

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John Cropper W3781 Catharine Cropper VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 11 March 2019.

On this tenth day of October eighteen hundred & thirty eight personally appeared before the Judge of the Circuit Superior Court of Law & Chancery, of the County of Accomack Catharine Cropper, a resident of the County of Accomack, aged Sixty six years, who, being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress, passed July 7th 1838, entitled "An act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows."

That she is the widow of Lieutenant Colonel John Cropper who was first commissioned as she has always understood as a Captain in the Ninth Regiment of the Virginia Continental line in or about the last of the year 1775 or first of 1776 & was subsequently promoted and made a Lieutenant Colonel of the Eleventh Virginia Regiment and remained in service at the North till about 1779 when he returned to Accomack County and took command of the Militia and so continued in Command for several years. She further declares, that she was married to said John Cropper on the eighteenth day of September in the year 1790, that her said husband died on the 15 day of January 1821. that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service but the marriage took place previous to 1st January 1794 to wit at the time above stated.

State of Virginia, Accomack County SS

This day [25 Oct 1838] Thomas R Joynes of said County personally appeared before me William R Custer a Justice of the Peace for said County and made oath, That he is well acquainted with the handwriting of General John Cropper dec'd late of said County, and formerly a Lieutenant Colonel in the Virginia Line on Continental Establishment during the Revolutionary War That he has frequently seen said Cropper write in his lifetime. That he is one of the Executors of said Cropper, and as such had possession of all his Books and papers after his death. That this day a large Bible was shown to him by Mrs Catharine Cropper widow of said John Cropper; that in said Bible under the head of "Family Record" there are registered in the hand writing of said John Cropper, the times of his marriage with his two wives, and the times of the births of his children. That the first entries in said "Family Record" are in the words and figures following to wit.

"John Cropper son of Sebast'n and Sabra, and Margaret Pettit daughter of William and Mary were married by the Rev'd William Vere at the house of George Abbot in the County of Accomack August 15th 1776." "The above named John Cropper and Catharine Bayly, daughter of Thomas and Ann, were married by the Rev'd. William Vere at Hill's Farm September 18th 1790" The deponent has always understood and has no doubt that the said General John Cropper was the son of Sebastian & Sabra Cropper. From the knowledge of the deponent of the handwriting of said John Cropper, he has no doubt that the above quotations from the "Family Record" are entirely in the handwriting of said John Cropper The deponent has frequently understood and believes that the said John Cropper was commissioned as a Captain in the 9th Virginia Regiment on Continental Establishment in December 1775 or January 1776: That he joined the Army under the immediate command of General Washington, and fought in the Battles of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777], GermanTown [4 Oct 1777] and Monmouth Court House [28 Jun 1778]. That he continued in service until the year 1779. This knowledge of the Revolutionary service of General Cropper was derived partly from the information of others and partly from the papers of said John Cropper

Tho R Joynes

Treasury Department/ 3^d Auditors Office/ 2nd November 1838

Sir [J. L. Edwards Esq'r/ Commissioner of Pensions], In compliance with the request of V. Ellis Esq'r
contained in a letter which I, this morning, received from him, I have to state, that it appears from the

Muster Rolls of the 9th Virginia Regiment, on file in this office, that John Cropper was appointed, a Captain on the 5th of February 1776 and the Muster Rolls of the 7th and 11th Virginia Regiments show that he was appointed a Lt. Colo. on the 25th of April 1778, and in which capacity his name appears on the Rolls of the 7th Regiment up to November 1779. It is proper however to state, that it appears from a document, on file in this office, in the hand writing of Colo. Cropper himself that he did not render any actual service, as an Officer in the Continental line, subsequent to the 1st of September 1779, up to which time he says he was paid for his services. I am very Respectfully/ Your most Ob't. S/ Peter Hanger Aud

[The following are from [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

John Cropper Esq'r entered the service as a Captain in the 9th Virginia Regiment early in the year 1776 – I understand that he had prior to that time been in the Minute Service – in February or March 1779, he was promoted to the Rank of Lieutenant Colonel, in the Seventh Virginia Regiment on Continental establishment. Sometime in the same year (as well as I can recollect) he returned to the Eastern Shore, it was said & believed in the army, to take Command of the Militia for the defence of that part of the State, which was at that time invaded by the enemy. I never understood, & firmly believe, that Colonel Cropper never resigned, and that he was permitted by the Commander in Chief to remain on the Eastern Shore. Given under my hand this 7th September 1807.

