

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Benjamin Coplin S10464

VA

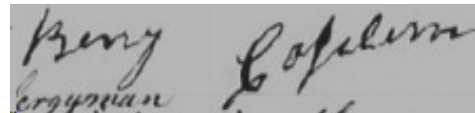
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 24 Jan 2019.

State of Virginia } to wit
Harrison County }

on this 18th day of June 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the justices of Harrison County now setting Benjamin Coplin aged Eighty one 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 7th 1832

That he was born in the County of Rockingham [formed from Augusta County in 1778] in the State of Virginia on the 28th day of March 1752 has no record of his age but so understands from his parents that he was living at Nutters fort [within present Clarksburg WV] when he volunteered his services as a soldier in a company under the command of Capt William Lowther [VAS32], was stationed at Nutters Fort and employed in scouting through the Country between the Monongalia [sic: Monongahela] and Ohio Rivers for the term of six months and was discharged in the fall of 1776. Again in the spring of 1777 he volunteered and served six months under same officer was stationed at Powers Fort on Simpsons Creek a branch of the Monongalia River was employed in scouting as before. In the spring following he volunteered again and served six months under same officer and was stationed at Powers Fort and employed as before. In the spring of 1779 he Vollenteered under the aforesaid Capt William Lowther seved six months was stationed at the aforesaid Fort on Simpsons Creek. In the spring following he Vollenteared again under same officer was stationed at a Block house on Elk Creek whare Clarksburg now stands [probably Nutter's Fort] was employed in scouting as before and discharged at the expiration of six months In the Spring of 1781 the aforesaid Capt William Lowther was promoted to a Major at which time deponent Vollenteered in a Company Commanded by Capt George Jackson [R15396] was stationed at the above mentioned Fort and served six months and was discharged In the Spring 1782 he Volunteered his services again under Capt Christopher Carpenter [VAS1743] was stationed at the aforesaid Fort and discharged at the expiration of six months all the above named officers ware duly Commissioned and acting under the authority of the State of Virginia and were employed to gard the fronteer settlements from the depredation of the Indians deponent further states that during the above service he was a private Soldier that he was engaged in several skirmishes with the Indians in one of which engagements he killed one Indian if no more he further states that he was not engaged in any civil pursuit during the above named tours he was not attached to any Regiment during the above servis but was employed to spie and scout as above stated he never received a ritten discharged

His residence is in the County of Harrison and State of Virginia where he has lived for sixty years last past for his character and soforth he would refer to Hon. E. S. Duncan Hon. J. J. Allen &c He has no documentary evidence but relies on the testimony of William Haddox [S8694] and Christopher Nutter [W5434] here unto annexed. he here by relinquishes all claims whatever to a pension or anuity except the present and declares that his name is not inscribed on the Pension Roll of the agency of any state. Sworn to and subscribed this 18th June 1833

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Benjamin Coplin". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

We Jesse M. Chapman a Clergyman residing in the County of Harrison and Hezekiah Stout residing in the same here by certify that we are well acquainted with Benjamin Coplin who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration that we believe him to be 81 years of age that he is reputed and believed in the neighbourhood where he resides to have been a Soldier of the Revolution and that we concur in that opinion

[signed] Jesse M. Chapman

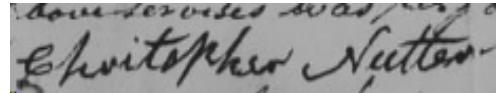
[signed] Hezekiah Stout

State of Virginia } To wit
Harrison County }

This day personally appeared before me [Edward Stewart] the undersigned [Jus]tice of the peace in and for this County and State aforesaid William Haddox age 75 years and made oath that he [is] well acquainted with Benjamin Copelin the present Applicant for a pension that he is well known & that the said Benjamin Coplin was a soldier in powers fort in 1777 and served six months under Capt. William Lowther and in the year 1778 he was a soldier at Powers Fort and served six months under the said Capt William Lowther a militia Captain. Sworn to this 15 day of June 1833 William hisXmark Haddox

State of Virginia } To Wit
Harrison County }

This day personally appeared before me the undersigned a justice of the peace in and for said county and State aforesaid Christopher Nuter aged 73 years and made oath that he is well acquainted with Benjamin Coplin the present applicant For a pension. That he was acquainted with him dur[ing] the war of the revolution that s'd. Coplin was a soldier under Capt Lowther in the year 1776 and that he served six months as stated in his Declaration that in 1777 he served in Powers Fort under same officer. That in 1778 he served one other [page torn] of six months under same officer That in 1779 one other tour of six months same Fort in 1780 one other tour at a fort on Elk Creek now Clarksburg. in the year 1781 he served one other tour of six months at same place under the command of Capt. George Jackson In the year 1782 he served one other tour at same place under Capt. Christopher Carpenter Deponent further states that he has resided in this country near the Town of Clarksburg since the year 1772 and that he well recollects that the above servises was performed
Given under my hand this 17th June 1833



[The following report is by US District Attorney Washington G. Singleton who investigated many pension applications from Harrison and Lewis counties. Coplin died during Singleton's investigation. In other such cases Singleton did not regard the service against Indians as coming under the pension act of 1832. For details see pension application S6111 of David W. Sleeth.]

