

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

Pension Application of John Cuppy R2590

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Ohio } Ss.

County of Montgomery }

On this seventh day of December Anno Domini One thousand eight hundred & forty four, personally appeared in open court, before the court of common pleas of the county of Montgomery in the state of Ohio, now sitting, John Cuppy, a resident of the said county & State, aged eighty three years on the eleventh day of March last (1844), who being first duly sworn according to law, doth, on his oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7, 1832: – That he entered the service of the United States, under the following named officers, & served as herein stated: – He was born in the State of New Jersey, near Morristown, but was removed with his father's family, while he was yet an infant, to the county of Hampshire in the State of Virginia, where he was brought up & continued to reside until he was about forty years of age, at which time he removed with a family of his own to Brooke County on the Ohio river in Virginia, & from thence afterwards, about twenty years ago, to the neighborhood of Lawrenceburgh in the state of Indiana, & then to this county where he has ever since resided. His residence in Hampshire county, Virginia, was near Romley on a stream called Mill creek [sic: Mill Run near Romney], emptying into the South Branch [of Potomac River]. There between the years 1777 & 1778, as he thinks it was, though he is not now able to recollect the precise date, he volunteered to serve as an American soldier, in a company commanded by Captain Isaac Means, as he was called, though he thinks his real rank & commission was only Lieutenant. The names of the other company offices he does not remember. The company consisting altogether of volunteers, he thinks was not attached to any regiment or battalion, or at least did not act in conjunction with any other company or force. The service for which the company was organized was to proceed against a body of tories who had assembled on the South fork of the South branch. There were other companies of volunteers formed for the same purpose about that time: one of these other companies he remembers was commanded by one Ned McCarty [Edward McCarty]. Immediately after Capt. Means company, to which he was attached, was formed, they marched up the South fork [two illegible words] of the tories but found they had been already dispersed by other companies, who held some of them as prisoners. After scouring the neighborhood for a short time, the company returned to Romley, having in charge seven of these tory prisoners whom they confined in Romley jail. The whole time occupied in this actual service was from three to four weeks. The enlistment, or time of volunteering, however, was for three months, the men having been promised that if they would volunteer for that length of time, they should not be held subject then to be drafted. The company continued therefore at home after that, ready at any moment to be called out if their services should be needed before the end of the three months term; but were not again called into service. While on service they drew rations a portion of the time from the government, but the supply of provisions being irregular, they were dependent much of the time for subsistence on the liberality of the Whigs, & especially of the Whig women, in the neighborhoods through which they passed.

His next service was a few months afterwards, beginning in the month of August, as he thinks, either of the year 1778 or 1779. He was then drafted for three months as a soldier in the company of Captain Robert Cunningham. The regiment to which this company was attached was commanded by a Colonel or Major Garret Vanmeter, who left them however on the march soon afterwards, & returned home, being unable to travel by reason of sickness or his great personal weight or size. This Militia force was joined with a body of regulars, & the whole body or army, consisting of about three thousand men, was under the command of General Mackintosh [sic: Lachlan McIntosh]. The company joined some of the rest of this force, on their march westward in the Allegheny mountains [sic: Allegheny Mountains], but the general

rendezvous, where all were at last assembled, was at the mouth of Big Beaver on the Ohio river [present Beaver PA], where they built Fort Mackintosh [sic: Fort McIntosh, fall 1778]. Leaving five hundred men there, mostly regulars, they then proceeded to the Tuscarawas, in or near what is now Stark County in Ohio, near the mouth of Big Sandy, & built another fort which they named Fort Lawrence [sic: Fort Laurens near present Bolivar OH, constructed Nov 1778 - Jan 1779]. At Fort Lawrence they remained until after the three months for which he was drafted had expired, & to the month of December, for he recollects that he reached home, after he was discharged, on Christmas eve, having been about four months, or within a few days of that period in service. General Mackintosh was occupied during this time in trying to treat with the Indians. He would not discharge the soldiers of Captain Cunningham's company, nor any of the Militia, when their term of draft or enlistment had expired, but threatened them with attack by the regulars, if they should attempt to leave him, until regularly discharged, which was not as before stated until in December. – The said John Cuppy's next enlistment as a soldier, was when again drafted for three months, in the fall, he believes it was, either of the year 1779 or 1780. After being drafted he was required to hold himself in readiness to march at any time to join the army at the East. He continued to hold himself thus ready for marching orders for a period of two weeks, & then without having yet received orders, or being attached to any company, he hired a man by the name of John Devore who went & served in his place for the remainder of the three months. He gave to this substitute in money, clothes, two cows &c, nearly everything he owned in the world, in order to get him to go in his place, not because he was deficient in courage or patriotism, but because being then only between nineteen & twenty years old he had just married a wife a little younger than himself & could not think of leaving her when it was possible to be relieved from such necessity.

