H of Reps
Dec. 19th 1836

Dr. Sir

Enclosed is the declaration of Zephaniah Harrison for a pension, I hope his claim may be
found to be a just one.

Respectfully
Your Obedient Servant

J. L. Edwards, Esqr.  S/ Lynn Boyd1

---

1 BOYD, Linn, a Representative from Kentucky; born in Nashville, Tenn., November 22, 1800; pursued preparatory
studies; moved with his parents to New Design, Trigg County, Ky.; engaged in agricultural pursuits in Calloway
County; member of the State house of representatives 1827-1832; returned to Trigg County in 1834; elected as a
Jacksonian to the Twenty-fourth Congress (March 4, 1835-March 3, 1837); unsuccessful candidate for reelection in
1836 to the Twenty-fifth Congress; elected as a Democrat to the Twenty-sixth and to the seven succeeding
Congresses (March 4, 1839-March 3, 1855); chairman, Committee on Accounts (Thirtieth Congress), Committee on
Territories (Thirty-first Congress); Speaker of the House of Representatives (Thirty-second and Thirty-third
Congresses); moved to Paducah, Ky., in 1852; elected Lieutenant Governor of Kentucky in 1859, but when the
senate convened was too ill to preside over its deliberations; died in Paducah, Ky., December 17, 1859; interment in
[Note: This file contains no application. Only a summary of it appears in a letter dated December 16, 1836 addressed to the Honorable Lynn Boyd, member of Congress:

War Department, Pension Office
December 16, 1836

Sir –

The declaration of Zephaniah Harrison has been examined(?) He alleges a number of tours of about two or three months and one tour of six months as a militia man of Virginia.

It is alleged that he was drafted with his company for six months to take charge of a party of recruits destined to serve in the regular Army. The Militia were at no time drafted for that length of time, and the statement as to his being drafted for the purpose alleged is extremely improbable. The other alleged service consists principally in watching against the hostile attacks of the Indians. In the early settlement of our Western frontiers it was indispensably necessary in many instances to the safety of the inhabitants that the able bodied men of every age should arm themselves in self defense against the savages of the wilderness. It is well known that for this purpose block houses were erected, and that the people were obliged to resort to them for protection. This description of predatory warfare, however, was never considered of such a character as to place the persons engaged in it on the footing of soldiers drafted or enlisted for the general defense of the Country, and such persons therefore are not provided for by the pension laws. The applicant for such service can of course have no lawful claim to a pension. The claim has accordingly been rejected and the papers filed.

[Note evidence of signature]

Hon. Lynn Boyd,
H. R.

[Note: by letter dated December 21, 1836, Congressman Boyd asked Mr. Edwards to forward to him the declaration of Mr. Harrison, "that I may refer to the subject to Congress." Presumably the Pension office sent the original declaration to Congressman Boyd and it was never returned to the file. Perhaps there is some congressional record as to the disposition of this veteran's claim.]