

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Levi Hopkins W11330 Elizabeth Hopkins MA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

Virginia/ Preston County towit

On this 11th day of March in the year 1833 personally appeared before me Frederick Harsh a Justice of the peace in and for said County of Preston and state aforesaid Levi Hopkins aged 79 years and resident of said County, who being first duly sworn 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 the 7th 1832. that he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. I volunteered in the fall of 1776 under Captain George King and served three months, my Col's name I do not now recollect, my General was Gen'l [Benjamin] Lincoln, I was in the battle of the White plains in New York [28 Oct 1776], I served three months as a private this tower. I was out one month in July 1776, was Commanded by Silas Gootrich Captain I this term was drafted for the purpose of protecting some bagage from the Indians and Tories. I have no recollection of seeing any superior officers in this trip though I saw other smaller body of our troops this was my first service and in the fall I volunteered as above stated. In the summer of 1777 I again volunteered under Captain Gootrich and served three months my Col was Stratks. I was at the dislodging of the British troops near Bennington under Col Baum [Battle of Bennington VT, 16 Aug 1777]; I was frequently called upon to be in readiness to march but was not at any other time in the service long enough to take any account of. I was born 31st March 1753 in Great Barington [sic: Great Barrington], Berkshire Massachusetts. I entered the service each tour as a private soldier at the place of my birth and then residence. I had my discharge but long since have lost them. I have [no] evidence that I know of my services. I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension except the present and declare that my name is not on the Pension list of any state whatever.

Levi Hopkins

Question by the Magistrate

Where and in what year were you born – Answer. I was born in Great Barington Berkshire County Massachusetts on the 31st March 1753. – Have you any record of your age. Answer I have in my family bible as given to me by my Parents – Where were you living when you entered the service and how did you serve. I was living at the place of my nativity. I volunteered twice and was drafted once for a short period. Did you ever receive a discharge, and if so, by whom was it given, and what has become of it. answer, I did receive discharges, some of my towers, and probably all of them. I think they were given by our Captain, though I have no particular recollection of that fact. I have lost my discharges or I have not seen them for the last thirty or forty years. I moved from the place of my nativity in 1784 and settled in Baltimore and resided there ten years or near that time, my health became bad and under the advice of my Doctor I removed to the place I now live on and was among the very first settlers of this section of the mountains.

We John A. Wootring and Tevault Shaffer, do certify that we are well acquainted with Levi Hopkins who has made the foregoing declaration and that we believe him to of the age he therein states that he is and always since our knowledge of him has been reputed to have been a soldier of the Revolution and that we concur in that opinion. Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

John A. Wootring Tevault Shafer

[The following report is by US District Attorney Washington G. Singleton as part of his investigation of hundreds of pension applications from present West Virginia. For details see my appendix to the pension application of David W. Sleeth S6111. Singleton wrote on this report "Fraud."]

Levi Hopkins – served 7 mo draws \$23 ³³/₁₀₀

I the undersigned Levi Hopkins at the requisition of the Secretary of War give the following

narrative of my age, & Revo services – I am in my 82 year of age. I am a Native of Massachusetts & emigrated from there to Va. when 31 years old – in the 1776 or 1777 cant tell which I volunteered under Capt. Goodrick & marched to Bennington. Just before getting there the Battle had been faught. I was in this service not less than ten days – three or four weeks after this I served a nother tour of three weeks under Capt. Thomas Ingerson in the year in which Washington retreated from New York [1776]. I volunteered for three months & marched under Capt Geo King to New York – Kingsbridge, – and this is all the service I done, except some few days after tories and attending Militia Musters & notifying men to parade &c. William T. Brown wrote my declaration – he returned thirty odd dollars after proposing to do it for nothing.

In Witness whereof I hereto subscribe my name August 8th 1834 Levi Hopkins

Note – this is an Honest man, he has been deceived & deluded by Brown his agent about whom you will here more anon – I was informed by W. Smith a gentleman of character, that Hopkins shewing as to his Revolutionary Services was extremely indistinct – that Hopkins procured him (Smith) to write to Massachusetts to the Brother of his (Hopkins) for information touching his services – he did write, and in answer to his letter the Brother of Hopkins detailed altogether less than five months service which had been performed by Levi Hopkins this letter was the only foundation for the Declaration.

W. G Singleton/ Nov. 24, 1834

War Department/ Pension Office/ May 1, 1835

Sir [John P. Byrne Esq/ Kingwood Va.] In reply to your letter of the 23^d ult'o. I have to state, that the name of Levi Hopkins & Jacob Hartzell [pension application R14891] have been dropped from the pension roll; neither of these men could have served six months, indeed Hopkins does not even pretend that he did in his statement to Mr Singleton. Hartzell alleges that he was drafted in Penn. for three months in Nov 1776 and that he was discharged in May following at Morristown; the claimant has most assuredly fallen into an error as to the duration of this service.

As respects the claim of Zadock Casteel [R1795], I have to observe that it will require the most direct & positive proof of his alleged service, to justify his being placed upon the pension roll; the testimony of the Brother alone cannot be received. Mr. Casteel has never been heard to say that he was in any service during the revolution, by any of his most intimate friends, neighbors and relations, until near the passage of the pension law.

I am &c

[copy not signed, but probably by James L. Edwards, Commissioner of Pensions]

NOTE: On 2 Feb 1855 Elizabeth Hopkins, 74, successfully applied for a pension stating that as Elizabeth Looper she was married to Levi Hopkins by Rev William Painter in Alleghany County MD on 10 Sep 1811, and her husband died in 1835 at age 82 or 83. On an application for bounty land dated 19 March 1855 Elizabeth Hopkins was said to be 73, and the date of her husbands death was given as 1 Sep 1835.