

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Lawrence (Braddock) Hopkins R5212 Mary Hopkins MA [RI]
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia } Ss
Lewis County towit }

Personally appeared before me the subscriber [David W. Sleeth, pension application S6111] a Justice of the peace in and for the said County of Lewis and state of Virginia on this 26 day of October 1833 Lawrence Hopkins a resident of the said county of Lewis and State of Virginia aged 83 years 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 and served as herein stated that in the year 1777 in the state of Rhode island in the Town of Exeter County not recollected, in the month of June in the year 1777 affiant was drafted and placed under the Command of Capt West lieutenant Kinny Ensign Springer Major Phillips [sic: Samuel Phillips] affiant was recruited in the town of Exeter and about the fifteenth of June last aforesaid affiant was marched for Springfield to join the Continental Army which was there stationed. affiant passed through Stony town [probably Stonington] in the State of Connecticut and arrived at Springfield between the twentieth and thirtieth of June 1777 affiant was then incorporated in to the Continental Army which was commanded by Col. Tupper which Regiment was the tenth number [Benjamin Tupper, 10th Massachusetts Reg.] as well as affiant recollects after affiant joined the Continental Army he was placed under the command of Capt Parks Lieutenant Shair Ensign Coary affiant remained at Springfield but a few days. he affiant was then marched to West Point passing through the state of Massachusetts affiant was marched in haste from Springfield to West Point and consequently does not recollect much about the country through which he passed when affiant arrived at West Point he became acquainted with Col Martial [probably Thomas Marshall] Major [Nathaniel] Winslow and Crass[?] affiant remained at West Point engaged in guarding the fort at West Point until his term for which he was drafted had expired affiant was then discharged by his said Capt Parks having served nine months as a private soldier again in the month of April 1778 at West Point in the State of New York at the place where affiant was last stationed in his first term here set forth affiant volunteered his services for nine months commencing on the twentieth day of April 1778 and was placed under the command of the same officers as in his first term above named affiant remained in the fort at West Point guarding said fort by regular terms until the time for which he volunteered had expired affiant was then discharged by his said Capt Parks having served nine months as a private soldier during this term of service nothing of any notoriety took place affiant continued in and about said fort engaged as last aforesaid in guarding said fort – affiant was not discharged until the twenty eighth day of December 1778 affiant being a single man did not return home but remained in the State of New York in the neighbourhood of West Point for a short time and in the month of February 1779 in the state of New York the County not recollected affiant was drafted for a term of nine months and was again placed under the command of the officers last aforesaid to wit Capt Park Lieutenant Shair Ensign Coary and was stationed again at West Point as in his second term above mentioned] at the time affiant was drafted this term he was residing in the immediate neighbourhood of West Point and at the day appointed for the troops to assemble affiant went on and joined them at West Point affiant remained at West Point under the command of the officers last aforesaid engaged in guarding said fort until some time in the month of May 1779 at which time affiant was detached from the main army and placed under the command of Cap [Seth] Bannister other officers now not recollected and was marched from West Point to Verplanck Point [sic: Verplanck Point] about twenty miles distant from West Point and was stationed in a Blockhouse which was built for the defence of the troops which was there stationed affiant remained here until the time for which he was drafted had expired affiant

was then discharged by his said Capt Parks having served nine months as a private soldier during the time affiant remained in perblanks Point in the Blockhouse aforesaid he was engaged in repairing the Block house aforesaid and in guarnging the same untill he affiant was discharged as aforesaid by his capt Parks. I hereby relinquish every claim what ever to a pension or anuity except the presant and declare that my name is not on the pention roll of the agency of any state whatever

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid Lawrence hisXmark Hopkins

to the several interogatories prescribed by the War department affiant answer as follows and says

- 1 I was Borne in the State of Rhodeisland in the Town of Exeter County not recollected in the year 1749
- 2 I have a record of my age which shows me to be the age of which I speak
- 3 when called in to service I was living in the State of Rhode island the Town of Exeter & have lived since the Revolutionary in the state of Virginia County of Bath Lewis Nichols [sic: Nicholas] the last of which I now live in.
- 4 My first and third towers I was drafted my second I voluntered
- 5 at Springfield I saw and become acquainted with Col Tupper, at West Point I saw and become acquainted with Cols. Martial I also saw and become acquainted with Majors Winslow and Crass at Westpoint Capt Parks was my Capt all the time I served except the time I was detached from the main army then I was plased under Capt Banister with whom I [one or two illegible words] acquainted.

