

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Anderson Corbin W6739

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia }  
Harrison County } SS

On this 17 day of September 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the justices of the County Court of Harrison County now sitting Anderson Corbin aged 67 in February 1832 who being first sworn according to Law, doth on his Oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed 7<sup>th</sup> June 1832

That he entered the service of the United States in the Virginia line under the following named officers, and served as herein stated. That he was drafted in April 1781 in Hampshire County Va. and attached to a company commanded by Capt. Thomas Anderson of said County and marched under said Captain to Winchester Va. from thence to Fredericksburg Va. and from thence to Richmond Va. That shortly after he arrived at the latter place he was placed under the command of Col. Edmondson While under his command he was in several skirmishes in the neighbourhood of Richmond that he was one of a party lying in ambush when the american horse drew some of the British out of Richmond - at which time nine of the enemy was killed. That he helped drive the British out of Richmond at the time they burned a large quantity of Tobacco that he continued to serve under command of said Col. Edmonson untill about three weeks previous to the surrender of Lord Cornwallis at York Town [19 Oct 1781]. he then was marched down near York Town, and attached to the main Army - was at the Siege of york Town was there when the British surrendered. that he helped destroy the Ground Squirrel Bridge across the Pamunkey River [sic: South Anna River in Hanover County]. That in a short time after the surrender of Cornwallis he received a discharge (which he has lost) from General Muhlenburg [sic: Peter Muhlenberg] - he then returned home to Hampshire County Virginia — That he again entered the service in November 1781 as a substitute in the place of William Thompson of Hampshire County Va. under Captain Isaac Parsons under whose command he was marched to the Barracks near Winchester Va. where he was stationed he thinks untill about Christmas when he was sent to help to convey he thinks about 2000 British Prisoners to Fort Frederick Maryland. from whence he was marched back to the Barracks near Winchester Va. and remained there untill the Prisoners were marched off and exchanged this he thinks was in April 1782 when he received a discharge (which he lost) That each of the above Terms of service was six months making in all one year.

he has no documentary evidence, but believes he can prove his service rendered by Joshua Martin and John Cottrell [John Cottrill]. he was born in King George County Va. moved from thence to Culpepper [sic: Culpeper] County Va. and from Culpepper County Virginia to Hampshire County, from thence to Harrison County Va. where he now lives and has lived for Forty four years. he has a record of his age which corresponds with the above age given he hereby relinquishes his every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension role or agency of any state — sworn and subscribed to this 17 day of Sept. 1832

Anderson Corbin

Joshua Martin & John Cottrell appeared in open court of the said county of Harrison and after first being duly sworn according to Law doth depose and say that they believe the whole declaration made by the above applicant Anderson Corbin to contain the truth and that they knew of their own knowledge the greater part thereof to be the Truth - and said Cottrell states that he served with the said Corbin the whole time of the first mentioned Term in the said Corbins declaration - and said Martin knew the said Corbin was out the last mentioned term as stated by s'd. Corbin in his declaration —

Sworn and subscribed this 7<sup>th</sup> day of September 1832 -      John Cottrell                      Joshua Martin

[The following is by District Attorney W. G. Singleton who investigated a large number of fraudulent pension applications in Harrison and Lewis counties. See the pension application of David W. Sleeth (S6111) for details.]

Anderson Corbin draws \$40—

on the 17<sup>th</sup> July [1834] Mr. Corbin gave the following Statement.- he will be 70 yrs. on 13<sup>th</sup> February next- in the Spring of 1781 he was drafted for six months tour and Rendezvoused at Romney Hampshire county. marched from there under Capt. Thomas Anderson to Richmond by the way of Winchester & Fredericksburg - and there joined the main army under Lafayette, [Gen. Anthony] Wayne & Mullenburg- the army retreated from Richmond up the country - after a while the British army made a retrograde movement and the american army became the pursuers & finally got to York town where a general engagement ensued & Cornallis & his army were captured - before the Battle his Capt. and his subalterns and all the company except seventeen including himself, left the army & went home. they the seventeen were threatened that if they also went they would be treated as deserters - they the seventeen remained and served out the six months tour. - on his return he went to Winchester as a substitute for six months in the place of William Thompson - was taken from Winchester to Frederick town & back again to Winchester, was guarding the British Prissoners at Both places for the six months.

A copy

W. G Singleton Nov. 19, 1834

War Department Pension Office March 12 1835

Sir: Anderson Corbin alleges to have served after the year 1781 two tours of Militia duty of six months each, and was allowed \$40.— as I now think improperly. I have no knowledge of the Militia of Virginia having been required to serve in tours of longer duration than 3 months, unless at a very early period of the war, or on the west of the mountains.

