

**Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters**

Pension application of John Copeland S40052

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Transcribed by Will Graves

12/7/10: rev'd 12/2/19

[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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

District of West Tennessee

John Copeland now residing in Davidson County in the State of Tennessee, formerly of Georgia came before me and claimed to be placed on the pension list of the United States And upon Oath made the following declaration, to wit, that he enlisted as a private or a Continental Soldier during the revolutionary war, in the company of Captain Archibald Lytle of the 6th North Carolina Regiment & after they were marched to Wilmington he was made 1st Sergeant of the company, that he enlisted in April 1776, that owing to his marches he became afflicted with a sore leg, which by the Physicians was called a white swelling, which entirely disabled him from doing duty as a soldier and that Captain Lytle who was then promoted to a Colonel furloughed him the said Copeland on account of the swelling or disease in his leg – and was afterwards discharged in January or February 1778 by Captain A. Lytle, on account of his sore leg has been sore ever since, and never expects it to be well, that the State of North Carolina gave him a land grant deeming him enlisted as other soldiers – And that he is the owner of nothing on this earth but a blind mare and a few cloths

S/ John Copeland



S/ John McNairy, District Judge

State of Tennessee Davidson County

On this day the 19th of November 1824 personally appeared in open Court, being a Court of record for the fourth Indian Circuit of the State of Tennessee John Copeland aged sixty-eight years, who being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the act of Congress of the 18th of March 1818 and first May 1820 that he said John Copeland enlisted for the term of two years on the \_\_ day of April 1776 in the State of North Carolina, in the Company commanded by Captain Archibald Lytle in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Lillington in the line of the State of North Carolina on the Continental establishment, that he continued to serve in the said Corps until February 1778, when he was discharged from the said service in Hillsboro and the State of North Carolina –And in pursuance of the act of the first of May 1820, I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or in any manner whatever disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provision 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 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818, and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property, or securities, contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed

The said John Copeland further states that he was during his service in the revolutionary war afflicted with a disease in his legs which has continued since that time to afflict him he has no family.

Schedule of property of John Copeland  
one sorrel mare about eight years old  
one saddle and bridle & saddle bags

S/ John Copeland

Sworn to and declared on the 19th day of November 1824 before me Jacob McGavock,  
Clerk of the Circuit Court for Davidson County in open court

S/ Jac McGavock

State of South Carolina Greenville District: to wit

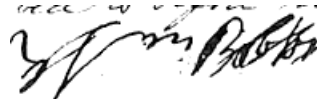
Personally came before me, the subscribing Justice, William Robbs<sup>1</sup> of the District and State aforesaid and being by me first duly sworn, upon the Holy evangelist of Almighty God, declares on oath that John Copeland, to this Deponent well known, enlisted in the Regular Service of the United States in the Revolutionary War, in the Continental line in \* 1776 in Orange County in the State of North Carolina, under Captain Archibald Litle of the sixth Regiment (deponent believes) commanded by Colonel Linington [sic, John Alexander Lillington]; and that the said Copeland in company with this deponent marched from Orange County to Wilmington in North Carolina and that sometime in the Fall afterwards they departed and this deponent left the said Copeland in the regular Service acting as Sergeant in Captain Litle’s Company and that he believes the said Copeland enlisted for the Term of two years & six months –

(\*day not recollected)

Sworn to & subscribed to before me the sixth day of April A.D. 1824.

S/ William Choice, Not. Pub. & Ex Off JQ

S/ Wm Robbs



[fn p. 27]

State of Tennessee Rutherford County

Wm Lytle Senior<sup>2</sup> makes oath, that he entered the Army of the Revolution of 1776 & on the 6th day of April – that he was commissioned as an Ensign in the 6th Regiment of the North Carolina Continental line – this affiant was 2 & 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant by promotion in said Regiment was commissioned after which Captain in the 4th Regiment of said line & finally transferred to the 1st Regiment.