Col Tupper commanded the tenth Ridgement to which I was attached

- 6 I was regularly discharged by the officier under whom I served to wit Capt Parks who signed all my discharges but they are all lost or mislayed
- 7 I have no documentary evidence of my servises neither do I know of any person by whose testimony I can procure by whome I could prove my servises
- 7 I am known to [blank] and [blank] who can testify to my character and to there belief of my having bin a soldier of the Revolution as to my age

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid Lawrence hisXmark Hopkins

we James J. Arnold and Samuel Stalnaker [pension application S9487] residing in the County of Lewis and state of Virginia hereby certify that we are well acquainted with Lawrence Hopkins who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration that we believe him to be 83 years of age that he is reputed and believed in the neighbourhood want to have bin a soldier of the revolution and that we concur in the opin

Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid [signed] James J. Arnold
 Samuel hisXmark Stalnaker

[Sleeth certified that the declaration was taken at the home of Hopkins, who was unable to travel to court.]

[The following report is by US District Attorney Washington G. Singleton who investigated hundreds of pension applications in Lewis, Harrison, and other counties of present West Virginia, including several fraudulent claims by David W. Sleeth. For details see the appendix in my transcription of Sleeth's pension application S6111. Because of fraud, all the pensions from Lewis and Harrison counties were suspended pending Singleton's investigation. In spite of Singleton's favorable recommendation, Hopkins's pension remained suspended.]

Lawrence Hopkins – Suspended

I the undersigned Lawrence Hopkins in pursuance of the requisition of the Secretary of War give the following narative of my age and services as a soldier in the war of the Revolution to Wit. – I shall be eighty six years old the 10th day of March next. I was raised in exeter Rhode Island, and lived there until within the last 30 yrs. when I moved to and settled in westerrn Virginia – directly after the Battle of Bunker Hill (I cant tell the year [17 Jun 1775]) I Enlisted at exeter for nine months under Capt. Joseph

Holly, marched to Boston and was attached to Col. Joseph Varnam's Regt. (I cant tell the number of the Regt.) [sic: James Mitchell Varnum, 1st Rhode Island Regiment] and Genl. Nathaniel Green's [sic: Nathanael Greene's] brigade, Genl. Washington commanded in Person at Boston. – the army was encamped on Prospect Hill – served out my time of nine months. got my discharge & returned home – my discharge has been lost for many years.

about two years after the forgoing tour of duty had been done I Enlisted again for nine months at Terntown [sic: Tiverton] under Capt Samuel Philip's was attached to Col. Hawkin's [sic: Nathaniel Hawkins's] Regt. (dont recollect the number). the army under Genl. Cornall [sic: Ezekiel Cornell] marched from Terntown to New Port [sic: Newport]. was there joined by Genl. Sullivans command [Gen. John Sullivan, Aug 1778]. – Newport was then in the possession of the British. – upon the american army getting to Newport the British abandoned the place, and incamped nine miles distant on quaker Hill. the american army pursued the british and at night the Picket guard by Genl. Sullivans order was placed near the British quarters. they were attacked by the British and driven in – a battle ensued. – the american army retreated to Terntown and the british army returned their former position at Newport – on our retreat to Tirntown my my Enlistment for nine months expired – I got my discharge & returned home, my discharge has been lost or destroyed for many years –

