

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Benjamin A. Cooper S16722

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 21 Jan 2019.

[Punctuation partly corrected.]

State of Missouri, County of Saline to Wit:

On this twenty fifth day of February one thousand eight hundred and thirty three, personally appeared in open Court, before the Judge of the Circuit of said Court of Saline County Benjamin A. Cooper a resident of the County of Saline and state aforesaid – Aged seventy seven 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 seventh 1832 –

That he entered the service of the united states under the following named officers, and served as herein stated. That he entered into the service of the U States as a private in the County of Washington in the state of Virginia in the year 1776 under the Command of Capt. Daniel Smith, Lieut Wm. Brown [William Brown], and Ensign William Cowen, and acted as rangers on the waters of Clinch & Holston Rivers in the state of Virginia aforesaid – and Cont'd in this service until the year 1779 at which period we were ordered and marched to the state of Kentucky to Boonsboro [Boonesborough] – previous to our marching John Duncan [R3126] was appointed Capt. of the Company, John Haggins Lieut, and John McMahan ensign On our arrival at Boonboro Ky Col John Bowman took Command and Major James Harrod. At this place Capt. Duncan became dissatisfied with some arrangements, and resigned his Commission, and was succeeded by Isaac Riddle [sic: Isaac Ruddle VAS1960] as Captain. At this time & place to wit in the year 1779 I was appointed an indian spy for one year, I ranged from this place, about blue licks the forks of Licking and thro' that country.

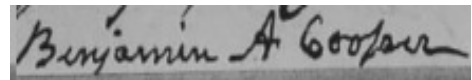
In June 1779 I with half of our company was marched by Col. Bowman to Chillicothe against the Shawnee indians and there had a severe battle [Bowman's Defeat, late Jul 1779], we retreated about 12 miles. They pursuing, we again gave them battle, and here conquered them. After this we returned to our station on Licking in the state of Kentucky.

At this place & in September 1779 I obtained a Furlough from Capt. Riddle by order of the Col. and ret'd. to Virginia, Washington County for the purpose of removing my father's family, together with others who also came out to Lincon County in Ky.

In the Spring of the year 1780 I was appointed by the Court of Lincon County after having been elected by the Company as Lieutenant in a Company, Commanded by Capt. Samuel Scott, and Robert Scott was Ensign. Col. Benjamin Logan was Commandant and Hugh McGaric [sic: Hugh McGavock] was Major – we then proceeded from Lincoln County Ky to Chillicothe in the state of Ohio to the Shawnee & Pickaway [Piqua] towns, here we were commanded by Gen'l. George Roger Clarke [sic: George Rogers Clark VAS269], at this place we had a severe engagement [8 Aug 1780], where we defeated the indians and destroyed a great quantity of their corn. From this place we ret'd. to Lincoln County Ky and guarded the frontier settlements, from this time til the year 1782. In this year Col. Stephen Trigg obtained the Command ended by Col. Logan, and marched his Company to the Blue Licks, where we had a fatal Battle [19 Aug 1782]. Col John Todd, and Col. Trigg both fell at this place. In the fall of this year we were marched under the Command of Col. Logan, to Chillicothe and the Pickaway Towns where we had again another battle and defeated them [10 Nov 1782].

We again ret'd. to Lincoln County Ky. Here I remained until the year 1784 or 1785 at which time I was marched to Post Vincennes against the indians to relieve the whites who had settled there.

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



State of Missouri } Sct.
County of Howard }

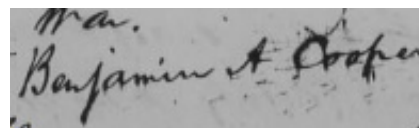
On this second day of December 1833, personally appeared in open Court, before the Honorable David Todd, Judge of the first Judicial Circuit (including the County of Howard aforesaid) Benjamin A. Cooper, and made the following declaration on his oath, in addition to his Declaration made before Judge of the Saline Circuit Court on the 25th day of February 1833 (which is here shewn to the Court) in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress, passed June 7, 1832. "That by reason of old age, and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, as detailed in his declaration aforesaid, but, according to the best of his recollection, he served not less than the periods mentioned below, and in the following grades:

For three years I served as a private soldier

For three years I served as a Lieutenant, and for such service I claim a pension.

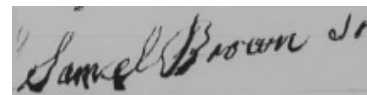
He knows of no living witness to his services aforesaid, except Samuel Brown, Sen'r, of Howard County, who was a private Soldier under him during the portion of the time he was a Lieutenant as aforesaid – and it is because he is advised of the propriety of obtaining said Brown's Certificate that he makes this, his amended declaration in the County of Howard.

