

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Henry Harper S19315

f8VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

2/20/14

[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 'indcipherable' 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.]

Virginia,

At a Court held for Nelson County at the Courthouse on the 27th day of March, 1834.

State of Virginia Nelson County: to wit

On this 27th day of March, 1834, personally appeared in open Court, before the Justices of the County Court of Nelson now sitting Henry Harper a resident of the County of Nelson and State of Virginia aged Seventy-six years in March last, who being 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.

That in the spring of the year 1778 he was drafted into the United States service for one year – that he marched under the command of Captain James Dillard of the Continental Army – he was marched to the Valley Forge in Pennsylvania, where he was inoculated for the smallpox, and after his recovery he marched to the White Plains in New York, from thence he was carried to the Hospital at Dansbury [Danbury], he being at that time sick. He remained at the Hospital until the fall, when his health so far improved that he left that the Hospital and joined the Army. He was then placed under the command of Captain Clough Shelton, and attached to the 10th Virginia Regiment. Shortly afterwards he went into winter quarters at Bonbrook [Boundbrook] and remained there until the spring year, and his time of service having expired, he was regularly discharged and returned home. He received a written discharge, but it has been lost or mislaid. – He remained at home in the County of Amherst until 1780 or 1781, when he was drafted into the Militia service of the State, and marched from the County aforesaid under the command of Captain James Franklin and Colonel Peter Rose. He marched to reinforce General Green [Nathanael Greene] then retreating through the Carolinas – but did not join the main Army until after the battle at Guilford [March 15, 1781]; not having reached there in time, but joined the Army on the day after the action. – After he joined General Greene's Army he was marched to Deep River and was there discharged by regular Orders, – having completed a tour of duty of three months in the Militia of the State, and making in all a service of fifteen months, in the War of the Revolution, and for which he claims a Pension – that he was born in the County of Amherst in the State of Virginia, in the month of March 1757, and resided there until the year 1808, and since then has resided in the County of Nelson, where he now lives – that he has no record of his age; but recollects his age as set down by his father in a family Register – that he was engaged in no battle, – that he has no documentary evidence to establish his service, – that he knows of no persons, other than those whose certificates are hereto attached, who know of his services, most of those who served with him, being either removed by death, or residing in

places unknown to him.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the Agency of any State.

And the Court proceeded to propound the several interrogatories directed by the War Department, the answers to which are hereto attached.

Question 1st Where and in what year were you born?

Answer. I was born in the County of Amherst in the month of March 1757.

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

Answer. My name was set down in a book which has been carried away, but I recollect that I was set down as having been born in the month of March 1757.

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

Answer. I lived in Amherst County when called into the service, and lived there until 1808, and have since then lived in the County of Nelson.

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

Answer. I went into service as a draft first for twelve months – the Continental line to make up the State's quota, – and secondly as a militia man for three months – I did not volunteer, nor was I a substitute.

Question 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.

Answer. I have endeavored to give in the body of this declaration the general circumstances of my service, and can add nothing in addition there too – I have an imperfect recollection of the Officers. I think General Scott [probably Charles Scott] commanded the 10th Virginia Regiment to which I belonged. – I recollect General Greene, and the Captains herein before mentioned, under whose immediate command I was placed, but my memory is bad, and I cannot recall to my recollection any other Officers.

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

Answer. I received a written discharge when I left the Continental Army, but do not recollect by whom it was given. – The discharge is now lost, when I left the Southern Army, I think I received only a verbal discharge, but do not recollect who gave it.

Question 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.

Answer. I refer to Thomas Jones, William Cashwell and Benjamin Fitzgerald whose affidavits are hereto annexed.

Sworn & subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ Henry Harper¹

Amherst County State of Virginia, to wit:

Personally appeared before me David S Garland a Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid, William Cashwell, aged seventy-two years and a resident of the County aforesaid, and

¹ Note: the entire contents of this file are copies of the originals in the clerk's office in Nelson County Kentucky. Consequently, none of the signatures are the actual signatures of the veteran or the affiants.

made oath that he is acquainted with Henry Harper of the County of Nelson, and believes him to be a man of truth and great respectability, that in the year 1781 he was drafted to perform a tour of duty of three months in the Continental Army, that the said Harper was drafted at the same time and marched in the same detachment with this affiant, under the command of Colonel Peter Rose, we were marched to Guilford in North Carolina and joined General Greene's Army the day after the battle at Guilford Courthouse, we were then placed under the command of Colonel John Holcom [John Holcomb], this Affiant saw the said Harper frequently and believes that he continued in service until his term of 3 months had expired when all the detachment that marched at that time was discharged at Deep River in North Carolina.

S/ William Cashwell²

State of Virginia, Nelson County, to wit

Personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace for the County aforesaid Thomas Jones and made & subscribed the following statement, viz.: That he is a native of the State aforesaid, that he belonged to the Continental line, and while there, I think in the year 1778, while the Army last at West Point, the said Henry Harper came and joined the Company.

S/ Thomas Jones³

The above statement subscribed and sworn to before me a Justice of the peace for the County aforesaid this 27th day of November 1833

S/ Robert H Anderson

State of Virginia in Nelson County, to wit:

Personally appeared before me a Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid, Benjamin Hawkins alias Fitzgerald⁴ and made and subscribed the following statement, viz.: That he is a native of the State aforesaid and at this time a Pensioner of the United States under the Act of Congress 1818, that he entered the public service early in the War, and was marched to the North where he joined the Continental Army. Before he went into the service he was slightly acquainted with Henry Harper of the County of Amherst and State aforesaid, that sometime in the year 1778 he saw the said Harper at the White Plains in the State of New York, that said Harper at that time belonged to the Virginia line on Continental establishment, and belonged to the same Brigade with this Affiant. This Affiant saw the said Harper frequently in the course of that year, at different places besides the one above mentioned, a part of the time the said Harper was sick and in the Hospital, and at all other times in the line doing his duty as a Soldier in the line. How long he remained in the northern Army this affiant cannot say, but thinks from all the circumstances that it could not have been less than one year. – That sometime in the year 1780 or 1781 he saw the said Harper in North Carolina, the first or 2nd day after the battle at Guilford courthouse in North Carolina. He was then well acquainted with said Harper and saw him in the line with the Virginia Militia and doing duty as a Soldier. How long he continued in the service this affiant does not know. But he has frequently conversed with the said Harper in relation to his services in the Army, and has the fullest confidence in the statement which he has made. He lives a near neighbor to the said Harper and has done so for the last 40 years and can confidently assert that the present applicant is the identical Henry Harper which he saw in the northern Army in 1778, and afterwards in the Army in North Carolina.

² [William Cashwell W3771](#)

³ [Thomas Jones W7905](#)

⁴ [Benjamin Hawkins \(alias Fitzgerald\) S13308](#)

Subscribed and sworn to the above statement subscribed and sworn to by Benjamin Hawkins alias Fitzgerald before me a Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid this 27th day of November 1833. S/ Benjamin Hawkins alias Fitzgerrald [sic]

S/ Robert H Anderson

A True copy of the records of said Court.

In testimony whereof I Spotswood Garland Clerk of the said court, have hereunto set my name and affixed the seal of my Office this 15th day of April 1834

S/ Sp. Garland, Clerk of Nelson County Court

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$50 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private in the Virginia service.]