

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Matthew Leeper ¹ W26205

Margaret P. Leeper

f65NC

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves

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[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' or 'undeciphered' 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. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

[p. 12]

State of North Carolina, Lincoln County }

On this first day of June 1846 personally appeared before me Whiten Stowe one of the acting Justices of the Peace of the Court of Record in and for said County Matthews Leeper a resident of Lincoln County aged ninety one years and after first being 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 the 7th 1832, that he the said Matthew Leeper entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated; that he was drafted and put under the command of Capt. Barber [John Barber] and marched against the Indians² in the Cherokee nation and served one tower [tour] and afterward he was drafted and served again under the command of Capt. Barber and Colonel McClain [sic, Charles McLean] in North Carolina one tower and was discharged and this deponent further saith that afterwards he was drafted under the command of Capt. White [Isaac White] and Col. Graham [sic, probably Major Joseph Graham] and marched near to Wilmington where he was discharged and this deponent further saith that he was out several short towers as a volunteer and was at the battle of King's Mountain³ making in all the time of his service about ten months. This deponent further deposeth and saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service but according to the best of his recollection, he served not less than the periods mentioned and under the said officers and for such service I claim a pension.

I hereby relinquish 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. This deponent further deposeth and saith that the reason why he did not apply for a pension sooner is that he was a man in very good circumstance and did not stand in need of a pension but I have become old and almost helpless therefore petition for a pension for my service. Sworn to and subscribed before me this day and date above written.

S/ Matthew Leeper, L his mark

S/ Whiten Stowe, J. P.

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State of North Carolina Cleveland County } On this 16th day of June 1846 personally appeared

¹ BLWt34838-160-55

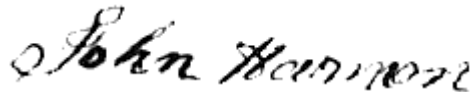
² https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_cherokee_expedition_1776.html

³ October 7, 1780 https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_kings_mountain.html

John Harmon⁴ aged 83 years before me Joseph Carroll one of the acting Justices of the Peace in and for said County and after being first duly sworn according to law depose and saith that he was well acquainted with Matthew Leeper in the day of the Revolution war and that he was drafted and put under the command of Capt. Barber and marched against the Cherokee Indians and served one tour and this deponent saith that he lived a near neighbor and saw the said Leeper in the Army and afterwards he was drafted and put under the command of said Capt. Barber and Col. McClain and was at the battle at King's Mountain. This deponent further saith that he was in the same Regiment at that time this deponent further saith he knew that the said Leeper was drafted again for he himself was and they were both put under the command of Capt. White and under Col. Graham and Genl. Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] and marched down in this State near to Wilmington and served out their tour of three months and were discharged. Sworn to and subscribed before me the day and date above written.

Test: S/ Joseph Carroll, JP

S/ John Harmon



[p. 35: Certificate dated April 12, 1852 from the North Carolina Comptroller General showing payments made to Matthew Leeper for service under Capt. Samuel Martin and under Capt. Joseph Dickson.]

[p. 49: letter dated Jan. 27, 1848 from Matthew Leeper to Jno. P. Edward.]

[p. 54]

State of North Carolina Catawba County: on this 30th day of May 1846 personally appeared before me one of the acting Justices of the peace for said County Abraham Forney aged eighty seven years old a resident of said County and after being first duly sworn according to law depose on oath and saith that he was well acquainted with Matthew Leeper in the day of the Revolution who is now making application for a pension upon the account of the service he rendered in said war. That he the said Matthew Leeper was a private Soldier in the war of the Revolution in the North Carolina Militia this deponent further saith that he knew that the said Matthew Leeper served two three months Towers under Capt. Barber and he further states a three month tower under Capt. White in the same Regiment that he served himself in the year 1780 and 1781 under Col. Graham and he further states that he has always been recognized as a revolutionary soldier ever since. Sworn to and subscribed before made this day and date above written.

S/ J. Helderman, JP

S/Abraham Forney⁵, A his mark

[p. 58]

State of North Carolina Gaston County: I William Rankin⁶ a resident of the County aforesaid do hereby Certify that I was well acquainted with Matthew Leeper during the revolutionary War and was in service with him under Capt. Samuel Martin and Major Joseph Dickson, on one occasion at Dutchman's Creek in Lincoln County where we attacked and killed a small party of Tories,

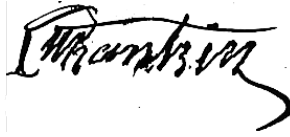
⁴ [John Harmon W2795](#)

⁵ [Abraham Forney W3976](#)

⁶ [William Rankin S7342](#)

and have no hesitation in saying he served at different times during the War from the commencement to the end of it. And have always believed him to be a Soldier of the Revolutionary War. I have always understood that he would not receive any pension for the reason that he had enough to live on and did not need it.

S/ Wm Rankin

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Wm Rankin', written in dark ink on a light background.

Sworn to before me the 14th of February 1852
S/ J. Holland, JP

[p. 9: On February 16, 1852 in Gaston County North Carolina, Mrs. Margaret Leeper, 51, filed for the arrears she claimed to be due her husband Mathew Leeper under the 1832 act for his services in the revolution; she states "that she is the widow of Mathew Leeper who was a soldier of the Revolutionary War under the command of Capt. Samuel Martin and Major William Croncile [sic, William Chronicle] at the battle of Kings Mountain and Capt. Samuel Martin and Major Jos. Dickson in a skirmish at dutch-may's [sic, Dutchman's] Creek in Lincoln County and at other times and places not recollected making a term of service two years at different times..."; she states she married him September 7, 1837 in Lincoln County by Robert Alexander Esquire and that her husband died October 12, 1849, "that his reasons for not applying for a pension in his lifetime was that he thot [sic, thought] and believed he had effects sufficient to maintain him as long as he lived, but a short time before his death he did agree for a Mr. Carrol to make application but for reasons unknown nothing was ever received...." She signed her application with her mark.]

[p. 5: On August 20th, 1855 in Gaston County North Carolina, Margaret P. Leeper, 55, a resident of Gaston County made application for her bounty land entitlement stating that she is the widow of Matthew Leeper, a revolutionary war soldier pensioned at the rate of \$30 per annum; that she married him in Gaston County on September 7, 1837; that they were married by RM Alexander, JP; that her name prior to her marriage was Margaret P. Mariner; that her husband died October 12, 1849 and that she remains his widow.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$30 per annum commencing March 4, 1831 and ending October 12, 1849 for 9 months service in the revolution.]