

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Parker Copes S39350

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 8 July 2011.

State of Virginia to wit

On this 9th day of July in the year 1818 before me James Semple a Judge of the General Court of the state aforesaid personally appeared Parker Copes aged 56 years a resident of the County of Accomack in the state aforesaid, who being by me first duly sworn on the holy Evangelists in due form of Law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the late act of Congress Entitled an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary war that he the said Parker Copes in the year 1781 in the county of Accomack in the State aforesaid enlisted under Capt Thomas Parker for 18 months, that he was marched to Cumberland Courthouse Virginia where he was inoculated for the small pox and was intended to go to the Southward, but when recovered he was ordered to Winchester in Virginia and marched under Capt. [Abraham] Kirkpatrick to that place and was employed in guarding the British prisoners captured at little York [Yorktown, 19 Oct 1781]. in the neighbourhood of that place – that he continued to serve in that corps or in the service of the United States untill the [blank] day of [blank] in the year 1782 when he was discharged at Winchester in Virginia that he now has no other evidence of his services in his power that he is in reduced circumstances and stands in need of the assistance of his country for his support –

I do certify that the foregoing service was performed in the 11th Reg. in the Virg'a line. Given under my hand at Accomack county in the state of Virginia March 29, 1819.

Jno. Cropper formerly Lt. Col. Comm'dt. 11th Virginia Regiment in the Continental Service [see endnote]

Commonwealth of Virginia

Accomack County towit.

On this 1st day of March 1825 personally appeared in open Court being a Court of Record (the said Court proceeding according to the course of the common law with a Jurisdiction unlimited in point of amount and keeping a record of its proceedings and having the power of fine and imprisonment) Parker Copes aged sixty three years, who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath declare that he served in the Revolutionary war as follows, that he the said Parker Copes enlisted as a soldier to serve eighteen months in a company commanded by Capt Thomas Parker of the 11th Virginia Regiment on continental establishment commanded by Col. [Richard] Campbell, the same Col. Campbell that was killed at the battle of Eutaw Springs [8 Sep 1781] and whose Christian name is unknown to him the said Parker Copes, that he served the said Eighteen months and that a pension has heretofore been granted him under the act of Congress passed on the 18th day of March 1818 and that he has not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of his property with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring himself within the provisions of an Act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War" passed on the 18th day of March 1818 and that he has not nor has any person in trust for him any property or securities contracts or debts due to him, nor has he any income of any kind whatsoever. The said Parker further states on oath that he has no mechanical trade but lives by farming on land provided for him by the bounty of his son in law [see endnote] William Elliott in the County of Accomack That his family consists of himself who is healthy, his wife Margaret, who is crippled goes on crutches but healthy, his son Thomas Copes who is about 12 years old and healthy his daughter in Law Rachel Elliott who is about 21 years of age and is healthy and Littleton T. Elliott who is about 18 years of age and unhealthy – the said

Parker having no property of any kind as before stated has no schedule to exhibit.

[On 31 Aug 1825 Copes made an application similar to the above, but with the following addition:]
“he did not apply to be continued on the pension list before the 1st day of March 1825 because until the 19th day of February 1825 the said Parker Copes was in possession of property to the value of about \$240 which property was under mortgage to Jesse Elliott for a Debt of greater amount than the value of the whole of said property and said Parker was informed that while he held possession of said property he could not be continued on the pension list...”

[This amended application ends with a detailed account of the sale on 19 Feb 1825 of Copes’s property, including “my wifes third [dower right] & Int[erest]. to & in negro Edmund for life.” Much of the property was bought by William Elliott, the son of Cope’s wife. The file includes extensive correspondence explaining the financial and family situation of Copes.]

NOTES:

A size roll of noncommissioned officers and privates taken at Cumberland Old Courthouse lists Parker Copes/ age 18/ height 5’ 4¼”/ brown complexion/ planter/ born in Accomack County/ residing in Northampton County where he enlisted on 7 Jan 1782 for 18 months.

John Cropper (pension application W3781) also certified Copes’s service in the pension application of Samuel Russell S38344. The 11th Virginia Regiment was dissolved 12 Feb 1781. Copes was apparently then attached to the company of Capt. Abraham Kirkpatrick in the 1st Virginia Regiment. Col. Richard Campbell went into the 4th Virginia Regiment at the same time.

In one letter the pensioner is referred to as “Peter Parker Copes, alias Parker Copes.” That letter also explains that “the Negro Edmund sold at the aforesaid sale of the Estate of said Parker Copes did not belong to the said Parker Copes in fee simple, but he was a dower Slave of the said Parker Copes’s wife, of the Estate of her first husband Teackle Elliott, and consequently the right of said Parker Copes in said Slave was only during his wife’s life time. The said Edmund was of very little value, and the interest of said Peter P Copes in him was fairly sold to the highest bidder.”