

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Hopkins W3553

Mary Hopkins

f47VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 2/21/09/ & 4/22/14

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

[p 15]

State of Virginia, County of Pittsylvania SS

On this 17th day of September, 1832, personally appeared in open court before the Justices of the Court of Pittsylvania, now sitting, James Hopkins a resident in the State of Virginia, in the County of Pittsylvania, aged Sixty seven years, on the 22nd February 1832 who being first sworn according to law doth make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress, passed June 7th 1832,--

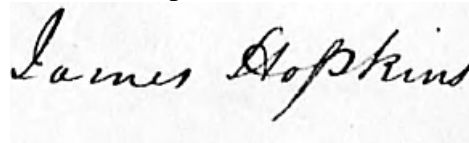
That he entered the service of the United States, as a Substitute in the place of James Hopkins, Sr., sometime in the Spring of 1780 and marched from the County of Amherst and State of aforesaid, under Command of Capt. Azariah Martin, Lieut. William Holt and Ensign ___ Leroy, the place of rendezvous was at Hillsborough, in the State of N. Carolina; after our arrival there, we were transferred to the 4th Regiment Virginia Militia commanded by Col ___ Lucas [sic, James Lucas], from the County of Mecklenburg, the Brigade was commanded by Brigadier General Stevens [Edward Stevens], from the County of Culpeper -- after remaining at Hillsborough some time for the purpose of being disciplined, we were ordered to march to S. Carolina and join Major General H. Gates [Horatio Gates], Commander in Chief of the Southern army at a place called Rugeley's Mills on the morning of the 15th August; rested the balance of the day and 10 O'clock at night took up the time of march to surprise the enemy before day who were encamped at Camden, who marched at the same hour; the two armies met on the middle ground, a sharp skirmish between the advanced guards took place that night, the line was formed and the men stood under arms all night, the next morning, August the 16th the line was ordered to advance and a general engagement [Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780] took place about the rising of the Sun, which resulted in a shameful defeat of the Southern army; there was no place designated in the event of a defeat at which we should rendezvous we lost all our baggage and were destitute of any clothing except what little we had on; separated from our officers and no means of subsistence--under these appalling Circumstances, although our term of services was nearly expired, a Considerable number of the Company to which he belonged determined to make the best of their way home; after our return to Amherst County, a Court of Enquiry convened and made an Order that we should all be sent back and serve a tour of eight months under regular officers; we were accordingly mustered and put under Command of Capt ___ Pamplin [William Pamplin], who marched us back to Hillsborough, where General Green's [sic, Nathanael Greene's] army then lay, and we were transferred to the command of Capt Graves [perhaps Captain John Graves], from the

County Culpeper, who was assigned to take command of the men sent back from a few other Counties for the same offense. In a short time the army was ordered to march to the South, we passed through Salisbury, Charlotte &c and about the 1st January 1781, we took winter quarters on the North Side of Pee dee [sic, Pedee] River near the Cheraw Hills, South Carolina. Sometime in the month of February, if his memory is correct, there was a general order issued for all the married men belonging to the eight Month's Company as they were called, to be discharged and the young men be retained till their term of services expired--this reduced the Company very considerably. Capt. Graves was permitted to return home with these men that were discharged and the balance retained in service, was placed under command of Capt ___ Webb and Lieut. ___ Webb, who he understood came from about Richmond, Virginia. Shortly after this General Morgan defeated Colo Tarlton [sic, Banastre Tarleton] at a place called the Cowpens [January 17, 1781] and took a number prisoners and had to make a rapid retreat to save them from being retaken by the enemy--as soon as General Greene received the information he immediately marched off the Army to cover Morgan's retreat and left this small Company of eight months men, some of whom were stationed at Mills to guard and keep them employed in grinding meal and flour for the use of the army and some to guard the encampment—finally Capt Webb received orders to take charge of eight or ten waggons loaded with meal and flour and about four hundred head of hogs and to follow on after the army and we were in fact in rear of both armies, when we reached Deep River in N. Carolina, intending to go to Guilford Courthouse, we received intelligence that Cornwallis was at the place—we then had to change our route, turned to the right went to Hillsborough & Granville County and crossed the Roanoke River at Taylor's Ferry, near which place in the County of Mecklenburg in the State of Virginia was a Commissary's store where the Capt delivered the meal, flour, hogs &c which we protected and through safe through a part of our Country that at that time was, literally speaking, in the hands of the British and Tories—by this time our term of service was nearly expired, we were permitted to draw up a petition and sent it on by express to Genl Greene, stating our situation; that we were almost naked, almost worn out with fatigue and praying him to send orders to the Captain to discharge us which he did and we met the express in the County of Halifax, near Banister River in State of Virginia where the Company were accordingly discharged, which was about the 1st of March 1781 this discharge has long since been destroyed; that he has no documentary evidence to prove his service—that he claims to have served in the whole nine months.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatsoever to pension or annuity except the present and declares his name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any State.

Sworn to and subscribed the date above.

S/ James Hopkins



[Griffith Dickenson Senior, a clergyman, and William Swanson gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

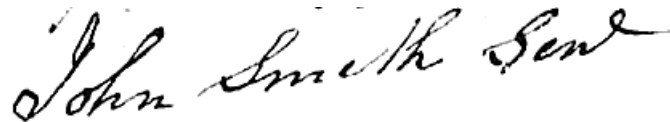
[p 35]

State of Virginia Pittsylvania County Sct.

I John Smith Senior of the State and County aforesaid, do hereby Certify, that he distinctly recollects to have heard sometime in the early part of the year 1780, that James

Hopkins had taken the place of James Hopkins Senior of the County of Amherst, and State aforesaid, and marched to the South, and that he has always been esteemed a man of truth and veracity. Given under my hand this 5th day of September 1832

S/ John Smith Senr.



[p 6: On October 29, 1853 in Danville Virginia, Reuben Hopkins, 55, a resident of Danville gave testimony that he is the son of Captain Thomas Hopkins deceased and his wife Mary, now his widow; that his parents were married pursuant to a license issued in Pittsylvania County Virginia but not returned by the clergyman, a practice which the affiant says was common at that time; that his father died in his own house in Pittsylvania County in July 1844 in the presence of the affiant and his mother, Mary Hopkins; that he, affiant, was born in 1798 and was the eldest child of his parents, but that his father was a widow were at the time he married the affiant's mother, Mary.



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[facts in file: On November 15, 1797, in Pittsylvania County, Virginia, the veteran, then a widower, married Mary (her maiden name not given) at the home of her uncle, Thomas Carter; they were married by Richard Elliott, a Baptist minister; Mary was a native of Pittsylvania County, Va.; veteran died in July 20, 1844 in Pittsylvania County; Mary was awarded a pension on her application executed March 2, 1853, at which time she stated she was 92 years old and still living in Pittsylvania County; she died May 31, 1853; Reuben Hopkins, eldest child of veteran and Mary was born 1798 and in 1853 was the clerk of Corporation of Danville, Virginia.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$30 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 9 months in the Virginia militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]