

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Zephaniah Harrison R4689

f8VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

2/24/14

[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.]

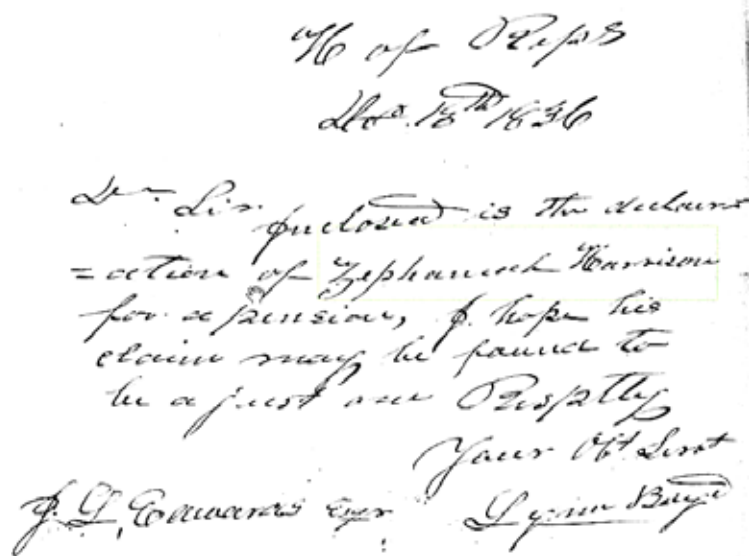
H of Reps  
Dec. 1<sup>th</sup> 1836

Dr. Sir

Enclosed is the declaration of Zephaniah Harrison for a pension, I hope his claim may be found to be a just one.

Respectfully  
Your Obedient Servant  
S/ Lynn Boyd<sup>1</sup>

J. L. Edwards, Esqr.



*off of Reps  
Dec. 1<sup>th</sup> 1836*

*Dr. Sir enclosed is the declaration of Zephaniah Harrison for a pension, I hope his claim may be found to be a just one. Respectfully  
Your Obedient Servant  
J. L. Edwards Esqr. Lynn Boyd*

<sup>1</sup> BOYD, Linn, a Representative from Kentucky; born in Nashville, Tenn., November 22, 1800; pursued preparatory studies; moved with his parents to New Design, Trigg County, Ky.; engaged in agricultural pursuits in Calloway County; member of the State house of representatives 1827-1832; returned to Trigg County in 1834; elected as a Jacksonian to the Twenty-fourth Congress (March 4, 1835-March 3, 1837); unsuccessful candidate for reelection in 1836 to the Twenty-fifth Congress; elected as a Democrat to the Twenty-sixth and to the seven succeeding Congresses (March 4, 1839-March 3, 1855); chairman, Committee on Accounts (Thirtieth Congress), Committee on Territories (Thirty-first Congress); Speaker of the House of Representatives (Thirty-second and Thirty-third Congresses); moved to Paducah, Ky., in 1852; elected Lieutenant Governor of Kentucky in 1859, but when the senate convened was too ill to preside over its deliberations; died in Paducah, Ky., December 17, 1859; interment in Oak Grove Cemetery. <http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=B000719>

[Note: This file contains no application. Only a summary of it appears in a letter dated December 16, 1836 addressed to the Honorable Lynn Boyd, member of Congress:

War Department, Pension Office  
December 16, 1836

Sir –

The declaration of Zephaniah Harrison has been examined(?) He alleges a number of tours of about two or three months and one tour of six months as a militia man of Virginia.

It is alleged that he was drafted with his company for six months to take charge of a party of recruits destined to serve in the regular Army. The Militia were at no time drafted for that length of time, and the statement as to his being drafted for the purpose alleged is extremely improbable. The other alleged service consists principally in watching against the hostile attacks of the Indians. In the early settlement of our Western frontiers it was indispensably necessary in many instances to the safety of the inhabitants that the able bodied men of every age should arm themselves in self defense against the savages of the wilderness. It is well known that for this purpose block houses were erected, and that the people were obliged to resort to them for protection. This description of predatory warfare, however, was never considered of such a character as to place the persons engaged in it on the footing of soldiers drafted or enlisted for the general defense of the Country, and such persons therefore are not provided for by the pension laws. The applicant for such service can of course have no lawful claim to a pension. The claim has accordingly been rejected and the papers filed.

[Note evidence of signature]

Hon. Lynn Boyd,  
H. R.

[Note: by letter dated December 21, 1836, Congressman Boyd asked Mr. Edwards to forward to him the declaration of Mr. Harrison, "that I may refer to the subject to Congress." Presumably the Pension office sent the original declaration to Congressman Boyd and it was never returned to the file. Perhaps there is some congressional record as to the disposition of this veteran's claim.]