This affiant further states, that whilst he was a youth & long before the commencement of the War, he was personally acquainted with John Copeland, – that said Copeland is at the time of

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<sup>1</sup> I could find no pension application under the any of the federal pension laws filed by a man of this or any similar name based on service in either the North Carolina Continental line or militia. Consequently, this may be the only record of this veteran's anticipation in the revolution.

<sup>2</sup> [Will \(William\) Lytle S46228](#)

the writing here of in the presence & company of this affiant, & he knows him to be the identical man to whom all the statements in this affidavit refer.

Affiant states that said Copeland enlisted as a private in the company of Captain Archibald Lytle of the aforesaid 6th Regiment of which the affiant as aforesaid was then an Ensign. Said Copeland enlisted in the month of April 1776 and was immediately made by his Captain 1st Sergeant of the company.

The last of April or first of May 1776, Captain Lytle's Company, at and before that time being stationed at Hillsboro, was marched to Wilmington – said Copeland marched with the said company.

While Captain Lytle's Company remained stationed at Wilmington, he (Captain Lytle) was promoted to the Rank of Lieut. Colonel of the 6th Regiment.

In the summer or fall of 1776, John Copeland above referred to was afflicted with a swelling or some disease in the ankle of his left leg, which entirely disabled him from doing duty as a soldier and his company. To the certain knowledge of this affiant Lieutenant Colonel Lytle to whose Regiment Copeland was attached furlough said Copeland on a/c [account] of swelling or disease in his ankle. This affiant further states, that more than one year after said Copeland had enlisted as aforesaid, he heard Colonel Lytle say, that said Copeland was still on furlough, and was a soldier of said 6th Regiment.

This affiant, of his own personal knowledge does not know when or how the said Copeland was finally discharged from the Army – but he does know that said Copeland received from the Government of North Carolina a land warrant for one thousand acres of land, the amount of acres that all sergeants were entitled to. From this fact this affiant is of belief that said Copeland was regularly discharged.

This affiant as from his own personal observation now that said Copeland's ankle is still diseased, which he has always before observed, when in his company.

And further this affiant says not.

S/ Will Lytle



Sworn to & subscribed before me this 29th September 1824

S/ Samuel P Black, JP

State of North Carolina Secretary's Office

I William Hill Secretary of State in & for the State aforesaid, do certify that the name of John Copeland appears on the muster rolls of the Continental line of this State in the revolutionary war, in one place only, and their as a private Soldier in Captain Sharp's Company of the 10th Regiment mustered the 2nd of May 1781 for the term of 12 months and over made in the course of the same year.

That it appears from the Warrant-book of this office, that on the 18th of August 1784 a warrant issued for the services of John Copeland a Sergeant in the Army of the revolution and of the line of this State on the Continental establishment, which warrant was issued on the Certificate of and Officer of said Army.

Given under my hand at office in Raleigh this 12th January 1825

S/ Wm Hill

State of Tennessee Davidson County

On this day personally appeared, before me John Copeland, aged seventy-one years, and

makes oath, to the following additional declaration, in order to obtain the provision made by an act of Congress of the 18th of March 1818, and first of May 1820. That in the month of October 1819 Henry & William Lucas, entered into a conspiracy against him, and had him committed to jail in Hancock County, in the State of Georgia, on the charge of house burning where, he was confined for twelve months and was then discharged on the ground that the prosecution was frivolous and malicious. In the meantime they had disposed of, or destroyed, all his property consisting of Negroes and stock, amounting to about \$2000. Previous to his release said Henry & William Lucas had absconded to the State of Alabama, since which time he has followed them and instituted suit against them, but has not been able to recover any of his property, or money in a loop thereof. He entertains no hope that he will ever be able to recover anything of them, as they are possessed of no visible effects which they claim as their own. He is extremely poor, and has only been enabled to subsist himself, by the charitable indulgence of persons in expectation that he will be able to draw a pension.

S/ John Copeland

Nashville

22 December 1827

Sworn to & subscribed before me the date last mentioned

S/ John McNairy, District Judge

[A note in the file indicates that the veteran died November 10, 1838.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of eight dollars per month commencing December 22, 1827, for two-year service as a private in the North Carolina Continental line.]