About two years after Burgoin's Hessians were captured (I wont be certain as to time –) [Burgoyne's Hessians captured at Saratoga, 17 Oct 1777] I Enlisted again at Greenwich for nine months, under Capt. Park's marched to west Point and joined the main army under Genl. Washington. was attached to the 10th Regt. commanded by Col. Tupper, remained at West point for the nine months after the expiration of which I Enlisted under the last mentioned Capt. (Parks) and received \$40 bounty – during the war I obtained a furlough for forty days. Went home, returned & joined the army, (after my furlough expired–) at West Point – was attached to the 10th Regt. & Capt. Park's' company, Col. Tupper was Col of the Regt. as before stated – Col. Spear was Lieut. Col remained at West Point until spring – when Capt. Barnester was detailed with 70 men includeing my self to guard a block House on perblank Point, immediatly opposite Stoney Point [sic: Stony Point] – I remained at this station for six months and then returned to West Point and joined my old company & Regt. – after remaining there for some considerable time the army marched under Genl. Lafayett [sic: Marquis de Lafayette] though Morristown to the Eastern Shore of Maryland took shiping at Elk [Head of Elk, now Elkton] and went around to Anapolis [sic: Annapolis], from there to Baltimore and thence to Richmond. – the american army was marching and countermarching through the country for some time – Sometimes pursued at other pursueing the British army, until finally the British army was hemed in at Yorktown Virginia, during the March Genl. Lafayette was reinforced by Genl. Wayne [Anthony Wayne, 10 Jun 1781] and Genl. Washington at York town a general engagement took place between the two armies [Siege of Yorktown, 28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781]. Genl. Lafayetts Troops were on the right wing – the France Soldiers on the left – I was was in Col. Dumots Regt. who had the ball of his heel shot of – Col. Govin [sic: Jean Baptiste Obrey de Gouvion] & Major Willis were also attached to my Regt. – after the Battle & Surrender of Cornwallis my Regt with others were marched back to Elk & thence to West Point – and was there discharged after the close of the war, my discharge for this latter service has been lost or destroyed for many years – I know of no one living by whom I can prove my services – R. H. Louther [sic: Robert H. Lowther] who wrote my Declaration sent for me, I went to Weston the county seat of Lewis – Louther took me from Weston to David W. Sleeths some nine or ten miles, before whom I swore to my Declaration – it was not read to me. Sleeth said the reading of it was unnecessary. I knew no better. I live six miles from the County Seat of Jackson where I go frequently. – I gave Louther the same statement in substance now given. In Witness of all which I hereto subscribe my name December 28 1834 Lawrence hisXmark Hopkins

Witness/J. M. Steed

A Copy. W. G Singleton.

Note – this case presents the only single brite spot yet found in this dark Horrizon. – this man told his tale

with so much simplicity and artlessness, that I could not resist the conviction – that although in minor details he may be inaccurate – yet the substance of his statement is Strictly true – he is wholly Illiterate and exceedingly Ignorant – it would seem to be impossible – that he could concoct such a narrative as he has here given –, I think it probable that this will not agree with his original statement – but that fact should have no consideration in my opinion against him – because he has been manifestly imposed upon by a designing scoundrel – if the Commissioner of Pensions should be of opinion that he is entitled to his certificate – he will please enclose it to Josias M. Steed of Parkersburg who will take care that no further impositions are practiced upon him W. G Singleton/ Jan 7 1835

On this 23rd day of November 1835 personally appeared before the County Court of Jackson, Virginia, Lawrence Hopkins a resident of the said County of Jackson and State of Virginia aged eighty six years, who being first duly sworn, according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by act of Congress passed June 7th 1832 That he enlisted in Captain Joseph Holly's Company of the State troops of Rhode Island, he does not remember in what year, but it was in the same year of the battle of Bunker's hill. That he was attached to Col. Varnums Regiment and General Green's Brigade. said enlistment was for the period of nine months That he was marched by said Captain Joseph Holly from Exeter in the State of Rhode Island the place where he enlisted to prospect Hill near Charleston [sic: Charlestown] in Massachusetts, at which place he joined General Washingtons army, which was encamped at said Prospect Hill near Bunker's Hill at which time the British were at Boston and Bunkers Hill. He arrived at Prospect hill a short time after the battle of Bunkers hill, for he remembers that when he was marching to prospect hill he met the wounded returning home from the battle of Bunker's hill. While he was stationed at Prospect hill he was not engaged in any battle with the enemy, but the enemy threw bomb shells amongst them and cannonaded them, at which place he served out the nine months for which he enlisted and was dismissed and discharged legally and returned home to Exeter Rhode Island with his said Captain Joseph Holly That about two years after his return to Exeter he again enlisted in the State troops of Rhode Island at Tiverton in said State for the term of nine months under Capt. Samuel Philips and was stationed at Tiverton and attached to Col. Hawkins Regiment and under Gen. Cornwell and remained at Tiverton six months for the defence of the shores of Rhode Island, after which there was a call for the Militia and continental troops to proceed to the Island. he was taken to the Island under the command of General Sullivan after his arrival on the Island the British retreated from their old works nine miles towards the town of Newport and fortified at a place called Quaker hill. Gen Sullivan encamped a few days at the works which the enemy had left and then pursued after them and encamped near them and tried to draw them out to battle, but could not. Gen. Sullivan in the night set a Piquet guard and retreated back to the old works of the British and so soon in the morning as the British discovered it, the sallied out upon the Piquet guard, who retreated, pursued by the British, to the main army at the said works nine miles, he was one of the Piquet. The same day a battle ensued between Sullivans army and the British. The Britons came on the right wing and the Hessians upon the left wing and the battle continued for the balance of the day and when night came on, we retreated off the Island back to Tiverton at which place he continued till his nine months expired, when he was again discharged some time afterwards, perhaps a year or eighteen months, as near as he now recollects he again enlisted in the State troops of Rhode Island for the like period of nine months under Capt. Parks and was taken to West Point and joined Col. Tupper's Regiment of the Continental troops at which place he served out his term of nine months and then he enlisted in the Continental army during the war and still continued in Capt Parks Company and under Col. Tuper and continued at West Point till the ensuing Spring. He was then taken on command and put under the command of Capt. Banister to guard a block house at Purbank's Point against Stoney Point and served at said blockhouse six months and then was recalled to join Capt Park's company and Col. Tupper's Regiment and continued subject and obedient to orders untill he was selected, with others by

