

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Caleb Cooper S30959

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[Punctuation partly corrected]

State of Kentucky

Pulaski County Court Sct

On this 19<sup>th</sup> day of May 1834 personally appeared in open Court before the County Court of Pulaski County Kentucky, now sitting as a Court, Caleb Cooper A resident of Pulaski County state of Kentucky aged about Seventy two 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 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated. that while a resident of Bottetourt [sic: Botetourt] County, Virginia in the year 1776 or 1777. he cannot now from long lapse of time state the year or month exactly. he is entirely illiterate, can neither read or write. he well recollects he was a little upwards of fifteen years of age. he went as a hired hand to assist in driving cattle from said County to Baltimore in the state of Maryland for the use of the United States Army and while in Baltimore he enlisted for the Term of Three years in the company of William Johnson Captain who was Captain of a Company of Light horse, that he was attached to the Light horse Corpse [sic], & belonged to the Regiment under the command of Colonel William Washington. after his enlistment he was marched to JamesTown Virginia thence to Richmond from thence back to James Town, where the american forces had a Battle with the British, in which battle Colo Washington's light horse participated & was engaged, the British forces were whipped & Beaten, and in which Battle he received a wound in the right leg just below the knee and a slight sword wound on the head, on the top of the head & when he lost a horse killed during the Battle. [see note below] General Wayne was engaged in said Battle, in command of the Regular forces in which Battle Capt'n. Johnson was killed. The Lieutenant whose name I have forgotten was made the Captain after the Battle he was marched to different places engaged in performing such service as he Light horse Corpse were ordered to render. was in several skirmishes but in no other regular Battle. he was stationed the first winter after he entered the service together with the rest of Colo. Washingtons Light horse, at a place called Potts Grove in the state of Pennsylvania, according to his present recollection was once marched thro the state to a place called Bedford was twice during the Three years for which he enlisted marched into the state of Maryland. most of the Three years he was engaged in the State of Virginia at different places rendering Light horse service a part of the winter he was stationed at Richmond Virginia Gen'l. Campbell of the Militia was occasionally there during the winter. the third winter when the severely cold weather set in he was ordered by his Colonel to return home and remain until the breaking of winter he done so. he remained at home not more than two months and again returned to the service in Washingtons Light horse. he served out fully the three years except the two months above mentioned in rendering such services as he was ordered to perform as one of Colo. Washingtons Light horse, and at the expiration of the Three years he received a discharge in writing for Three years service as a Light horseman signed by Colo Washington as he now thinks, which has long since been lost or destroyed, who then expressed a readiness and willingness to pay him his wages then due him. But the Colonel said the money was depreciated and of no account, the Colo. handed him his discharge, which induces him to believe it was signed by Colo. Washington.

Afterwards in the latter part of the year 1780 as he now thinks still a resident of Bottetourt county Virginia, he was drafted to serve for three months in the company of Captian James Barnett against the Indians. he belonged to the Regiment and was under the command of Colo. [William] Campbell. after he entered the service he was marched to the Long Island on holstien River [sic: Holston River, at present Kingsport TN] and at which place a peace was concluded with the Indians, and he together with rest was ordered home and discharged from service. he cannot say exactly how long he was engaged in this service, but not less than two months. he received a discharge in writing signed by Captian Burnett which has long since been

lost or destroyed.

afterwards in the year 1781- still a resident of said County, he was again drafted for the Term of Three months to serve against the British who were then encamped & lying near and about Richmond & Williamsburg. he was drafted to serve in the company of Captian Looney belonged to the 4<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment commanded by Colo. [John] Willis after entering the service he was marched to and joined the main army at headquarters at old Williamsburg Commanded by Genl Campbell, was in a Battle called the hot water fight near Williamsburg [Battle of Hot Water or Spencer's Ordinary, 6 miles NW of Williamsburg, 26 June 1781]. was afterwards marched & joined the American army under the command of General Washington, then beseiging Lord Cornwallis at York [28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781]. before Cornwallis was taken, he was together with others marched into the Country Between Richmond & York to prevent the British & Tories from burning the rope walks [see note] and destroying houses &c and remained in the vicinity of the rope walks until after the surrender of Cornwallis. immediately afterwards upon the expiration of the Three months which he fully served out he was discharged from the service. he received a written discharge for three months service, signed by Captian Looney which has long since been lost or destroyed.

