Petition of John Copin [sic, John Coppin] VAS1857

Transcribed by Will Graves & Kristie Cornett 4/12/15 rev'd 8/27/16

To the Honorable: the General Assembly of Virginia the petition of the undersigned George Copin respectfully represents: that sometime since your petitioner became entitled, as sole representative of John Copin deceased to a large sum of money, say one thousand dollars, the same having become due, at the expiration of the revolutionary war, to the said John Copin deceased in consideration of his services as a revolutionary soldier on state establishment, during that arduous Struggle for our independence; as your petitioner was certainly informed by Samuel Shepherd formally Auditor of Public Accounts. But unfortunately for your petitioner circumstances prevented him from presenting his claim to the auditor, until after the expiration of the period of limitation, which the said Shepherd informed him the law had prescribed in bar of all Claims for pay, not presented with [in] such period. Your petitioner was totally ignorant of the existence of any such law, both by reason of the circumstances of his situation and his condition in life. Your petitioner has been deprived of a portion of the evidence of his claim by their destruction at Washington, with others sent there from the state Auditor's Office; but your petitioner hopes that the papers he [here]with presented will induce your Hon. body to allow him the amount which was formerly due to the said John Copin deceased & which was never paid as your petitioner was certainly informed by said Shepherd – Your petitioner humbly represents that he is very poor & advanced in life & has to support a family & that this boon [?] which was due to his brave brother who replied when he was solicited by his father to return to his family, replied he was determined to protect & defend his "country, & to be a scourge to British tyrants as long as life should last" – all which your petitioner respectfully sheweth & as in duty bound will ever pray:

S/ George Copin

[Reverse]
George Copin's Petition for Revolutionary Services
Do you to John Copin deceased
December 19th, 1827
George W Macrae
referred to Claims 1827 December 19th
Honoured Sir,

Yesterday Evening, I received a letter from you dated May the 4th 79; and I am exceeding happy to hear that you and all Friends is well But I am very Sorry to hear that you should be informed with a falsity concerning my being impos'd [imposed] upon by my Company But am more a maiz'd [amazed] to think that you should believe so unlikely a Story for the fellow that you say told Mr. Rigby that he was in company with me and saw me impos'd upon is a Grand & Grant [great] Lyar [Liar]: for I never saw his face as I know of: Neither do I believe that Ever he saw mine. Neither has any person living saw me impos'd upon by my men: No, death would be Sweeter, and the Grave more welcome to me, then to live and enjoy the world [?] and to have the Command and Authority over men, and not be capable of compelling them to obey my orders. What me impos'd upon by my men: I suppose you mean insolence of Language and Disabedience [Disobedience] of orders: No it is entirely a vorse [adverse] to that, for my men, stands in as much Submission, and pays as much honour & respect to me as though I was a commissioned Officer. What I to be the first and orderly Sergeant of the Company, in whose hands lies the whip case and Command of the Company; to Suffer my self to be impos'd upon by my man; No – my Sergeants & Corporals are in more Submission and pays more honour and Respect to me than some other Sergeants' Private Soldiers do to them. I am filled with a maze [amazement] & a stonishment [astonishment] to think that you should believe so unlikely a Story for I thought that you always know'd that my Spirits was too great to Suffer myself to be impos'd upon, by any man living – What me impos'd upon No never as long as Life, health & strength last, will I ever Refuse a challeng [challenge] or take an affront from any man Living

But if anyone doubts my manhood, [paper damaged and text missing] Conduct or carrecter [Character]. Let them apply to the Officers and Soldiers of the 3rd Virginia Regiment where I am Satisfied they will find Sufficient Proof of each kind

I wrote you a Longe [long] Letter dated October 8th '79 wherein I gave you an account of all Present affairs, which I believe to be in very trusty hands and I believe you will not fail to get it. I have nothing new to inform you of at Present.

I am in full health and Spirits, and may these lines find you in that happy state.

I am with Great Sincerity, your Affectionate Son John Coppin

[Another letter which appears to be in the handwriting of the veteran but the image as posted online is very faint and impossible to totally transcribe. Kristie Cornett, however, has provided a
Honored Sir,

Yesterday morning I received a letter from you dated Oct. 16, 1799, in which I had the happiness to hear that you and all the family was well, but I should be very glad to know what you mean by my retiring from the indulgences of the army life. What would you have me to do, would you have me to come skunking home like a ? dog with it's tail tucked in his ? it the ? of the small sphere of 3 years or would you have me to ? self to the dull life of a farmer or some other country labor ? ? ? to build the wall of my house and not the ? So would you have me to ? ? ? when the fight is all in my own hands.......no. I am determined to be a Light Dragoon & for one of brave Washington. I'll protect & defend my friends & country & to be a scourge to the British Tyrants. ?????

I am your affectionate son

John Coppin

Revised and supplemented 8/27/16

[From bounty land records in the Library of Virginia] 8-page file

[p 2]

Fauquier County 13th September 1806

I do hereby Certify to the best of my recollection that there was a Soldier by the name of John Coppin who served in Captain Valentine Peyton's Company in the 3rd Virginia Continental Regiment during the late Revolution in America, the term of his service I cannot recollect neither do I know whether he served as a noncommissioned officer.

S/ John Blackwell, Junior
Capt. in the late 3rd Virginia Continental Regiment
[pp 3-4: Mostly illegible as posted a letter dated October 22nd, 1826 sent from Prince William County by George Copin in which he refers to his claim for the bounty land due for the services of his brothers John Copin & Samuel Copin both of whom served in the revolutionary war. He signed this letter as follows:

S/ Geo. Copin]

[pp 7-8: Partially legible affidavits dated August 20th 1806 given in Prince William County, Virginia before Alexander Henderson, JP, by James Grindstead and James Holleday in which both say that they were acquainted with William Copin of said County; Grindstead states that William Copin had 5 sons, namely, William, John, Samuel, George and Zacheus; that Samuel has been dead many years; that John enlisted in the service of his country; that John has not been heard from for many years; that William, George and Zacheus are still living; Holleday states that William Copin had the 5 sons named above; that Samuel has been dead many years; that John, as affiant believes, left his father's house about 20 years ago and has not been heard from since; that the other brothers are still living; [a portion of Holleday's affidavit is missing as posted online and picks up on page 8 as follows: "the command of Captain Valentine Peyton that he remained three years in the Service being the term for which he enlisted, and at the expiration of the term was regularly discharged – that he acted as a Sergeant upwards of one year before his time expired – that the circumstances all well known to this Deponent because he himself served in the same Regiment the whole of that time and remained in the service after the said John Copin was discharged." ]