the Marquis de LaFayette and put under his command and he at that time drew nine hard dollars and a suit of clothes and was held in readiness to march not knowing whither. He was soon ordered to march through Morristown to a place called Elk on the Eastern shore of Maryland and the detachment to which he belonged waited a while for a vessel. as soon as an opportunity offered he was taken across the bay to Annapolis and thence to Baltimore at which place the ladies made each of the Marquis troops a present of a shirt, and from Baltimore he marched to Richmond Rope walk. The British were then on the other side of the river The Marquis' troops of which he was one watched the motion of the British day and night The British were then commanded by Cornwallis. Some of our troops were taken sick and they retreated to Albemarle County, Va, to a place called Charlottesville and a hospital was there kept for some near Childs tavern, and they continued in said hospittle until they were able to march and then they were taken by their sergeants to join their respective corps, which then lay at Little York. When they joined the troops at Little York the French shipping had blockaded the harbour and hemed in Cornwallis with his army, in Little York. We then commenced throwing up breast works to keep him from escaping The Marquis and Gen Washing with their main army were on the Little York side side of the River and the Virginia troops were on the Gloucester side. [See endnote.] We then cannonaded the British and threw bomb shells in upon them for several days while they were thus blocked in said Little York. We then stormed their works. The Marqis was on the right wing and the French were on the left wing, by order of Gen. Washington Commander in chief. Gen. Cornwallis surrendered and Gen. Washington ordered the Marquis de La Fayette to receive General Cornwallis sword, but Cornwallis refused to surrender his sword to him because he was a Frenchman and said he never would give his sword to a Frenchman Then Gen Washington stepped forward and received the sword from Gen. Cornwallis He was next taken back to Elk on the Eastern shore of Maryland and and then taken by the under officers to West Point to rejoin his regiment from which he was selected when he was first put under the command of the Marquis de La Fayette and continued at West Point und the command of Capt Parks till the close of the war when he was honourably and legally discharged at West Point and received a written discharge from Capt Parks which written discharge has long since been lost, misplaced or distroyed I do not now recollect what became of it, but am positive that I received such discharge. The Declarant further states on oath that he served as a regular soldier in the revolutionary war more than two years. That he was born in the town of Exeter in Rhode Island about twenty miles from Providence [sic: Providence], that he lived there until he first enlisted in the State troops of Rhode Island as aforesaid Since his discharge from the Continental army has resided in various places. He lived some time in Rockingham County Virginia – and for many years in the County of Bath, Va. And he has been living some years in the County of Jackson where he now resides. He has kept no record of his age, but from the account which he has kept from year to year he is confident that he was eighty six the 10th day of March last. He knows of no living witness by whom he can prove his service or discharge, that his memory is frail and he cannot recollect the precise years of his several enlistments and discharges never having kept any record thereof, but as to the terms of service he is correct, but has stated them according to the best of his recollection without consulting records or history. He is known to James Rader Esqr. Michael Rader Jacob Hiens George Casto and many others of his neighbourhood and Peter Click [Peter Cleek], who lives near this place has known him for many years while he lived in the County of Bath. While in the service as above stated he was not engaged in any other occupation

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any Agency in any State.

