

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Harper S30454

f16VA

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 Kentucky Woodford County: SS

On this the 25 day of February 1843 personally appeared before me Goodloe Carter an acting Justice of the Peace in and for the County and State aforesaid Mr. John Harper resident of the County of Woodford State of Kentucky & who is by reason of Bodily infirmity prevented from appearing in Open Court – being aged upwards of Eighty 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 entered the Service of the United States during the Revolutionary war, in the month of March 1780 and left the same in October thereafter, and that he entered as a drafted Militia Private and was drafted under Captain Stratton [perhaps Jeremiah Stratton] and John Harpole was the Sergeant and marched from the South Fork or Branch of the Potomac River in Pendleton County Virginia to the North fork about fifteen miles where the Indians had been an just killed some of the white people and burned houses &c and at this place he remained about four weeks guarding this portion of the Country from the ravages of the Indians: and Sergeant John Harpole and an officer by the name of Abraham Hinkle were the commanding officers at this station as Captain Stratton returned back to South Fork, and at the termination of said four weeks Captain Cravens [perhaps Robert Craven] from Rockingham County Virginia arrived with more men and took the command of the whole troops and then marched them to what was called the West Fork on the extreme frontier about one hundred thirty miles, he thinks West of North Fork, and that they remained at West Fork until the tour for which he was drafted being for three months had terminated at the termination of the same they were about to start home when the Indians again appeared and commenced depredations and he then volunteered for another tour of three months and did continue in actual service until it terminated, and during which he continued at said West Fork as a guard or guarding the frontiers from the inroads of the merciless Savage – and would in Companies of two, three &c go out hunting to kill deer &c, yet the men would not venture out far from the Fort on account of the great danger to which they were exposed of being killed or taken by the Indians, and that he frequently had hunts of this character & in this way he was engaged until the last mentioned tour had terminated, and afterwards they returned back to South Fork in Pendleton County Virginia, which was the first of October or after – and declares that he was in actual and arduous service from the time he was drafted as aforesaid until he returned home at the period first mentioned. He further Declares that he resided in Pendleton County Virginia when he entered the Service aforesaid as a drafted Private & that he served out the tour & then volunteered for another as aforesaid and after serving out the same marched back to Pendleton County Virginia from Fort

West Fork. He further declares that he has no documentary evidence in support of his claim, and knows of no one whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his service except his Brother Adam Harper¹ who is now his nearest neighbor and who was with him in all the aforesaid 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 to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid before me

S/ Goodloe Carter, JP

S/ John Harper, X his mark

[Joseph Gwyn, an elder in the Presbyterian Church, and James Ford Junior gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

I Goodloe Carter an acting Justice of the Peace in & for the County of Woodford State of Kentucky hereby certify that I propounded the following Interrogatories to the foregoing declarant John Harper who answered them as herein after set forth

Question 1st Where and in what year were you born?

Answer. I was born in Pendleton County in the year 1762

Question 2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Answer. My age was recorded in our Bible or the Bible of my father but the leaves have been lost and in what manner not known – other whens [sic? otherwise?] I have had none

Question 3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Answer. I resided in Pendleton County Virginia when called into service and resided there after the close of said war until the year 1794 at which time I removed to Kentucky Woodford County & have continued to reside in Woodford County up to this day.

Question 4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if a substitute, for whom?

Answer. I was drafted for the first tour of service of three months and volunteered for the second tour of service.

Question 5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer. Captain Cravens Militia man of Rockingham County Virginia formed their junction with the men from Pendleton County Virginia at North fork & I cannot say particularly in relation to other militia Companies. I was drafted in March 1780 & served three months as a drafted Militia Private & then volunteered for another tour of three months when said tour terminated & then continued until it terminated – after which I returned to my home in Pendleton County Virginia and during the aforesaid tours we marched to North fork where we remained about 4 weeks and then marched to Fort West Fork on the western frontiers of Virginia and remained until the second tour terminated and there would defend the frontiers from incursions of the Indians – & would go out on a tour of hunting but would keep close to the Fort or not extend our chase too far from the Fort.

Question 6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Answer. If ever I received a discharge – I don't now remember it – & if I did it has been lost.

Question 7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier

¹ FPA S30453 transcribed and posted in this database of even date herewith

in the revolution.

Answer. Joseph Guinn, Richard Ship, Hillary Offult, G. E. Gulaspie, James Ford Junior & Robert Adams.

He declares that the reason he did not apply for a Pension at an earlier date is that he did not know that he was in brace or his case was embraced by virtue of any existing law until late & he now humbly prays to be enrolled on the roll of Revolutionary Pensioners by virtue of the Act of the 7th of June 1832.

S/ John Harper, X his mark

I Adam Harper resident of Woodford County Kentucky hereby certify that I am the Brother of John Harper of the same company & that my said Brother is upwards of Eighty years of age and was a Soldier in the Revolutionary war for I myself was with him and an eye witness to his service. I and my said Brother were drafted in March 1780 to serve a three months tour against the Indians – we set out immediately to serve out said tour and did so – and when it was completed we volunteered for another tour of the same duration & completed it and then returned back to Pendleton County Virginia where we resided when we entered the service and in which we were drafted and we returned back to Pendleton County in October 1780 and was in actual and arduous Service for the time we were drafted until about the first of October after the war was over we lived in said Pendleton County until we removed to Woodford County Kentucky where we now live. I further certify that the statements made by my aforesaid Brother in relation to his service in the Revolutionary war are strictly true for I myself was an eye witness to the same being in Company with him.

Sworn and subscribed before me

S/ Goodloe Carter, JP

S/ Adam Harper, X his mark

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months in the Virginia militia.]