

1028

Maryland

Bethala Harper
widow of William Harper
M^d

who served in the Revolutionary

war, as a Private

Inscribed on the Roll at the rate of
80 Dollars 00

Cents per annum, to commence on
the 4th day of March, 1848.

Certificate of Pension issued the
14th day of June 1853
and sent to

J. H. Coombs
Present

Recorded on Roll of Pensioners under act
July 29, 1848, Page 116 Vol. 9

61704 Oct. Mar. 3/55
Apr. 11/55

Bethula Harper, wid of
William Harper, priv
Capt.
Col.

Act. July 9th 1858
Private
Duplicate

Buynton
Ad. 160 acs Oct 4/55
Dodge

BA L

dup. [Signature]

G. G. Brewer
Baltimore
Md.

May 9th - Lett. to Com. in Gen. Land Office
Oct 2/58 Lett. in Com. Gen. Land Office

Oct 2/58
Spec duplicate
Ann. sent
to
G. G. Brewer Esq
Baltimore
Md.

Warrant
Cancelled
m

Vol. Her. 8.

Baltimore, 28th Sept^r, 1858.

Dear Sir,

I made application for a land warrant for Bethula Harper, the widow of a Revolutionary Soldier, in April, 1855, - her application is Numbered 61704. - ^{about six} a few months after her application was filed at the Department, a land warrant for 169 acres of land was forwarded on to me, but the old lady had died the day before the warrant was dated, and I afterwards returned the warrant and placed it myself in the hands of Mr. Cole, the Chief Clerk of the Pension Office. - Under the late act of Congress, I understand, the warrant will be returned and is to go as respects in the hands of the Administrator. - The Son is the Administrator and has called on me for the warrant. - May I respectfully ask, that the warrant heretofore issued to Bethula Harper, may be sent on to me.

Very respectfully,

G. G. Brewer

The Honble

G. C. Whiting
Commiss^r of Pensions,
Washington City

12841

✓

Bethua Haynes

Ms

Act 7. July 98

State of Maryland } On this ^{10th} day of January, 1846, personally
Dorchester County, to wit. } appears Bethula Harper, ^{aged 82 years} before me
the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for the County and State
aforesaid, and makes oath on the holy evangelists of al-
mighty God, that she was married to William Harper
on or about the year 1793, and that at the time of her mar-
riage her maiden name was Bethula Wallace, and that
she has not intermarried since the death of William
Harper. That said William Harper was a Soldier of
the Revolution and ~~has been dead~~ died in the year
181⁴. that she has not nor any one for her received any
moneys or compensation whatsoever either from the Go-
vernment of the United States, or State of Maryland
as a pensioner or otherwise, to the best of her knowledge
and belief

Bethula ^{her} Harper
mark

Sworn before

James Cooper
JP

Deposition of Capt. Solomon Kirwan ^{aged 72 years} ^{about}
The deponent and saith that he was acquainted with
William Harper and Bethula Wallace and that he
believed the bands were published and that they were
actually married and lived together as man and
wife up to the time of William Harpers death, and
that said William Harper was a soldier of the Revolu-
tion.

Solomon Kirwan

Sworn before

James Cooper
JP

Deposition of Kessiah Wallace aged about 70 years
deposeth and sayeth that she was acquainted with
William Harper and Bethula Wallace and says that
the bands was published and that they were actually mar-
ried and lived together as man and wife up to the
time of William Harper's death, and that William
Harper was a soldier of the Revolution, and that I
have lived with them since their marriage and have
often heard him relate about the Revolutionary war
and that I also cooked the wedding dinner.

Kessiah ^{her} Wallace
mark

Sworn before

James Cooper
JCS

Testimony of Shadrach Gootie, aged about 64 years
deposeth and sayeth that he was acquainted with William
Harper and Bethula Wallace before and after their mar-
riage, and that he has every reason to believe that said
William Harper and Bethula Wallace were married,
and that such was the belief in the neighborhood,
that William Harper died in the year 1814, in the month
of February, and that Mrs. Bethula Harper has not
intermarried since the death of William Harper, and
that he has always heard that William Harper was
a soldier in the Revolutionary war.