Laurenc hisXmark Hopkins

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open Court

Winchester December 6. 1835

Sir [James L. Edwards Esqr, Commissioner of Pensions]

The accompanying Declaration of Laurence Hopkins of Jackson county, has been enclosed to me with a request to forward it to you with such recommendatory statement as I might feel free to make – this is one of the suspended applications examined by me last winter. I not only reported favourably. but subsequently to my report expressed to you (in a conversation) my entire conviction of the truth of the old Gentlemans narative of service in all essential particulars – on comparing the Declaration he made with my notes of his examination I find they agree, in substance.

It is probable that his name may be found on the Rolls. – but be that as it may – I repeat that I am perfectly satisfied that he served as alledged – his advanced age and extreme poverty precludes the possibility of his hunting up witnesses to prove his services. I think therefore his case ought to form an exception to your general rule – may I ask your particular attention to it–? please let me hear from you on the subject.

Very Respectfully/ Your obt serv't./ W. G Singleton

Ripley January 2nd 1836

Dear Sir,

Through Mr. Wm. G. Singleton I received your information of my application for a pension – he informs me that, the name of Lawrence Hopkins cannot be found on the Rolls of Col. Tupper's Regiment. I do not remember that any other Hopkins was in said Regiment except myself. On reflection it occurs to me that my name on the Roll was called Braddock Hopkins, I was Christened by the name of Braddock Hopkins, But an uncle of mine, a brother of my fathers, died and my relations insisted on calling my name Lawrence, for my deceased uncle. I was sometimes called Braddock and some times Lawrece. Since I left the Service I have been called Lawrence. When my Declaration was made out I did not think to mention that circumstace. But now I am confident that the Segeant of Col. Tupper's Regiment called me on calling the Roll, Braddock Hopkens Of Capt Parks[#] company Wardwell was ordely Sergeant. [#]Shurtleff and Pulfrey Downing [Palfry Downing, pension application S34762] and [#]Josiah Hammond were the other Sergeants. I performed the services which I recounted in my Declaration – If any thing else is wanting do inform me soon, for I soon shall be off the stage and my family and myself shall loose the benefit of what Congress has awarded me for my arduous sevices rendered my Country in the season of Youth.

Yours respectfully/ Lawrence Hopkins

If my pension is allowed direct your Letter to the care of DG Morrill Clerk of the Cir. Sup. Court of Law and Chancery for Jackson County – Ripley Va

L. Hopkins

[The following notes in different handwriting,]

1# Wm. Parks Leut Nov 76 pro[moted] Capt 18 March 1780

2# on roll –

3# Quarter Master

On this 7th day of January 1836 personally appeared before Nehemiah Smith a Justice of the Peace in and for the County of Jackson and State of Virginia Lawrence Hopkins (Alias Braddock Hopkins) a resident of the County of Jackson and State of Virgin who being first duly sworn according to law, on his oath doth make the following supplemental Declaration, in order to obtain the benefit, of the provision made by act of Congress, passed June 7th 1832 which supplemental Declaration is intend[ed as] an answer to interrogatories prescribed by the war Department through Wm. G. Singleton. "Whether he Hopkins was known by any other Christian name than Lawrence and if so by what Christian name? and why it is that he is now known by the name of Lawrence? In answer to the said interrogatories the Declarant says that it distinctly, at this time, occurs to his recollection, that from the information derived from his parents he was Christened by the name of Braddock Hopkins and was so called during his infancy, but some time during his childhood, a brother of his father whose name was Lawrence died, and pursuant to the wishes