To the questions directed by the War Department to be propounded by the Court, the applicant answers, that he was born in the County of Culpepper [sic: Culpeper] & State of Virginia, in the year 1756, and on the 25th day of January that he has no record of his age, the register containing having been torn from his for their Bible – that he was living in the County of Washington and State of Virginia when he was called into the service – that since the Revolutionary War he has lived in the County of Lincoln & County of Madison in the State of Kentucky, and in the County of Howard & County of Saline in the State of Missouri – in the last named of which he now resides. He volunteered into the service. He has stated the names of Col. Joseph Bowman [sic] and Major James Harrod as his superior officers while a private, & the names of General George Roger Clarke, Col Benjamin Logan & Major Hugh McGavic as his superior officers, while he was a Lieutenant. He never required & never received a discharge. He received his commission as Lieutenant from the Governor of Virginia – but lost it after the close of the Revolutionary War.



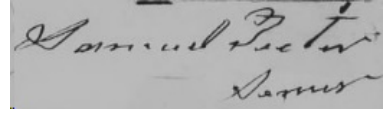
I, Samuel Brown, Sen'r. of the County of Howard & State of Missouri hereby certify that about the last of October, or the first of November, in the year 1781, I arrived at "Smiths Station" in Kentucky, where I understood Captain Samuel Scott to have command of a volunteer Company which was stationed there, and that Benjamin A. Cooper, the applicant in the foregoing declaration, was Lieutenant of the same. In the month of July 1782, I arrived at the age of sixteen years, when I was enrolled in the said Company, and know that the officers aforesaid then had command of the same. I continued in said company until it was dissolved, which was about 17 or 18 months – during all which time the said Company was in service, and commanded by Samuel Scott, as Captain, Benjamin A. Cooper as Lieutenant and Robert Scott, as Ensign, with the exception of about eight weeks during which Captain Scott was sick & his place temporarily supplied by Captain James Downey.

[signed 2 Dec 1833]



I, Samuel Teeter, Sr. [R10446] of the County of Howard and state of Missouri, hereby certify that I performed either two or three campaigns during the years 1782 and 1783, against the Shawnee Indians, and that Benjamin A. Cooper, of Saline County who has made application for a pension, was a Lieutenant in one of the Companies in those several campaigns. Belonging myself to another Company, I cannot

recollect the Caoptains name who commanded the Company of which said Benjamin A. Cooper was Lieutenant but I know that he continued in service, as a Lieutenant aforesaid, until the close of the Revolutionary War and afterwards.
[27 Mar 1834]

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Samuel Teeter" with a smaller signature below it.

[The following are from [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#) indexed as Cooper, Benjamin.]

Washington Jany 21/51

To his Excellency John B Floyd/ Governor of Virginia

The heirs of Benjamin A.. Cooper ask an allowance of Bounty land for his Services as a Lieutenant in the Ill's Regiment, under Gen'l G. R. Clark, for three years to the end of the War, in 1783.

Mr Cooper was first a private for 3 years, & then a Lieutenant for three years, & actually served till about 1784 against the Indians, on the frontier, as did a large portion of the Illinois Regiment.

Proof

- 1st. His declaration on oath in 1833 when applying for the benefits of the act of Congress of June 7th 1832.
- 2^d. The fact that Genl Clarke and Hugh McGavock, & Col Bowman, under whom he served have received Bounty land for their kindred services.
- 3^d. The deposition of Sam'l Brown Sr. who served under Lieut. Cooper in same company from July 1782 about 17 or 18 months, bringing the end of Coopers services to the first of the year 1784 or certainly to December 1783. Browns credibility is certified by Judge Todd.
- 4th. The testimony of Sam'l Teeter Sen'r. who served in the same Regiment, in 2 or 3 Campaigns in 1782 & 1783 and who says he knows that Cooper served as a Lieutenant to the end of the War & afterwards. The credibility of Teeter is certified by Judge Todd.

It is submitted that the case is clearly established by these proofs. Cooper was readily admitted to a full pension under act June 7, 1832 as a Lt. in the Virginia State troops, which he drew till his death a few years since.

Mr Cooper removed to the West, with the Army, on receiving his Commission, as Lieutenant, & never crossed the mountains to return, but died in Missouri. So says one of papers filed in the pension office.

His claim to land would have been presented many years since, had there been any appropriation of Scrip, out of which to satisfy the warrant. It is now presented in anticipation of such an appropriation.

respectfully submitted/ Vespeasian Elis

Registered Jan'y 25, 1851

Feb'y 27th Advice. This officer does not appear to have been either on the Continental or State establishment, and his name is not on the roll of officers of the Illinois regiment certified by Geo. Rogers Clark in 1782. Advised to be rejected.

This claim is allowed for three years service and to the close of the war as Lieut, in the Illinois Regiment

J B Floyd

NOTES: A letter in the federal file by William D. Bush or Marshall MO dated 13 Sep 1886 states in part: "Col Benjamin A Cooper who was a Lieutenant Colonel in the Revolutionary War he was allowed a pension he drew his pension up to the time of his death which occured dureing Buchanons Administration [James Buchanan, 4 Mar 1857 - 4 Mar 1861] he also served in the war of 1812."