The payment of his pension cannot be resumed until a satisfactory explanation is given: in the mean time he had better return his certificate to this office -

I am Respectfully Your Ob. Servant J L Edwards [Commissioner]

Nathan Goff Esq'r. Clarksburg Va. [pension agent]

Clarksburg [illegible month] 12<sup>th</sup> 1835

J L Edwards Com'r of Pensions} Sir Anderson Corbin, pensioner named within, has given me,- the further explanation as to his services in the R. W. or rather how he was kept in service 6 months first mentioned in his Declaration first given, — That when he had as he now thinks been in service about 3 months under Th's Anderson, there was a draft ordered, (he now was in the region of Richmond & a certain number to be taken from each Company, to go out as rangers, thru that region of Country to keep the British from plundering,- he states that out of the company which he belonged to 17 was called for,- they refused to stand a draft,- but that he & 16 others volunteered out of Andersons Company, and were placed under the command of Colo Edmondson, who ranged thru the Country &c-, After they had been out as above a short time, he understood that Capt Anderson & his Company had gone home,- The 17 which had volunteered out of Andersons Comp'a then demanded their discharge, but was told by Gen'l Mullenburg [sic: Peter Muhlenberg], that he could not discharge a single individual,- and that he did not get his discharge until he served out 6 months as stated in his original declaration,- he further states as to his second Tour of 6 months,- That he knows not why he was detained in service for 6 months,- but that the service was performed,

I have not the smallest shadow of doubt resting on my mind, but that Mr. Corbin done the service set forth in his declaration,- he can give a full history of his services in [illegible word] Tours from the commencement of each to the end which would take a days writing to write down — he commenced giving Singleton a statement & was so manut & lengthy, that Singleton stopped him, and only took down a few of the heads of services,- and told Corbin that he was satisfied that he was entitled to all he was drawing, and could you or any other person who knows any thing about the R - War, convers with him ten minutes, would be fully convince that his whole statement is true,

Mr Corbin is one of our correct & honest farmers known to be so by all his neighbours, I have knew him 20 years, & know his character to stand fair,- Notwithstanding we have amongs us many Base, disingenuous, dishonest & corrupt villains yet I am glad to say we have also many honest & correct men in our Country,- I have not the smallest doubt, in fact I know it, that many of the correct suffer by reason of the disingenuous, Base Scoundels—

I am well aware that it is impible for the officers of the pension office,- to distinguish between the two above classes—

I am respectfully yours Nathan Goff

War Department Pension Office June 23 1835

Sir The explanation given by Anderson Corbin in relation to his two six months tours, is not satisfactory.

The statement itself is in direct opposition to the known historical facts connected with the militia service during the period of the revolution. It can hardly be conceived that at a time when it was with the utmost difficulty that the militia could be kept embodied even for the short periods for which they were ordered out, that this claimant should have performed one years continuous [sic] service.

This claim is, in addition to the oath of the claimant, supported by the affidavits of Jno. Cottril and Joshua Martin: — both swear that they “knew of their own knowledge of the greater part” of the alleged service, and the former, that he “served with Mr. Corbin the whole time of the first mentioned term,” And yet I do not find that either of these witnesses are included upon the pension roll.

I am Respectfully Yours

Nathan Goff Esq'r Clarksburg Va

Geo. Wm. Crump Act'g Comm'r Pensions

Clarksburg July 4<sup>th</sup> 1835

G. W. Crump Act Com'r of Pensions

Sir I have to report as I have heretofore to Mr Edwards,- that I have not the smalest doubt of mind, but that Mr Corbin done the 2 six months tours set forth in his declaration,- you will recollect, the last or first, (I dont now recollect which) tour was done as a substitute,- notwithstanding the history of that period does not set forth such service,- I still believe Mr Corbin performed it,- I am & have been well acquainted with the him for 25 years; he is one of our most respectful farmers, and I think would not make a false declaration for all the pensions in the US— Not only his owne statement convinces me,- but he has proved his services by two witnesses, who are boath entiteled to implisit credit,- Joshua Martin is one of our wealthey, creditable, & substansial farmers who has lived a neighbour to Mr Corbin ever since they were boath boys - they lived nigh togeather before they came to this Country,- Mr Martin knew of Corbins service in boath tours,- that he knew of his going into service and seen he returned &c-, Martin was not in service him self,—, —, Well what does Cottrel state, he states that he served with Corbin the whole year,- you say, you cannot find Cottrels name on the pension roll, the same John Cottrel has been drawing a pension of \$80 pr year ever since the 1<sup>st</sup> day of Febuary 1825 his certificate is dated 14<sup>th</sup> day of Febuary 1835- he is drawing under the Laws of 1818 - 1820 & 1823- Mr Cottrel I have been informed, proved a part of his servis by A Corbin,- I do not know that be the case,—