of his relatives, his name in the family was changed from Braddock to Lawrence and thereafter called Lawrence by the family. That when he listed he told the officers of the change but they entered the name by which he was Christened, and he also now recollects that when the roll was called, his name was called Braddock Hopkins After he left the service he was again called Lawrence and has borne, that name ever since and at the time of giving in the Declaration sworn to by him before the County Court of Jackson to which this is Supplemental it did not occur to him that it was necessary to mention the change of his name as aforesaid. If the rolls of Col. Tupper's Regiment are found he thinks that his name will there be found Braddock Hopkins. He further states that his Sergeants were Curvender[?] Shirtliff, Pulfrey Downing and Josiah Hammond as near as his recollection serves him he could state many other occurrences of his services if necessary enough to cover several sheets, Since he wrote to the war Department he thinks he recollects another Hopkins and thinks his name was William and he believes he was of the Massachusetts line. That he actually served as he has stated and if it should be necessary he is willing to answer any interrogatory touching his service aforesaid that is within the compass of his recollection

his
Lawrence X Hopkins (Alias
Braddock Hopkins
Mark

Ripley Jackson County February 6th 1836

Dear Sir [J. L. Edwards, Com'r. of Pensions]

I received your letter of the 12th Ult. informing me that neither the name of Lawrence nor Braddock Hopkins can be found upon the Massachusetts rolls You inform me that the names of William and Joseph Hopkins [pension application W7782] are there I remember William Hopkins and know of no other Hopkins except myself in Tupper's Regiment. You will perceive by my Declaration that I was not the whole time that I was in the service in Col. Tupper's Regiment, but that I was sent to guard a Block house, and after I returned to Col. Tupper's Regiment I was selected as one to go with The Marquis De La Fayette and was with him at the taking of Cornwallis and Col Tupper remained at West Point At the taking of Cornwallis I was under Col. Du Mott and Maj Willis. After the taking of Cornwallis I returned to West Point Col. Tupper's Regiment was divided (which perhaps I did not mention in my declaration and I was put under Col. Furnel [sic: Tobias Fernald]. My messmates names were Samuel Jones, Zechariah Lumber, Francis De Gross Thomas Tillum and Richard Heath [possibly pension application W1279]. I remember Corporals Curtiss and Dawson. Dawson was killed at the taking of Cornwallis I am surprised that my name cannot be found upon the rolls I have tried to recollect Joseph Hopkins but cannot. But can distinctly recollect William Hopkins he was sometimes called Bill. He was no relation of mine that I recollect. When I was guarding the Blockhouse I was under command of Capt Bannister. I was under Capt. Chapman for a short time I think he was of the Connecticut troops, I was while in Capt Chapmans Company on the lower lines to catch Refugees. Please to search the Rolls of Col. Furnel. Capt Bannister and Capt Chapman if they can be found If any of the persons that I have mentioned are pensioners and receiving pensions I know not where they live – I do not know that I can furnish any direct proof of my services. Have I not furnished irresistible circumstantial evidence I could give a more detailed account of my services If it should be necessary. There must be some mistake or omission in relation to my name upon the rolls owing to my being changed How the mistake or omission has arisen I cannot tell I am old and can neither read nor write. All the circumstances that I have related are from my own recollection. Some incidents are very fresh in my recollection and others are not so distinctly remembered. I have not conversed with any soldiers of the Revolution to my my recollection in relation to the circumstances which I have related. I do not recollect that I have heard any body read the history of the Revolution. How then could I give the account that I have given If I had not served – I am sensible that the war

Department requires only convincing proof of the justice of a Pensioners claim and for them to furnish the best proof that the nature of their claim will admit. This your Declarant think he has done Be assured that your declarant is entitled to a pension under the law or he would not thus trouble the War Department. Please to excuse my repeated applications. I am old and infirm and unable to work myself. I need a pension if I can get it. I feel anxious to give you all the satisfaction that I can