The whole term of the declarant's services were three months as before stated, when a volunteer; not less than three months & twenty five days, when drafted as before stated for the Western army, & not less than two weeks, before hiring a substitute at the time of his last being drafted – making in all certainly as much as seven months & a week.

The declarant never had any paper evidence of his services, except a discharge from general Mackintosh, which he lost somehow many years ago, not having then supposed it of any account to be preserved. That discharge came through Captain Cunningham, the commander of his company, & he does not recollect by whom it was signed, but thinks it was by the Captain. He has now therefore no documentary evidence of any kind; nor does he know of any person living whose testimony he can procure, to testify to his service. His service on every occasion was only as a private soldier.

The declarant was born on the 11th of March 1761 as he has always understood, & knows by the record in an old family bible of his father, which he has now in his own possession & exhibits here to the satisfaction of the Court.

The declarant would refer to any of his respectable neighbors in the township of Wayne or its vicinity in this county, where he has resided for twenty years, to testify to his character for veracity, & their belief of the above statement of his services as a soldier of the revolution; & especially names the Rev. Mr Noah Fidler a Methodist Clergyman, & Thomas Stockstill a farmer.

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

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid. [signed] John Cuppy

[The claim was denied because of insufficient evidence of at least six months of actual service. The following application for bounty land was allowed for service after the Revolutionary War.]

State of Ohio } ss  
Montgomery County } On this twenty fifth day of October AD One thousand Eight hundred and fifty; personally appeared before me a Justice of the Peace within and for the County and State aforesaid John Cuppy aged ninty years a resident of Montgomery County and State of Ohio; who being

duly sworn according to law, declares, that he is the identical John Cuppy who was a private in the Company of Rangers under the command of Captain Brady, in the Indian Wars. That he volunteered at Washington in the State of Pennsylvania some time in year one thousand seven hundred and ninety one, or one thousand seven hundred and ninety two for the term of three years, and that he continued in actual service in said War for the term of three years – and that he was discharged at Washington Pennsylvania some time in the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety four, or five by Colonel Beard, That said discharge has been lost many years ago.

All of which will be seen by the Muster Rolls of said Company

He makes this declaration for the purpose of obtaining the Bounty Land to which he may be entitled under the “Act granting Bounty Land to certain officers and Soldiers who have been engaged in the military service of the United States. passed September 28<sup>th</sup> 1850

[signed] John Cuppy

NOTE:

On 4 July 1851 Anne Moore of Tippecanoe County IN stated that her father, John Cuppy, “served as a ranger or spy for the space of Two years or upwards, that said service was performed in or about the years A.D. 1792 and 1793... under Captain Samuel Brady... in Ohio... during the Indian war... [when] she was but about Ten years of age.”

A document in the file states that John Cuppy died in Montgomery County on 28 June 1861.

On 28 Oct 1882 Lydia Cuppy, 85, of Wayne Township in Montgomery County, applied for a pension for her late husband’s service in the Indian Wars. She gave the following description of him at the time of his enlistment: “Fair complexion, blue eyes 5 ft 9 in high, stout and muscular, weight about 200 lbs.” She stated that she had resided in the following places since his discharge from the Army: “Brook County West Virginia Dearborn Co. Indiana and Montgomery Co Ohio.” On 21 Nov 1882 Lydia Cuppy gave her address as Green County OH when she made another application. Her attorney on both applications was her son, Fletcher P. Cuppy of Washington, DC. Other children mentioned in other documents were Henry Cuppy of Wayne Township in Montgomery County, and John Cuppy of Washington County NE. Proof of marriage was a copy of the following record: “October 7th 1824 were married Jno. Cuppy and Lydia Russell, by me. Elias Matthews J.P.” Her application was rejected because it was made under an act providing pensions only for service in the War of 1812.