

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Jesse Harper S10790

f18VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

2/20/14

[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 'indecipherable' 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 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Virginia County of Tazewell: SS

On this 27th day of March personally appeared in open Court Jesse Harper a resident of the County of Tazewell & State of Virginia, aged eighty-nine 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 the Act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832.

This declarant states that in the year 1779 he enlisted in the Continental line for three years under Captain Rogers, at Mecklenburg Court House Virginia sometime after his enlistment, he was marched to Norfolk where he remained some months & was then marched to Williamsburg, where he entered the fifty second Regiment under the Command of Colonel Davis. From this Station he marched in the early part of the year 17__ to join the forces under the command of General Green [Nathanael Greene] in North Carolina. He joined the forces of General Green at Boyd's ferry on Dan River sometime in February as declarant thinks. From this point the forces to which he belonged marched upon Guilford Court House, where a general action [March 15, 1777] was fought with the British under the command of Lord Cornwallis; & in which this declarant was engaged. From thence he was marched back to Williamsburg Virginia where he remained stationed until driven out by the British previous to the siege of York. He then joined the forces of General Washington, and was at the siege of York. This declarant having served out the time for which he enlisted was regularly discharge: and his discharge was signed by Captain Waddleton & Colonel White and was dated November 3rd, 1782. This declarant states that this discharge was lost about thirty years ago: that he has no documentary evidence by which he can prove the fact of his services, nor does he know of any living witness by whom he can prove the same.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatsoever to a pension or an annuity except the present; and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any Agency of any State.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ Jesse Harper, X his mark

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This is to Certify, That it appears from a List in this Office of such Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia Continental Line, during the Revolutionary War, as settled their Accounts, and received Certificates for the balance of their Full Pay, according to an Act of Assembly, passed the November Session 1781, that a Certificate issued on the 30th day of May 1783, in the name of Jesse Harper, as a Soldier of Cavalry for £39.18.8, which Certificate appears to have been

delivered to himself and was given for services prior to the 1st January 1782.

Given under my hand, at the Auditor's Office, Richmond, this
3rd day of February 1846.

S/ Jas E. Heath, AUDITOR

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The additional Declaration of Jesse Harper in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress of the 7th of June 1832.

State of Virginia County of Tazewell: SS

On this 12th day of May 1846 personally appeared before the subscriber a justice of the peace in & for the County of Tazewell & state of Virginia, Jesse Harper aged ninety-one years, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following additional declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That many years since he committed his discharge for safekeeping to one Gabriel Penn: that the said Penn died without having returned it & after his death, desiring to apply for a pension, he had an examination of Penn's papers made, but could not find his discharge or any clue to ascertain what disposition had been made of it. Upon consulting some persons then, who professed to be acquainted with the Pension laws, he was informed that nothing could be done without the discharge or the evidence of two comrades in arms; & not knowing that any of the persons with whom he had served were alive or where to find them, he abandoned all idea of a pension as hopeless. Some years after, however, one John Wynn induced him to renew his attempt & pretended to take the matter in hand: he prepared a memorandum for the purpose, as he said, of drawing a declaration (which he never did, as this declarant has since learned) & as shored this declarant year after year with promises & appearances that he was employed in investigating the claim & c & at length said that nothing could be in made.

Being ignorant himself of all such matters, this declarant then gave up all further proceedings in despair, until hearing some 2 or 3 years since that a Mr. Floyd was attending to government claims, he implored him & his declaration was after some delay forwarded to the pension office.

This declarant states that his memory has become very indistinct & while he can recollect events, he cannot now recollect their order: that he was a soldier of cavalry & receive pay as such in the Revolution: & that he is not able to attend personally to court by reason of bodily infirmity.

S/ Jesse Harper, X his mark

[p 13: Finding by the Tazewell County Virginia court dated July 2, 1851, that Jesse Harper, a revolutionary war pensioner died in said County February 11, 1849 survived by only one son, Leonard Harper, and 5 grandchildren, viz., Patton, Nancy, David, James M. and Leonard, that the children of his deceased daughter Ann & no widow or other heirs and that William Harper is the administrator of his estate.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$100 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, and ending February 11, 1849 when he died; he was pensioned for his service as a private of artillery [sic, cavalry] for two years in the Virginia service.]