Yours respectfully &c/ Lawrence hisXmark Hopkins

Ripley Jackson County April 30th 1836

Mr J. L. Edwards

Dear Sir/ Some time ago Mr Lawrence Hopkins an old Revolutionary soldier under the provisions of the Act of Congress of June 7th 1832 forwarded a Declaration, but when the difficulty arose respecting fraudulent claims, Mr Singleton District Attorney for the Western District of Virginia was appointed to investigate claims. He examined Mr Hopkins personally and was perfectly satisfied that the said Hopkins was entitled to a pension and reported favourably to the war department, but was informed, that it would be necessary to forward a new declaration Mr Singleton and Mr Hopkins both requested me to aid the said Hopkins in procuring his pension. The said Hopkins gave a long circumstantial Declaration The war Department replied that his name could not be found on the Rolls of Col Toppers Regiment. He sent on a supplemental Declaration stating that he was also called Braddock Hopkins, and that there was a William Hopkins in the army also. He stated the names of additional officers which he did not name in his first Declaration. He reminded the Department of his having been changed from place to place and from company to company which renders it difficult for him to decide possitively under whose command he was when he was discharge Mr Hopkins is aged and infirm, having married a young wife he has young children. He is a man of respectability temperance and honesty and of good repute amonst his neighbours. he is illiterate but intelligent He can give as accurate and detailed an account of his services, relying wholly upon his memory as any man perhaps in the United States and all his neighbours who have heard him converse about his services believe him to be as much entitled to a pension under the law as any man In the Union. He could not furnish direct proof of his service, but he proved his charater and furnished traditionary proof Why his name is not on the Rolls is a mistery It can only be accounted for in consequence of his having been changed so frequently. If he had not served as he states, every body that knows him will say, that it would be utterly impossible for him to give so minute an account as he gives. If necessary, he can furnsih the testimony of as respectabl persons as live in this section of the County in favour of his veracity and that they believe that he seved as he states in his declaration It is the positive conviction of the Justice of his claim that induces me to take the trouble that I have taken for him I do not speculate on the claims of the poor, indigent Revolutionary soldiers. He this day called at my office and pressed his claim with tears which I could not resist when I have no doubt of the Justice of his claim If the testimony of many respectable witnesses as to his honesty and their belief that he is entitled to a pension will favour his case please to inform, me and such testimony will be furnished He is willing to undego the strictest scrutiny. You say you find the names of Sergeants Shutliff and Hammond. He says that Hammond died at Elk on the Eastern Shore of Maryland and was buried by a gentleman by the name of Randolph. The War Department will no doubt cheerfully grant his pension if they are convinced that he served. He is very old and the condition of him and his family makes it expedient that the subject should be acted upon speedily and that the aged soldier should be rewarded. You will please to review all his papers!

Yours respectfully/ DG. Morrill

State of Virginia } ss

Jackson County }

On the 8th day of August A.D. 1883 personally appeared before the County court of Jackson County in the state of Virginia, Mary Hopkins, a resident of the County of Jackson, and state aforesaid, aged 60 years

who being first duely sworn, according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration, in order, to obtain the benefit of the provision made, by the act of Congress, passed, on the 3^d day of Febuary 1853, granting pensions, to the widows of persons, who served during the revolutionary war, That she is the widow of Lawrence Braddock Hopkins who (to the best of her knowledge and belief) was a private in the company commanded by Captains Joseph Holly, & Philips and Capt. Parker or West in Rhode Island or Massachusetts Regiment, and served as follows, 9 months, in Rhode Island, state troops under Capt. Holly, Col. Farnum's regiment, then under Captain Parks or West Col. Tophams Regiment or Tuppers and left the service in 1779. She further declares that she was married to the said Lawrence Braddock Hopkins on the 18th day of May eighteen hundred and twenty, that her said Husband died on the 27th day of September eighteen hundred and thirty nine That she was not married to him prior to the second day of January Eighteen hundred, but at the time above stated. She further declares that she is now a widow

Mary herXmark Hopkins

NOTES:

Hopkins's description of the siege of Yorktown is in error. Some Virginia troops were on the Gloucester side of York River, but most were on the York side. There was no general storming of the British works, although two redoubts were captured. Cornwallis was not present at the surrender ceremony, claiming illness. He delegated the surrender of his sword to his second-in-command, Gen. Charles O'Hara. Most accounts state the O'Hara first attempted to give the sword to a French officer, who then motioned him toward Washington. Washington directed O'Hara to give the sword to his second-in-command, Gen. Benjamin Lincoln.

The file contains the following marriage records from Bath County VA:

"Lawrence Hopkins to Polly Jordin [Polly Jordan] by Otho Wade 18th May 1820."

"Lawrence Hopkins and Polly Jurden was married May the 18th 1820 according to Law by me Otho Wade"

Mary Hopkins was denied a pension on the grounds that her husband's pension remained suspended.