

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Leonard Cooper W6712                      Christina Cooper                      VA  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 18 Mar 2013.

District of Virginia, SS.

On this 25<sup>th</sup> day of May 1818, before me the subscriber, one of the Judges of general Court of Virginia aforesaid personally appears Captain Leonard Cooper aged 66 or 67 years, resident in Shenandoah County in the said district, who being by me first duly sworn, according to law, doth, on his oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the provision made by the late act of Congress, entitled "an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war:" That he the said Leonard Cooper entered the regular service as an ensign in the year 1776 in the state of Virginia in the company commanded by Captain Rich'd Campble [sic: Richard Campbell] 8<sup>th</sup> Reg't Colo Peter Mughlenburg [sic: Peter Muhlenberg] of the said State; that he continued to serve in the said corps, or in the service of the United States until the year 1785 doing Garrison duty at West point, when he was discharged from service at West point state of New York & sent home, that he was in the battles of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777], German Town [Germantown, 4 Oct 1777], Monmouth [28 June 1778] and in a skirmish at Parames [Paramus] Meeting house [see below] was wounded and lost his leg and that he is in reduced circumstances, and stands in need of the assistance of his country for support; and that he has no other evidence now in his power of his said services except that now enclosed.

THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY FOR THE COLONY OF VIRGINIA

To Leonard Cooper Gent'n.

BY Virtue of the Power and Authority to us given, by an Ordinance of the General Convention, we, reposing especial Trust in your Patriotism, Courage, and good Conduct, do by these Presents appoint you, the said Leonard Cooper Ensign of the [blank] Company in the Eighth Regiment of regular Forces raised for the Defence and Protection of this Colony, whereof Peter Mughlenberg Esquire, is Colonel. You are therefore to act as Ensign in the [blank] Company of the said Regiment, by duly exercising the Officers and Soldiers under your Command, taking particular Care they be provided with Arms and Ammunition, as the Ordinances and Resolution of the Convention direct. And you are to observe all such Orders and Directions, from time to Time, as you shall receive from the Convention, the Committee of Safety, or your superior Officers, according to the Rules and Regulations established by the General Convention for the better Government of the regular Forces.

GIVEN under our Hands, at Williamsburg this	Edm Pendleton
19 <sup>th</sup> Day of February ANNO DOMINI 1776.	John Page
To take rank of Ensign Thos. Catlet of ye 6 <sup>th</sup> }	Dudley Digges
& Ensign John Graves of the 8 <sup>th</sup> Batt'n. to }	J's Mercer [James Mercer]
give rank to Ensign Ed. Wood of the 4 <sup>th</sup> . }	Thos. Lud Lee [Thomas Ludwell Lee]
	Jos. Jones

RECRUITING INSTRUCTIONS

FOR Lt Cooper of the 8 Virginia Regiment of United States

YOU are hereby authorized to enlist in any of the United States of America all such able-bodied freemen, as are willing to enter into their service and pay, in the character of Soldiers, being within the descriptions, and upon the conditions, hereafter annexed.

You are to enlist [paper damaged] freemen, above the age of seventeen and under that of fifty, of sufficient stature and ability of body to discharge all the offices of a private soldier; to be free from lameness, or other bodily infirmity, which may render them incapable to support the fatigues of a camp.

You are not to inlist any deserter from the army of the King of Great-Britain, nor any person of disaffected or suspicious character with respect to the American Cause.

You are to inlist them to serve during the war with Great-Britain, or for three years, unless sooner discharged by proper authority.

Every soldier inlisted, as soon as may be, to be engaged before a Peace-Officer, Judge Advocate, or some of his Deputies, agreeable to the [blank] section of the Articles of War: Every person so engaged, to be mustered before the Muster-Master General, or some of his Deputies, if they be within a reasonable distance, if not, before some Major-General, Brigadier, or Colonel commanding a Brigade—a Surgeon to be present.—All the charge and expence of a soldier inlisted, that does not pass muster for defects pointed out in these Instructions, shall be paid by the officer that engaged him.