Shadrach ^{his} Gootie.
mark

Sworn before

James Cooper
JCS

Testimony of Thomas Wallace, aged about 63 years
He deposes and sayeth, that he was acquainted with
William Harper and Bethula Wallace and that he
believes they were married, and that he has never heard
any thing to the contrary, that they lived together as
man and wife up to the death of William Harper,
and that Bethula Harper his widow has not inter-
married since his death, and that he has always heard
that William Harper was a soldier of the Revolution,
and that he said Harper died in the year 1814.

Thomas Wallace


Sworn before

James Cooper

J.P.

Maryland. Do hereby certify that James
Cooper General before whom the foregoing probate was
taken and whose name is thereunto subscribed was at
the time of taking and subscribing the same, and that
is one of the Justices of the Peace in and for the
County and State aforesaid, duly Commissioned and sworn
to. Testimony whereof I have been duly sworn
and of said probate I have been duly sworn
my office this 15th day of January 1840

Wm. Backus



June 1, 1939.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Mr. T. P. McCollister
Hereford
Texas

BA-J/ady
William Harper
W.3679

Dear Sir:

The data contained herein were obtained from the papers on file in the Revolutionary War claims for pension and bounty land based upon the military service of William Harper in that war.

William Harper was born in Maryland, place, date, and the names of his parents are not shown.

While a resident of Lakes District, Dorchester County, Maryland, William Harper enlisted and served more than three years and to the close of the war as private in the Second Maryland Regiment, names of officers not given.

He received a pension from the State of Maryland.

He died February 17, 1814, in Maryland, place, and his age are not stated.

Soldier married about two or three years after the close of the Revolutionary War, or about 1793, in Dorchester County, Maryland, Miss Bethula Wallace.

Soldier's widow, Bethula Harper, was allowed pension on her application executed February 14, 1853, at which time she was a resident of Dorchester County, Maryland, and aged eighty-six years.

Soldier's widow, Bethula Harper, applied for bounty land April 2, 1855, at which time she was living in Dorchester County, Maryland. On account of the Revolutionary War services of William Harper,

one hundred sixty acres of bounty land was allowed, on warrant No. 7303, under the Act of March 3, 1855.

Soldier's widow, Bethula Harper, died October 5, 1855, place not stated.

Her son, was living in 1858, his residence, name and age are not stated.

Soldier and Bethula had one or more children before 1801, no names stated.

In 1855 one Aaron P. Wallace was residing in Dorchester County, Maryland, his age and relationship to the family not shown.

In 1846 one Kesiah Wallace, aged about seventy years was of Dorchester County, Maryland, and Thomas Wallace, then aged sixty-three years was of said county, their relationship to the family not stated. There are no further family data.

For information in regard to the location of the land you should address The Commissioner of the General Land Office, Washington, D. C., and furnish that official the number of the warrant, acreage, and the date of the act.

Very truly yours

A. D. HILLER
Executive Assistant
to the Administrator

12841.
June 6 1846

lc

Bettina Harper,

July 1. 1838

Cambridge May 9th 1840

Dear Mr. Edwards Esq.

Sir

The enclosed papers, it is thought will present a case entitling the applicant to a pension in some form & to some extent, but whether in the usual form of an annuity during life, or for the space of five years, under the provisions of the resolution of 1838, is somewhat uncertain.

As at present advised I incline to the persuasion that she will be entitled under the resolution or act now mentioned, giving for five years pay to widows who were married previous to the year 1794, & whose husbands had died.

The provision I refer to is on the 28th page of a compilation of the pension laws submitted to the present Congress by the Secretary of War, & prepared, I believe, by yourself.

Your attention to the subject will confer upon the applicant, who is in many circumstances, a great favor. If there should be any defect in the case, as pointed out by the within papers, I shall feel greatly obliged by your

informing me of it, & in that case
will endeavor to supply such defect.

Yours
Saml. D. Scoville

Any communication you should
write you will please address

Saml. D. Scoville

Cambridge

Dorchester County

Ind.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Bounty Lands of the Interior

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER OF LANDS AND MINES

**160
ACRES**

**160
ACRES**

It is hereby Certified, that under the Act of March 3rd 1855, titled, "An Act in addition to certain Acts granting Bounty Land to certain Officers and Soldiers who have been engaged in the Military Service of the United States,"

Comptroller
Director
Inspector
Minister
Private
Betseyla Harper, widow of William Harper

Revolutionary War

is entitled to locate **ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY ACRES**, at any Land Office of the United States, in one body, and in conformity to the legal subdivisions of the public lands, upon any of the public lands "subject to sale at either the minimum or lower graduated prices."

