this tour as a volunteer. He thinks there was another company from Pittsylvania County in Virginia commanded by William Witcher Again he served a third tower of six months as a volunteer and was station at the same lead mines he served his first tour he was this time under the command of Lieutenant William Watts, he acted this time as a Sergeant to the company thinks Edward Burgess acted as first Seargant cant be certain as to the time this service but it must have been shortly after his former tours of service and long before the termination of the war with Great Brittain. He still lived in Bedford county Virginia [from] which place he marched, received no written discharge was statio[ned] there for the purpose of guarding the lead mines from the British and Tories and to protect the labourers from making lead, was in no engagement in any of the tours of Services. This affiant knew of several of the soldiers with him and had lived in reach of his acquaintance but they are all dead knows of no person living within his knowledge by which he could prove his servies Has no written testamony or other documentary evidence He hereby relinquishes ever claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state or teretory of the United States [signed] Dabney Cooper This affiant Dabney Cooper further makes oath that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory and bodily infirmity he cannot state with precision the many circumstances that took place during the three tours of s[ervice] mentioned above but he serve a 7 months tour and two six month tours and one of them as a Sergeant and for such he claims a pension [signed] Dabney Cooper

Interogatories and questions put By the Justice of the peace

1<sup>st</sup> Where and in what year were you born?

Ans I was born in Virginia Albemarle County the 22<sup>d</sup> day of November 1758 as stated in my foregoing declaration

2<sup>d</sup> by the same

Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Ans My age is recorded in the family bible and was last in the possession of my oldest brother I saw it a few years since, it was formerly the property of my father

3<sup>d</sup> by the same

Where were you living when called into Service; where have you lived since the revolutionary war?

Ans I never lived but in Virginia and Tennessee. I lived when called into service in bedford county Virginia I moved across Stantown [sic: Staunton] river to Franklin & then to botetourt I moved to Tennessee in 1810 in Smith county where I have since resided

4<sup>th</sup> by the same

How were you called into service; were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute? and if a substitute for whom

Ans I freely volunteered my services as a Soldier to serve my country and defend it against Britttish or Indian invaders as might be the case. I was accepted as such marched to the places mentioned in the foregoing declaration where I was stationed as before stated. I always prefered being a volunteer and therefore was never drafted nor never served as a substitute

5<sup>th</sup> by the same

State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops [where] you served; such continental and militia Regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your services

Ans The last tower when I served a sergeant Colo Charles Lynch was there superintending the making of Lead at the mines

6<sup>th</sup> by the same Did you ever receive a discharge from the service and if so where is it by whom given

and what has become of it?

Ans I never received a written one, the volunteers with whom I served did not demand any of their officers I was satisfied that I had served my country and that the government was pleased at our services by verbally discharging through our officers the volunteers under their command at the expiration of the three tours I served in

7<sup>th</sup> by the same State the names of the persons in your neighbourhood to whom you are known and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief as to your services as a soldier of the revolution

Ans I believe my neighbours are all acquainted with these facts and will name only those who are present Demsey Driver and Alex Fergusson Willie Brown and Drury Brown

NOTE:

On 3 Nov 1843 Henrietta Cooper, 81, of Macon County TN, applied for a pension stating that on 16 June 1782 in the part of Bedford County that became Franklin County VA in 1786 she was married by George Simons, a Protestant minister, to Dabney Cooper, who died on 4 May 1842. She stated that "the ages of her children was in a Book which was destroyed some years ago except the eleventh child whose name is William born in 1803." The following stated that they had been a neighbor to Dabney Cooper and Henriette Watts in what became Franklin County before their marriage: Thomas Simons, about 75; Jobe Meador, 81; his wife Martha Meador, 74. On 26 Oct 1849 Daniel Claiborne, Sr, 80, made a similar statement.

On 5 June 1851 Polly Candler continued the application for a pension as heir of Henrietta Cooper, who died on 7 Dec 1848 leaving the following children: Sally Cooper, Polly Candler, and William Cooper.