You are hereby authorized and impowered to give as a reward, and promise in behalf of the public, as an encouragement to every non-commissioned officer and soldier that shall inlist, over and above the pay and provisions already allowed, that they shall receive a Bounty of Twenty Dollars and a Suit of Cloaths; the cloaths to be given annually as long as they continue in the service: And at the end of the war, or the term of three years, every non-commissioned officer and private, that shall complete the service agreeable to his engagement, shall be entitled to One Hundred Acres of Land. The legal representatives of those that died, or are killed in the service, are entitled to the same.

As a further encouragement, you are hereby authorized to promise, That all who are unfortunately maimed in the service, and rendered incapable of getting a livelihood and support, shall receive half pay during their natural lives, agreeable to the Resolve of Congress in that case made and provided.

Given at given ounder my hand this 24 day of July 1777  
To Lt Cooper at Camp Middelbrook [sic: Middlebrook NJ]

Rich'd Campbell  
Maj of the 8 Virginia Regt

Virginia

Shenandoah County Ss:

On this eighth day of August 1820 personally appeared in open Court being a court of record for the said County Leonard Cooper aged either 66 or 67 years in May last, a resident in said county who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath declare that he served in the Revolutionary War as follows I was appointed an ensign in a company of minute men in Virginia in the year 1775 and in January 1776 I was appointed an ensign in the 8 Virginia Regiment in a company commanded by Capt Richard Campbell the Regiment was commanded by Colo. Peter Muhlenburg in the next year I was appointed a second Lieutenant and the year following a 1. Lieutenant in the same Regiment and the next year being 1779 I was appointed a Captain in same Regiment I was engaged in the battle of Brandywine and in the battle of Germantown and at Monmouth Court House my original declaration was dated the 25 day of May 1818 My pension certificate is numbered 11.301 and I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818, and that I have not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an Act of Congress entitled "An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the Land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War passed on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818 and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property or securities contracts or debts due to me; nor have I any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed Clothing and bedding excepted and by me subscribed which is as follows two head of horses one of which is twenty two years the other is 14 years old thirteen head of Cattle 3 of which are very old eight head of hogs all young except one ten head of sheep two pair of old plow gears 3 old saddles, 2 old barshear plows 1 shovel plow 3 weeding hoes 1 Chopping axe 1 log chain 1 double tree and 2 single trees 1 scythe and cradle 1 old dutch mowing scythe, 1 drawing knife 2 walnut tables 7 old chairs

2 iron kettles 3 pots 1 cutting [illegible word] and knife 4 old flour barrels 2 pickling tubs 2 water buckets 1 washing tub 1 iron tea kettle 1 coffee pot 2 tea pots, 1 sett cups and saucers 15 pewter spoons 3 dishes 1 doz knives and forks 16 iron harrow teeth 1 loom and gears 1 wheel barrow 1 silver watch 1 corner cupboard 1 old bureau 1 old tea table 1 old churn 1 tin plate stove 1 shot gun 1 big spinning wheel 2 small wheels, 1 check reel, 1 barrel Vinegar 2 halter chains and 2 collars 2 old plough bridles, 2 old breoch[?] bands, 2 old riding bridles 1 small hone stretcher 1 small Hatchet 1 dung fork 3 waiters 1 candle mould to mould 4 candles 2 dozen large plates ½ dozen small plates 1 spade 1 small garden hoe 1 sugar bowl 2 large bowls 1 small ditto 1 stone pitcher 1 stone Jug 1 knife box 1 jack plain 1 gouge 1 auger 4 chissels 3 hammers 1 old coffee mill 1 old brass candlestick 1 looking glass 1 pitcher, 2 cream mugs 6 soup plates 1 pewter bason 2 pewter plates 3 bags 1 griddle and 1 flax heckle my family residing with me are as follows. my wife aged about 46 or 47 years at next Christmas my daughter Mary Cooper aged 19 years the 21<sup>st</sup> December next my son Presley aged 15 years the 11<sup>th</sup> day of this month my daughter Margaret aged 13 years the 15<sup>th</sup> of March last my daughter Lelitia aged twelve years the 8<sup>th</sup> of December next my daughter Catharine aged 10 years the 20<sup>th</sup> of March last my daughter Matilda aged 7 years the 19<sup>th</sup> of April last my son John Henry aged 5 years the 28<sup>th</sup> of December next my daughter Elizabeth aged 1 year the 23<sup>rd</sup> of Feb'y next none of whom are able to support themselves but my children Mary and Presley my property is liable to the payment of my debts amounting to about one hundred & fifty dollars