Five or Six years after the close of the Revolutionary war, while living in Sullivan County Tennessee the year he does not now Recollect he volunteered to serve as Indian spy for the Term of Two months under the command of Lieutenant Hare, who was in command of a company of 35 Spies. after the company was raised he was marched to the frontiers and as a spy served on Holstien Clinch & Bluestone Rivers. during the time he was stationed at Blackamores [or Blackmore's] fort on Clinch River he served out fully said two months and was discharged from the service, But received no discharge in writing.

He has no Documentary evidence whatever of his services and knows of no person whose Testimony he can procure who can testify to his services except William Hays of Pulaski county a Revolutionary Pensioner who lived a neighbour to him in Bottetourt County Virginia and by whom he can prove the service stated in his Declaration against the Indians in the campaign in the company of Captian Burnett. he can also prove by said William Hays that it was understood and talked about in the neighbourhood about the time that he was one of Colo. Washingtons Light horse. the said Hays served with him under Burnet against the Indians. He [Cooper] is known to John Duncan and George S. Benton (no clergyman living in his immediate neighbourhood) residents of his present neighbourhood who can testify to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution.

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 or Territory

He was born in Bedford County, Virginia on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January according to his present recollection of what his Parents told him on the subject, but in what year he has entirely forgotten. He has no Record of his age. he cannot read or write.

He was living when called into the service at the places stated in his Declaration. after the Revolutionary War and before he served as a spy he continued to live in Bottetourt one year then moved to Montgomery County Virginia and from there he moved to Sullivan County where he lived when he volunteered as a spy & also volunteered to serve against the Indians under Gen'l StClair [sic: Arthur St. Clair] and was in StClairs defeat [4 Nov 1791]. after his service as a Spy he moved to Lincoln County Kentucky and from there after living little upwards of one year he moved to & settled in Pulaski County State of Kentucky where he now lives. and in which he has lived since he first settled in said County except about two years he moved from Pulaski to Wayne County and when troops were raising to march to the defence of Orleans towards the close of the last war he volunteered in the company of Capt'n. Vickery and was in the army under the command of General Jackson now President of the United States and was at the Battle of Orleans [8 Jan 1815]. after his return home he moved back again to Pulaski County where he now lives.

He was called into service as stated in his Declaration.

He has stated the names of the Officers and the Regiments where he served together with the general circumstances of his service.

He received discharges in writing for each & every term of his service except in services

as a spy signed as stated by him in his Declaration, which have long since been lost or destroyed  
Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid Caleb hisXmark Cooper

I William Hays a resident citizen of Pulaski County State of Kentucky aged Seventy eight years a Revolutionary Pensioner of the United States having been first duly sworn according to law in open Court, doth on oath declare and state, that I do of my own personal knowledge know that Caleb Cooper the applicant in the above foregoing Declaration, as well as myself was drafted to serve for three months in the company of Captian James Burnett against the Indians was under the command of Colo. Campbell and I do know that said Cooper served in said company until after the peace was made at the Long Islands of Holstien when he was ordered as well as the rest of the company to return home. we did not serve out fully the three months but served at least two months. and the said William Hays doth on oath further state, that he lived a neighbour to said Caleb Cooper at the time and for a long time before he was drafted for the three months in the company of Captian James Barnett as above states in the County of Bottetourt Virginia, and that he does know that it was generally and well understood in the neighbourhood about the time & afterwards and talked about in the neighbourhood that the said Caleb Cooper was one of Colo. William Washingtons Light horse, and that he has heard it talked about and has often talked with said Cooper about his services in the Light horse under Washington.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid William hisXmark Hays

NOTE:

The account of Cooper's first tour is thoroughly confused. Lt. Col. William Washington took command of a corp of Dragoons late in 1778, and he served in the North for the next two years until he was sent to Charleston SC. He was not in Virginia during this period, since there was little action in that state until early 1781. The battle near Jamestown VA was the Battle of Green Springs Plantation on 6 July 1781, where Gen. Anthony Wayne was soundly defeated. Lt. Col. Washington was still in South Carolina at the time.

The description of Cooper's first tour as a militiaman is also confused. The Treaty at Long Island of the Holston River was signed in 1777. According to the pension application of William Hays [R4783], the troops intending to attack the Cherokees late in 1780 were dismissed when on arriving at Long Island they learned that Campbell had already burned the Indian towns.

Rope-walks were long factories where workers spun rope as they walked along it.