Col. Benjamin Copelan draws \$80—

on the 18th of July 1834 Col. Copelan gave his age and Revolutionary Service in manner following – is in his 83rd year of age, & settled in Harrison County in 1770.

in the year 1776 he was stationed at Powers Fort Harrison cty. Capt Wiliam Lowther had the principal command of that Fort. news haveing reached the Fort that a parcel of Indians were at Middle Islan (western part of Harrison Cty) he among others (about 20 in number) went in pursuit of them – was gone four days. – he remained at Powers Fort from 1776 to 1779. there was a settlement in the vicinity of this Fort – the people in the settlement and the Fort worked, and, guarded and scouted against the Indians alternately. they took it by turns. whilst some were engaged in clearing land and cultivating corn others were guarding and scouting against the Indians. – in the Summer Spring and fall the months the Indian depredations were frequent and repeated. – in such cases they would be beat off and pursued by the settlers for one two three & four days at a time. He Copelan was frequently out in such pursuits – Whilst at Powers Fort a counsel of the settlers was called to take into consideration the situation of the settlement, and to determine what should be done in the premises – their powder and lead was nearly exausted. their force greatly demenished by removals east of the alleganey and deaths by the Indians – at the council it was determined to send a deputation to Augusty [Augusta] County for aid. Thomas Nutter and himself volunteered for that service, found their own horses & paid their own expences – they went over the allegany [sic: Allegheny Mountains] to Augusty and represented their situation to Col Abraham Lincoln – were supplied with amunition and promised aid – Shortly after their return with the amunition a Capt. McKay came over from Augusty with a company of men, who were distributed among the different stations. Some 8 or 10 of them were left at Powers fort. Some of them boarded with him Copelan & his

wife—

In the year 1780 he went to where Clarksburg now stands – a parcel of the settlers including himself undertook to settle there and build cabbins – he remained at this place (Clarksburg) to the end of the war, and whilst there, the settlers were in a continual state of war fare with the Indians. they lived pretty much in common and aided each other – whilst some were working others were guarding and scouting. they all done this sort of service by turns. He Copelan had frequent scouts after the Indians & would be gone 3 or four days at a time – had a lot in the town of one acre and an out lot of seven acres, and had the settlement wright – Col. Lowther was principal man in the settlement. Capt Jackson was also a sort of principal. – he Copelan cultivated his lots but always held himself in readiness to go against Enemy and did go when called on.

In 1782 he volunteered to Escort two men that came from Randolph to Clarksburg to adjust their land titles before commissioners then sitting at Clarksburg for that purpose – on their way over they were attacked by the Indians and 3 killed – 2 came on and one returned – on the return of the two he among others volunteered as before stated to guard them to the Vally river some twenty miles. was in this service two days. [See endnote.] – whilst at the Vally river he saw trales of the Indians that had killed the 3 men above mentioned – reported what he had seen – some men went out in pursuit, overhalled and killed them, but he Copelan was not along.

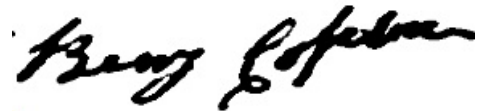
taken down in the presence of Nathan Goff [pension agent at Clarksburg] read in his hearing and acknowledged to be true.

A Copy. W. G Singleton Nov. 21, 1834
this man died in September 1834

[The following are from [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

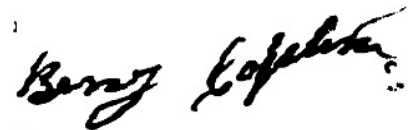
State of Virginia }
Harrison County }

The declaration of Benjamin Coplin in order to obtain his Bounty Land who was a privat soldier in the army of the revolution, That he entered the servis of the State of Virginia as Vollenteer in the year 1776 in a company commanded by Capt William Lowther and served under his Command Two years [two undeciphered words] the year 1780 reinlisted and served [undeciphered word] Capt Joseph Gregory one year and that in the year 178[?] volunteered in a company Commanded by Captain George Jackson and served one year. And this applicant further states that [several undeciphered words] And the services [one or two undeciphered words] on the frontier of Virginia in the now present County of Harrison, for which he now is drawing a pension of Eighty Dollars a year and the proof of his services is now on file in the War department, at Washington City.



Know all men by these present that I Benjamin Coplin Late Soldier in the army of the revolution have and by these presents do Constitute and appoint Waldo F Goff Esqr of the County of Harrison and state of Virginia my attorney for me and in my name to demand and receive from the government of Virginia and from the government of the United States the Land bounty as a Vollenteer Soldier in the revolutionary Army [undeciphered] ratify and confirm what so ever my [undeciphered word] attorney shall do or appoint any person to do in and about the premises as fully as though I had personally done the same. Witness my hand and seal this 21st day of Dec'r 1833.

Test
Edward Stewart[?]
Jacob Coplin



The Petitioner Benjamin Coplin does not appear to be [undeciphered] of the provisions of any of the Land bounty laws of virginia. He was not in the regular service; and did not enlist & serve for 3 years.

John H Smith

Rejected 10 February 1834

NOTE: Mr. David Armstrong of Elkins WV kindly corrected my transcription of Singleton's report and provided the following additional information: "The statement... refers to an incident in 1781 (not 82 as Coplin remembered) known as the Leading Creek massacre. The "Valley River" he talks about was to Pringle Ford at what is today Philippi, on the Tygart River but not in the Tygart Valley per se. LCM was the worst SINGLE Indian attack in the Tygart Valley and Coplin's account of the land commission, valley river, and subsequent pursuit make it unmistakable."