Leonard hisXmark Cooper

Sworn to and declared in open Court on 8<sup>th</sup> day of August 1820

State of Virginia } SS

County of Frederick }

On this 31<sup>st</sup> day of July 1851 personally appeared before the subscriber, a Justice of the Peace in and for said county, Christina Cooper, aged eighty six years, resident in the Town of Middletown in said county, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions of the act of Congress passed 2<sup>d</sup> February 1848 and for the commutation pay due her former husband Captain Leonard Cooper deceased. This declarant states that she was the lawful wife of Captain Leonard Cooper deceased, who was a Soldier and officer in the war of the revolution, and a pensioner on the Virginia Roll of pensioners under the act of Congress of the 18<sup>th</sup> March 1818, at the rate of \$240 00/100 per annum for his service as a Captain in the Virginia Line, and who died in Shenandoah County State of Virginia on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of May 1821. She further states that her maiden name was Christina Troenberger, that she was lawfully married to the aforesaid Captain Leonard Cooper in the County of Shenandoah in the State of Virginia by the Rev William Foster a Luthran Minister, in the year seventeen hundred and ninety six (1796) – that she has no record of her aforesaid marriage or knowledge of the existence of any such record either publick or private. That her said husband once had a family record of their said marriage and of their childrens ages, that said record was destroyed by fire in the burning of their house in the year eighteen hundred and twenty-one. She further states that her first child was born within twelve months of the time of her aforesaid marriage and on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March 1797. That his name was Aquilla Cooper, that he died at the age of nine years and five months and that his death ocured in the month of August in the year eighteen hundred and six. Declarant states that she cannot be mistaken as to the age of the said Aquilla when he died from her recollection and from various circumstances; that she had at that time three children who were younger than Aquilla, whose names were Mary M., Abraham & Presley Cooper; and that her fifth child whose name was Margaret, was born the year following the death of her sons Aquilla & Abraham. and that her said daughter Margaret has a record of her own age made many years since which shows her birth to have ocured on the day of March the fifteenth, in the year eighteen hundred and seven. She further states that her knowledge of the time of the decease of her sons Aquilla & Abraham is based on another circumstance namely, that their deaths ocured during the time of the holding of the first camp meeting

at Crismans Spring which is stated in "Newcomers Journal" to have occurred in August 1806. She further states that there was not less than two years difference betwixt the ages of each of her children. That her second child by the said Cooper was born on the 21<sup>st</sup> of December 1800 & was named Mary M Cooper that her recollection of date is sustained by the circumstance of her being married in the month of August prior to her becoming 21 years of age and that it occurred in the same year in which her father the said Captain Cooper died. Declarant states that she lived in lawful wedlock with the said Leonard Cooper from the time of their aforesaid marriage up to the time when he died. that after his death she married a man named Patrick Carlin with whom she lived in Licking County Ohio for a short time, when she came to know of his having another wife then living to whom he was married prior to her marriage with him. that after learning this fact she separated from him and did not again return to live with him, and from that time assumed her former name of Cooper by which she is now known & called. That the said Patrick Carlin is now dead; that he died in the County of Saint Clair in the State of Illinois on the twenty fourth day of February in the year eighteen hundred and thirty nine (1839). She further states that she has not again intermarried since the death of the said Carlin, but is now a widow.

Christina herXmark Cooper

[Among the [state pension applications in the Library of Virginia](#) are many pages relating to Leonard Cooper, the most informative of which are transcribed below.]

