

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

Pension Application of John Copsey R2313

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Virginia Hampshire County Sct

On this 22nd day of August 1836 personally appeared in open court before the County Court of Hampshire now sitting John Copsy a resident of the said county aged seventy six years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benifit of the act of Congress passed June 7 1832.

That at the time the British were within twenty miles of Richmond he thinks in 1778 or 9 he marched from the county of Louden [sic: Loudoun] Va. to Richmond in a Company commanded by Capt John McGeth or Gart [sic: John McGeach] that after they reached Richmond a draft was made upon the Militia and he was taken from his company & placed under Capt. Riley of the regular army and Major [William] Boyce when He was made a sergeant and served three months during which period we were marched to Mobbin hills [sic: Malvern Hill 15 mi SE of Richmond] from which place we were compelled to retreat to the rapid ann river [sic: Rapidan River], when general Greene came up with the Army under his command and the enemy retired [sic: see endnote] That (he thinks) before the above mentioned tour of duty was performed (but is not certain whether before or after) He entered the service as an eighteen months man under the command of Capt. [Josias] Clapham of Loudon County, that he was ordered on the recruiting service and remained busily engaged in this service at Leesburgh [sic: Leesburg] for seven months when he furnished a substitute for the remaining period & was discharged. He further states that in 1781 he entered the service again in a company of Militia under the command of Capt John Luckett and marched from Leesburgh to York & Gloucester and was at the Seige of York town & the taking of Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781] & aided in guarding the prisoners to the barracks near Winchester Virginia where He was discharged after (the thinks) service of three months

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to pension or anuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid [signed] John Copsey

1 question

Where & in what year were you born

Answer I was born in St. Mary's [Saint Mary's] County Maryland in the year 1760

2^d. question Have you any record of your age; and if so, where is it

Answer I have none

3. question Where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the revolutionary war & where do you now live

Answer In Loudon county Va. Since the revolution in Loudon & for the last 50 years in Hampshire County Virginia where I now reside

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

Answer. In the eighteen months service I enlisted & for the other tours I was drafted

5. State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served, such continental & militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service

Answer. I knew Genl Muhlenburgh [sic: Peter Muhlenberg], Major Boyce & Capt Rily of the regular service and I recollect an old french officer who commanded us in skirmish we had with the enemy, I do not recollect the names of the regiments or their colonels having in the lapse of time forgotten. as to the general circumstances of the service I have mentioned them in the declaration

(upon reflection I think a Colo. Peyton had command in the militia)

6 Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given & what has become of it

Answer. I received a discharge from Capt. Clapham but it is lost. I received no written discharge from the other service

7 State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the revolution

Answer Rev'd James Taylor, James Higgins, William Richmond & others

Hampshire County Va Sct

This day Captain James Leath [sic: James Leith] who is worthy of credit under oath Personally appeared before me James Higgins one of the Justices of the Peace for the County aforesaid and made oath on the Holy Evangeless of Almighty god that he lived in Louden County in the State of Virginia during the time of the Revolutionary War & served three tours in the Militia one of which was under a certain Colonel Josiah Clapham or Clapam & as well as he recollects there was a draft of Militia about the year 1778 or thereabouts for a Portion of the Militia in Louden County to serve for Eighteen Months & he says he knew several of the men who served in the aforesaid Tour of Eighteen Months to wit George Martin James Higgins as a substitute of Capt Piedel[?] & that he saw several of the men after there [illegible word] & he further states that the drafts & substitutes were put under Colo. Clapham until they were Called into the service & were then Marched to Fredericksburgh under Capt. William Hawsley [sic: William Owsley] & he understood by the information of those who returned they ware there put under Colo. Bluford [sic: Abraham Buford]

Given under my hand this 22nd day of November 1837 [signed] Jas Leith

NOTES:

Copsey may have confused Gen. Nathanael Greene with Gen. Anthony Wayne, who joined Gen. Lafayette's retreating army near Rapidan River on 10 Jun 1781 and began pursuing the British army.

A letter from Copsey's agent dated 26 Sep 1838 states that he had been in delicate health for several years and lived 20 miles from Romney.

On 26 Jan 1854 Lucinda McIntire, formerly Lucinda Copsy, of Frederick County VA, assigned power of attorney to obtain any pension that might be due for the service of John Copsey.