Comptroller

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Department, this 6th day of October 1855
No. 7303



Acting Com.

Note: You can locate this Certificate at any of the United States Land Offices, or it will be located for you by the General Land Office on the return of it, with your request to that effect endorsed thereon, specifying the State and Land District in which you wish the location made. If you locate it, fill up and sign the following application.

To the Register of the Land Office } Locate this Certificate, in the _____ quarter of section
at _____ } in Township _____ of Range _____
18 _____ } Attest _____ Register.

61704

mail

The Hon^{ble}

L. J. Waldo,
Commissioner of Pensions,
Washington City,
D. C.

FREE



Department of the Interior,

Pension Office, Official Business.

W. H. Jackson, Comr.



G. G. Brewer

Baltimore

Md

Lutkins

*Widow dead -
No minor children*

W. H. Jackson

7303-16

7303

V 12,861

Bethula Harper

M^o

Letter to S. D. Leconte 6. Aug. 1866

to Name April 6th '47

Act 7. July. 1838

Land Office, Annapolis,
July 1846.

I hereby certify, that it appears by the Muster rolls
of the Revolution remaining in this Office, that
William Harper, enlisted as a private, in the 2nd Mary-
land Regiment, and received pay and bounty land up
to the close of the Revolution, for his Revolutionary
services.

George G. Brewer
Reg. & Land Off. Md.

7303.



160 acres.

4803-160

Wm Barber



The Hon^{ble}

Geo. L. Whiting,
Commiss^r of Ordnance,
Washington City,
D.C.

mail

Look as Regd

July 21 '66

Maryland

Stetson / *W. P. ...*



L

James L. Edwards, Esq.
Commissioner of Pensions
Washington City
D. C.

5

Ind
Cambridge, July 13th 1845

James L. Everett Esq^r

My Dear Sir

Some time since, I left
with you, the petition of Nathaniel Harper
of this (Dorchester) County, for a pension,
on account of the services of his husband
in the Revolutionary war. I can easily
see that your engagements are such as to
make it almost certain that some of
such applications will escape your
memory; I think it probable that this
is the case with the one mentioned.

You informed me at the time I left
the papers, that you would, in a short
time, write to me & inform me, whether
any difficulties existed in obtaining
the pension, & whether there were any
omission of the requisite proofs &c.

I have the liberty of asking
you a question, to it, in the hope that
you will find it convenient to inform
me of the result of your attention
to the subject.

Yours, Obedt. Servt,
James L. Everett

Maryland
Cambridge, Nov. 26th 1874

J. L. Edwards Esq.

My D. Sir

I received some considerable
time since a letter from you stating some
difficulties in the way of allowing a petition
in the case of Rebecca Harper, whose appli-
cation I had previously left in your office.

The main objection I believe seems to be the
want of proof as to the time of her mar-
riage. I think you will find by reference
to the statement, & some corroborating proof
attending it, that there is some testimony
on this point, & although it may not be
conclusive, it appears to me, that it may
still, with great propriety, in consideration of
the difficulty attending the proof of such
facts of so old a date, be admitted as
satisfactory. In our state there is no
official mode of proving marriages, & being
left to either the recollection of the parties
or living testimony, you will see that it
becomes exceedingly difficult to make out
such facts conclusively. The fact of mar-
riage is an, indeed, which parties them-
selves are apt to remember, but in this
case the applicant is utterly illiterate,
and being able to write, a read writing, &
there being therefore no record of the exact
date, I hope it may be consistent with

your sense of duty to make some allowance
in this case -

If, however, the state of the case is such
as to shut her out from a pension, I will
be obliged, if you will state to me explicitly
what more is necessary to prove, & although
it is perhaps impossible to prove more, I
will try if further proof can be obtained.

Yours

Sam^l Shepley

Edmundson Bramble died in 1832
had served in the revolutionary war four
years before its close, & to its close, under
Capt. Trusse. - Was married to his
widow Sarah Bramble 30th Feb, 1815 -
She has remained a widow since his
death, & his children & him now
living -

On this statement of facts is
she entitled to a pension, or to any
thing that may now be due to
him at his death. A reply to
this question will much oblige

Yours

Sam^l Shepley

Bethala Harper

wid of W^m

M^o Oct 1848 - recd

Paid \$148.30

Aug 30 to Nov 8

William Harper,

Bar & Solicitor

at
Spartan,

Evidence
services.

