

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Jesse Hopkins W665¹

Polly Hopkins

f59NC

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 17]

State of Tennessee White County: SS

On this 15th day of April 1834, personally appeared Jesse Hopkins in open Court, before the Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions of the County of White said Jesse Hopkins being a Resident citizen of said County and aged seventy five years, who being first 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 7th 1832.

He entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein after stated. In the year 1774 as well as he can remember, he substituted for John Champion for three months, in Granville County North Carolina where he then lived with his father. Richard Bradford was the name of his Captain and Ephraim Bradford nephew of his Captain was his Lieutenant. The troops met at Granville Old Court house and from thence were marched to Halifax Courthouse – thence to Wilmington, thence to Hillsboro where declarant was discharged his three months having expired. Colonel Aulston [Lt. Col. William Alston] had the command of the Regiment to which he belonged. He had been at home but a few days when he again substituted for John Kettle for the term of six months – Phil Bradford was the name of his Captain a relation of Captain Richard Bradford – Ephraim Bradford was again his Lieutenant. He marched from Granville old Courthouse down to Cross Creek – thence to Halifax Court house – thence to Hillsboro where he was stationed and served out his six months & was discharged and returned home. His Colonel was John Dickerson. He had not been at his father's but a very short time when he was drafted for nine months. He marched under command of Captain Richard Bradford to a point near Wilmington, he was there transferred to Captain ___ Wade's company and marched to Halifax Court house. He states he was several times thus transferred from one company or Captain to another, but whose names he does not recollect. He together with the balance of the troops was moved from place to place and stationed along the dividing line between North & South Carolina as necessity seemed to require. A Tory Captain by the name of John Fanning² and his company were doing much mischief about this time in that section of Country and the object was to notice their movements and destroy them if possible. He finally marched to Salisbury and from thence to Hillsboro where he was at the time the battle

¹ BLWt26905-160-55

² Possibly an erroneous reference to Colonel David Fanning, a notorious Tory Colonel who was active in the state of North Carolina in 1781.

was fought at Camden [August 15-16, 1780]. His nine months expired and he was discharged at Hillsboro and again returned home. Where after remaining a few days he enlisted during the War, under Captain Richard Hopkins who was a recruiting officer, he marched under command of said Hopkins to a point between Harrisburg Old Court house and Roanoke River, where he was placed under the command of Edward Williams as well as he can remember. Having been out four weeks having reached the residence of ___ Wilson Esquire on the North side of Roanoke River news reached the troops of the surrender of Cornwallis [Yorktown, October 19, 1781] and they were discharged and once more returned home. His father then moved to the Western part of Virginia to what was then called Elk garden where after having been out of the service of his Country about eighteen months he volunteered for three months. The object of this expedition was to go against the Indians. His Captain was Charles Hays – Charles Price was his Lieutenant. He marched to Robinson's Station – thence down to Blackmore's Station on Clinch River – thence to Martin's Station in Powel's Valley [Powell's Valley] where his three months having expired he was discharged. His Colonel was John Cowan – General Andrew Cowan his Captain's brother was with the troops. Shortly thereafter he again volunteered for three months under the same officers last mentioned. He marched from Elk Garden to the Block house on the waters of Clinch River – thence to the long Islands of Holston [River], he was here stationed and served out his three months and was discharged – He remained at home a few weeks on his return and again volunteered for three months under the same officers again, and again marched to the places mentioned in his last tour and also to Washington Court house now Addington [Abingdon] where his three months expired and he was discharged. Having served in all two years and four months. During his three tours last mentioned declarant had several rencounters with the Indians at Blackmore's Station – at Martin's Station, at the mouth of Bull Run on Sandy River and at the foot of Black mountain on Cumberland River. At the latter place the Indians took us by surprise and killed five of declarant's mess as they lay by his side. Declarant and the troops with him killed seventeen of the Indians and took the eighteenth and only one left prisoner. He was in no battle during his four first tours. He respectfully asks such pension as the above and foregoing services may entitle him to. He has no documentary evidence nor does he know of any person, whose testimony he can procure who can testify as to his service. He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any State.

Answers to the questions³ prescribed by the War Department and propounded by the Court –

1st He was born in Granville County North Carolina 19th October 1758.

³ The War Department promulgated regulations governing pension application format and requiring the following 7 interrogatories to be put to each applicant for a pension:

1st Where and in what year were you born?

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if a substitute, for whom?

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

2nd He has no record of his age –

3. He was living in Granville County North Carolina when called into service the four first tours – and when he entered the service the three last tours he resided in the Western part of Virginia in Elk Garden. Since the Revolutionary War he has resided in Stokes, Guilford & Burke Counties North Carolina – Spartanburg District South Carolina from the latter place he moved to White County Tennessee where he now resides and has resided for six years past.

4. He substituted the first and second tours – the third he was drafted – the fourth he enlisted and the three last he volunteered.

5th He has stated the names of the officers who were with the troops where he served as well as his memory will permit together with the general circumstances of his services –

6. He received written discharges at the expiration of each of his tours of duty – these discharges together with others with his pocket book containing other valuable papers were stolen from him at the Three Forks of New River.

7. He refers to the following individuals to whom he is known in his present neighborhood and who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution – viz.: Samuel Moore, Jesse Davis, Elijah Hill, Thomas Hill, Joel Smith, Reverend Arnold Moss & Joseph Cummings Esquire – He states it is out of his power to procure the attendance of a Minister of the Gospel.

Sworn to in open Court this 15th April 1834

S/ Jesse Hopkins, X his mark

[Joseph Cummings and Samuel More gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 10: On July 4, 1853 in Van Buren County Tennessee, Polly Hopkins, aged about 70, filed for a widow's pension under the 1853 act stating she is the widow of Jesse Hopkins, a revolutionary war pensioner; that she married him July 21, 1833 in White County Tennessee; that they were married by Joseph Cummings Esquire, a justice of the peace; that her husband died in 1846.]

[p 12: Copy of a license issued in White County Tennessee on June 20, 1833, for the marriage of Jesse Hopkins to Mrs. Polly Vaughan widow.]

[p 7: On April 7, 1855 in Van Buren County Tennessee, Polly Hopkins, 70, filed for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of Jesse Hopkins; she states that she was married to her husband by Joseph Cummings, JP in White County Tennessee; that she is now a pensioner of the United States under the 1853 act at the rate of \$40 per annum; and that she remains the widow of her husband; that her husband died in White County Tennessee in July 1846.]

[p 44: The widow was still living in Van Buren County Tennessee in 1866 when she applied at the age of about 90 for the restoration of her pension benefits as a revolutionary war widow pensioner.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$40 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for one-year service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]