James Wood [BLWt2419-500] formerly B Gen'l
Continental army

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Wood", with a long, sweeping underline.

Warrant for 6666 $\frac{2}{3}$ Acres issued to Lieut. Colo. Commandant for three years service
Wm Price Reg'r

NOTES:

The *Memoir of General John Cropper of Accomack County, Virginia* is available at <http://digitalcommons.providence.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1009&context=primary>

The following is from E. M. Sanchez-Saavedra, *A Guide to Virginia Military Organizations in the American Revolution, 1774-1787*. Westminster MD: Heritage Books, 2007, p 175: "On November 28, 1782, Colonel John Cropper, formerly of the 9th Virginia Continental Regiment, was persuaded to come out of retirement and join an expedition against British-paid pirates who were raiding the Eastern Shore. On November 29, Zedekiah Walley's Maryland squadron of armed barges picked up Cropper and twenty-five "gentlemen volunteers" from Accomack and set out after a notorious marauder known as Captain Kidd. Cropper's detachment, aboard the barge *Protector*, encountered Kidd's fleet near Smith's Island in Chesapeake Bay, and a furious battle ensued. Walley was killed, Cropper wounded, and most of the Marylanders and Virginians were captured and later paroled." Sanchez-Saavedra lists the following officers of Cropper's "Accomack Gentlemen Volunteers": Col. John Cropper, Maj. Smith Snead, Capt. Thomas Parker, Capt. William Snead, Capt. George Christian.

On 15 May 1845 Catharine Cropper applied for an increase in her pension, and on 20 Sep 1848 she applied under a later act of Congress, describing her late husband as "a Major and Lieutenant Colonel."

The family record is transcribed as follows:

(page 1)

John Cropper, son of Sebast'n. and Sabra; and Margaret Pettit, daughter of William and Mary; were married by the rever'd. William Vere at the house of Geo. Abbot, in the county of Accomack, August 15th 1776.

The above named John Cropper; and Catharine Bayly daughter of Thomas and Ann; were married by the rev'd. William Vere at Hill's Farm, September 18th 1790

John Wise, son of John and Margaret, and Sarah C. Cropper, daughter of John and Margaret; were married by the rev'd. Cave Jones, at Bowman's Folly, April 18th 1799.

Thomas M. Bayly, son of Thomas and Ann; and Margaret P. Cropper; were married by the rev'd. William Vere, at Bowman's Folly March 17th 1802.

Augustus W. Bagwell son of Charles and Ann and Catherine B Cropper, daughter of John and Catherine, were married at Snow Hill Aug't. 14th 1826

Joseph W. Gibb son of William and Frances, and Eliza W Cropper daughter of John and Catherine, were married at Melvin's Hollow Oct. 23rd 1826

George W. Arbuckle son of Edward and Ann and Ann C Cropper daughter of John and Catherine were married at Centervil Sep't. 28th 1831 by the Rev'd Mr. Sorin

John Washington Cropper and Mary Ann Savage were married September 5th 1832.

Coventon Hanson Cropper son of John and Catharine and Leah B. Seymore daughter of Wm and Isabella were married June 14th 1837

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John Cropper, son of Sebast'n. and Sabra, was born at Bowman's Folly in the county of Accomack December 23^d 1755

Margaret Pettit, daught'r of William and Mary, was born at Occahannock, in Northampton county, April 12th 1755.

Sarah C. Cropper 1st child and daughter of John and Margaret, was born at Bowman's Folly, in the county of Accomack, March 21st 1777, and was more than three years old before she saw her father, he being an officer then in the army of the Revolution, under General Washington

Sabra Cropper, 2^d child and daught'r. of John and Margaret, was born at B's. Folly, Sept'r 1779, and died when six days old.

Sabra Cropper, 3^d child of John and Margaret, (commonly called little Sabra) was born at B's Folly, Octo. 19th 1781, and died 27th Octo. 1783, much lamented by all the family

Margaret Pettit Cropper 4th child of John and Margaret was born at Bowm's. Folly, in the county of Accomack, May 13th 1784; her mother died when she was 3 weeks old, and while her father was absent of the Gen'l. Assembly of Virginia

Catharine Bayly, daughter of Thomas and Ann, was born at Hill's Farm, in the county of Accomack, Jan'y. 24th 1772.