

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John Lap R9200

CT

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Virginia Preston County Ss

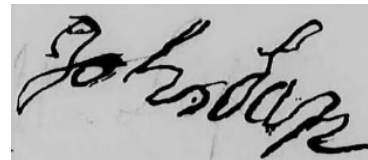
on this 20th day of June in the year 1834, personally appeared before me William Conner a Justice of the peace in and for the County of Preston and State of Virginia, John Lap resident of said County of Preston and state aforesaid aged 77 years, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath, make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of congress passed the 7th of June 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated to wit Gen'l. Putman [sic: Putnam] Major Danfort [Danforth?] Captain Bell Lieutenant Payne that he enlisted for nine months in the Connecticut state troops in the spring of 1779 to the best of his recollection as a private in an Artillery company that at the time he enlisted he received a small bounty, that he joined his company and was stationed in the Town of Stamford on Long Island sound in the County of Fairfield in the state of Connecticut where there was a guard house erected we had three cannon if no more the largest was a six pounder which was not a great distance from New york which our enemy then occupied, we was stationed in said Town for the purpose of protecting the adjoining country from the depredations of the foreign parties of our Enemy and for the purpose of annoying the British shipping and for the purpose of preventing the British from landing from their shipping. we fired at the Enemys shipping several times when they would sail near to said Town and they would also fire at us we had several small skirmishes but no general Engagement. and when the British would come in sight or in the neighbourhood of said Town we had to fire our cannon three times for the purpose of giving the Militia notice, that the enemy was near and for them to come to our assistance and late in the fall or the commencement of Winter my time Expired and I received a discharge which was signed by said Bell or Payne and I remained during that winter in said Town and in the spring following I again enlisted nine months in the same Troops and in the same Company and under the same officers and was stationed at the same place and was in the same kind of service that he was in during his first enlistment and in the winter of 1781 my time again expired but he then enlisted for Nine months longer that he served under the same officers and was stationed at the same place and was in the same kind of service that he was in during his first enlistments and in the fall of that year his time expired and he received a discharge signed by said Bell. and he then retired from the service, that he was in the service in all two years and three months. that during his first enlistment he recollects of Gen'l. Putman retreating from the Enemy to Stamford where he collected some reinforcements and then he marched against the enemy and they retreated. from the loss of memory and oald age I cannot recollect the names of all my officers and the precise dates of my service. that he is blind of an eye and has had his feet frozen vary badly and he is vary mutch crippled. and that he has no family except a Wife who is quite oald and infirm. and that he has no means of making their living except by their labour which affords them but a small support. that he was borned the [blank] day of [blank] 1757 in Anspiker in Germany. and that he lived in said Town of Stamford when called into the service. and that he remained in said Town of Stamford for some time after the close of the War and from there I removed to Baltimore and remained there some length of time and from there I removed to Bedford County in the state of Pa. where I had my house burnt and all of my discharges that I received while in the service together with all my papers and property. and from there I removed to Monongalia County Va. and I continued to reside in said County untill the year 1818 when Preston County was taken off of said County of Monongalia and that he has resided ever since in the said county of Preston

I have no record of my age. my discharges was all burnt as aforesaid.

I am known in my present neighbourhood by John Rodeheaver Esqr William G. Brown Col. Benjamin Shaw, and James Strahin & others who can testify as to my character for veracity and their belief of my service, that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service, that

he has no documentary evidence of his service, he hereby relinquishes every 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. sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid



[The following report is by US District Attorney Washington G. Singleton who investigated hundreds of pension applications from present West Virginia. For details see my appendix to the pension application of David W. Sleeth S6111. On Lap's report Singleton wrote, "Not entitled."]

John Laps. Applicant.

I called on this old Gentleman on the 6th of august 1834 and from a long conversation with him I came to the conclusion that it is harly probable, that he was a solder in the war of the revolution – his recollection of his services (if he done any) is exceedingly vague and indistinct, he has not the remotest recollection of the dates of his service, the names of his officers or indeed of any thing appurtaining to the war, and yet he is not by any means demented – he states in general terms that he is a German by birth, that he came to the United States some two or three years after the war commenced, a Soldier in the British army. landed at New York – was stationed at Kings bridge & from there deserted. Went into Conneticut and lived there with Doctr. Coxarle[?], for a while, and then enlisted under Capt. Bell for nine months and was stationed at Stamford Conneticut – he alleges that he served at same place three tours of nine months each, all of which were enlistements. were there any enlistments in Conneticut of nine months?
W. G Singleton/ Nov. 28 1834

Clarksburg april 12 1835

Sir [James L. Edwards, Commissioner of Pensions]

I have this moment received yours of the 31st forward from Winchester requesting examination to be made in the cases of John Laps & William Boswell [pension application R1045] of Preston County – these cases were examined by me in august last and have been reported upon. See my "Reports for Preston County"

I am compelled to set out for Lewisburg forthwith, or I would report them again, my book of notes being before me, on reference to which, I find I made the following note to the examination of Laps, to Wit – "It is probable this man done some service – his recollection about which (If indeed he done any) is wholly indistinct – he remembers nothing of dates, or of the year or years in which he served, nor indeed of other matters & things pertaining to the war – his mind and body is both exceedingly frail – proff of his services (under the circumstances) ought to be required."

I will procure Mr. [Nathan] Goff or someone else to copy my examination of William Boswell & transmit it again to you. there is some trifling discrepancy in the statement given me, and that furnished by your letter. I cannot resist the belief that this is attributable to the Gentleman who drew the declaration. I believe if there be a man living entitled to a Pension, Boswell is equally entitled. his examination was decidedly more satisfactory than any I made. – the result of the court officers I will communicate when I have time
Yours &c/ W. G Singleton

NOTE: A typed letter in the file states that Lap's claim was rejected "on the ground he was a Hessian deserter, and that he was unable to prove six months' service as required by the Act of June 7, 1832."