Office of Army Accounts/ New York February 26<sup>th</sup> 1787

This may Certify that Capt. Leonard Couper was annexed to the Invalid Regiment in the late War and continued in the same to the 3<sup>d</sup> day of November 1783 after which he was continued at West Point in a Corps of Pensioners and received from the United States while in that Corps the Annexed Sums and that he was discharged with the whole Corps by the Secretary at War in consequence of a Resolution of Congress of June 7 1785 placing all the Invalids on one Establishment. Dollars

he received in the year 1784 80  
in the year 1785 120 200

which sum is to be charged to Capt. Couper's pension allowed under the resolve above mentioned agreeably to a Letter of mine to the State Auditors dated June 23<sup>d</sup> 1786.

Jno Pierce [John Pierce] [illegible abbreviation]

I do with the Advice of the Council of State hereby Certify that Leonard Cooper, aged about 38 years, late a Captain of the 4<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment, whose annual pay was One hundred & forty four pounds, was disabled in the service of the United States, by a wound which occasioned the amputation of his right Leg; and that he is allowed the sum of Fifty pounds yearly, to Commence from the first day of January 1787. Given under my hand as Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia at Richmond this 23<sup>d</sup> day of April 1781.

Edm Randolph

T Meriwether

Robert Brooks

Sometime in the course of the campaign 1779, a Dispute arose in the Parade, while the army lay at Pompton Plains in the State of New Jersey, between Captain Abraham Kirkpatrick, and Captain Leonard Cooper, after much abuse and ill Language on the part of Kirkpatrick, he proceeded to strike the said Captain Cooper several strokes with a cane – that Captain Cooper not shewing a disposition to demand satisfaction, was informed by many officers of his own Corps, that unless he did, he must leave the Regiment, as they were Determined he should not rank as an Officer; upon which he gave the said Kirkpatrick a Challenge, which was Accepted, and a Duel fought with Pistols, in which the said Cooper received a wound that occasioned an Amputation above his right Knee. after Captain Cooper's recovery, (upon the application of myself and several other officers,) he was admitted to the Corps of Invalids in

which he Continued until the final Discharge of that Corps.

Given under my hand this 23<sup>d</sup> day April 1787 [signed] James Wood. Late B.G.

Agreeable to the within order, I have examined Leonard Cooper, & find he has had his thigh taken off about six or eight inches below the hip, it is intirely sound. given under my hand this 4<sup>th</sup> day of April 1789  
A Bainbridge

[The following two certificates are among the [bounty-warrant files in the Library of Virginia](#):]

I do Certify Capt Leonard Cooper served five suckcessive years in the Continental Virg'a line. October 18<sup>th</sup> 1784. Samuel Hawes late Lt Colo 1<sup>st</sup> V. Regt

I do hereby certifie the Leonard Cooper was Commissioned as an Ensign in Captain Richard Campbells company in the Eighth Reg't Virginia forces in the month of February one thousand seven hundred and seventy six. That he was afterwards promoted to the command of a company in that Regiment (afterwards annexed to the fourth Regiment) and continued therein untill the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty, but how much longer I do not recollect. Given under my hand this 17<sup>th</sup> day of December 1796 Jona'n Clark [Jonathan Clark] late Lt Col 8 Virg'a Reg't

NOTE:

Among the [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia](#) are additional papers, including certificates of Cooper's service by Isaac Bowman (pension application R19362) and William Baylis (S12953), both dated 13 Nov 1818.

On 31 July 1851 Robert Rogers, 72, deposed that in the spring of 1821 he assisted in taking Leonard Cooper's body out of the Shenandoah River where he was drowned.

The file contains a copy of the record of the marriage of Christina Cooper and Patrick Carland in Stephensburg in Frederick County on 30 May 1824 by John Allemong, minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church. A letter dated 7 Feb 1825 indicates that Patrick Carland attempted to obtain the warrant for the bounty land in Ohio due for the service of Leonard Cooper.

A letter dated 7 Feb 1825 names the surviving children of Leonard and Christina Cooper as follows: Mariam Stevens, wife of William Stevens; Presley Cooper; Margaret Cooper; Lalitia Cooper; Catherine Cooper; Matilda Cooper; John Henry Cooper; and Elizabeth Cooper. The complete file contains numerous other documents with family information.