I am fully satisfied that injustice will be done Mr Corbin should he not be returned,- The history of the the then times, may be against him,- but I think they should not in all cases be depended upon,—

yours &c Nathan Goff

Department of War Pension Office July 10 1835

Sir Upon the subject of the claim of Anderson Corbin, I have still to state, that the evidence is not satisfactory that he served in the militia from Apl 1781 to Apl 1782. When I observed Mr. Cottrills affidavit who says he served with Mr. Corbin for six months, I looked upon the pension roll under the Act of June 7 1832, as the service here alluded to was militia service. But it seems by his papers, that Cotrill claimed to have served between three and four years in the regular army [sic: see note below], and was discharged in 1781.

From the nature of his services he could not have served with Mr. Corbin in the manner which his affidavit is calculated to impress upon the mind

I cannot therefore, under my present views instruct the agent to resume the payment of Mr. Corbin's pension.

I am Respectfully Y Ob't Sv't

Nathan Goff Esq Clarksburg Va

Geo. Wm. Crump Acting Comm'r Penns

Clarksburg August 3<sup>th</sup> 1835

Sir If there is a man in Va entiteled to a pension Mr A Corbin is, - he is a man of that Character which will not deviate from the truth for gain, - I have just had a Long Conversation with him on the subject of his services he can give a full, clear and satisfactory representation of them from first to last, —

he says John Cottrell served with him after is Cottrell's time of enlistment was up, - that Cottrell Substituted and went into service in a militia Company commanded by Capt Stump, — When I am fully convince that a man is entiteled I much dislike to see them Dropped  
J. L. Edwards Com'r of Pensions Nathan Goff

NOTES:

The letters between Goff and the Pension Office indicate that one reason Corbin was dropped from the pension list is that he claimed to have served six months rather than the usual three months in each of two tours. Contrary to assertions by the Commissioner of Pensions, it was not unusual for militia soldiers to be detained longer than the period for which they were drafted or for them to volunteer for an additional tour. A second reason appears to have been that in his own pension application (\$39597) Cottrill did not mention the militia service he claimed to have performed with Corbin, but apparently claimed to have been in Continental service during that time. Cottrill might not have mentioned militia service because it did not count in the act of 1818 under which he applied, but it is difficult to reconcile the two claims. The confusion is compounded by Crump's letter of 10 Jul 1835 in which he misquotes Cottrill's pension application. That declaration actually states that Cottrill "enlisted for the term of two years the day and year not recollected but it was between three and four years before the Capture of Cornwallis at York Town in the year of 1781."

On 5 Sep 1854 Elizabeth Corbin, 81, successfully applied for a pension stating that she married Anderson Corbin on 18 Mar 1789, and he died 1 Mar 1845. David Coplin deposed that he was the husband of a daughter of Anderson and Elizabeth Corbin, and that Anderson Corbin had died at his home. On 15 Nov 1854 she applied to transfer her pension to Cincinnati OH, 18 mi from where she intended to move to live with a son in Boone County KY. On 8 Mar 1855 she again applied for a transfer, stating that the son with whom she lived was Jackson Corbin. An application for bounty land dated 9 May 1855 was witnessed by James Corbin and Henry B. Corbin, and it gives her maiden name as Elizabeth Haines. With her pension application is a copy of the "Family Record of the births of the Children of Anderson & Elizabeth Corbin

May Corbin was Born 1790 October 30<sup>th</sup>

Sarah Corbin Born March 11<sup>th</sup> 1793

Nancy Corbin Born May 22<sup>d</sup> 1795

Francis [possibly Frances] Corbin Born November 2<sup>d</sup> 1798

Heney B. Corbin Born March 20<sup>th</sup> 1800

Elizabeth Corbin Born October 18<sup>th</sup> 1802

Josanna Corbin Born May 22<sup>d</sup> 1805

Benjamin Corbin Born October 18<sup>th</sup> 1807

Edith Corbin Born April 1<sup>st</sup> 1810

Anderson Corbin Born March 15<sup>th</sup> 1813

O. P. Corbin Born September 6<sup>th</sup> 1816

A J Corbin Born August 11<sup>th</sup> 1818"