J. S. Coburn

Land Office of Maryland
Annapolis. January 21st 1783.

I certify that it appears by a pay roll
remaining in this office, that William Harper,
a private, received from John Hamilton, Agent
of the Maryland Line, \$25. arrears of pay
from the 1st of August. 1780. to the 1st of January
1782. - also \$ 80. pay. from the 1st of January 1782
to the 1st of January 1783. also \$ 43.30. from 1st
January 1783, to the 15th November 1783. Total
received \$ 148.30.

In witness whereof I have to
subscribe my name & affix
the seal of the Land Office
of Maryland, the day &
year first herein before
written
J. Murray
Comdr of the L^o O^o

Bethulee Harper
wid of Jm

M^c Oct 1848

No record of marriage

J. H. Coombs

State of Maryland Dorchester County Oct.

I hereby certify that none of the Marriage Records in my office were destroyed by the recent fire which consumed the Court House of Dorchester County. And I further certify that there is no evidence on record in my office showing that license was ever granted William Warper and Bethula Wallace to be married.

In testimony whereof I hereunto subscribe my name and affix the Seal of the Precinct Court for Dorchester County this 9th day of February 1833.

Francis J. Henry *clerk*

June 1, 1939.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Mr. T. P. McCollister
Hereford
Texas

du
BA-J/ady
William Harper
W. 3679
James McCallister
S. 34992

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter relative to soldiers of the Revolutionary War.

Revolutionary War data furnished by this office are obtained from claims made to the United States for pension and bounty land based upon military service of soldiers in that war.

A careful search of the records fails to show such a claim on file on account of the services of Jacob Good as described by you, all spellings of the names searched.

The records of William Harper and James McCallister are furnished you herewith.

Very truly yours

A. D. HILLER
Executive Assistant
to the Administrator

1939 June 1 - Hist. to J.P. McCallister.
Letter in James McCallister's
L 34992, A.D.Y.

Revy
WIDOW, &c.

File No. 3679
Bethala Harper
Widow
William Harper
Prot. Rev. War

Act: July 29, 1848

Index:—Vol. A, Page 302

[Arrangement of 1870.]

Washington, Feb 7. 26th 1853

Sir:

Enclosed please find the declaration of Bettula Harper, widow of William, of M^o. claiming the benefit of the Act of 29th July 1848, with evidence of her husband's service and additional evidence as to the date of marriage.

Mrs. Harper filed a claim under the Act of 7th July 1838, but was unable to prove her marriage prior to the 1st of January ~~1844~~ 1844.

She now craves to take a pension under the Act of 29th July 1848, and though still unable to show the precisi day of her marriage, I presume the evidence now presented, in connexion with that already on file, will be entirely satisfactory to show that the marriage took place prior to 1800.

Very respectfully
Your obt^l serv^t
J. J. Gowley

J. E. Heatter Esq
Commiss^r of Pensions

No. 61704

ACT OF MARCH 3, 1855.

Received April 11, 1855

William Harper
Rev. War

Warrant No. 7303-160-55

G. G. Brewer
Baltimore

Md.

Bethula Harper
widow of William
Maryland

Act July 29. 1848

Admitted - for 2 yrs service as
Private in 2^d Maryland Regt
at \$80 per annum from
March 4. 1848.

Agent
J. J. Coombs
Present

Brief in the case of *Bethula Harper widow of Wm*
Dorchester County and State of Maryland
act *July 29. 1848*

Claim, ("original," or "~~for increase.~~")

Proof exhibited, (if original.)

Is it documentary, traditionary, or supported by rolls? If either, state the substance.

Of Service - Record, as certified by the Court of M^d Land Office - 1st Aug '80 to 1st Jan'y 1782 - whole year '82 - '83 to 15. Nov^r - whole amt of arrears paid - \$148.30 - service over 3 years. in 2^d Regt. rec^d Land from M^d

Marriage - Certif of no record of marriage - Testimony of 1 witness who cooked the wedding dinner. and several others as to long cohabitation, &c Date fixed by old persons by comparison of ages &c - before 1800

Death - Death of Wm in 1814 - by affidavit

Identity - Identity - By persons who knew them & reputation of service, and by declaration of widow under act of '38 agreeing with
(If for increase.)

Has additional evidence been filed since the admission of the claim? If so, what?

subsequent certif of Court of M^d Land Office - also by application tax
Widowhood - by affts of 2 witnesses.

+ the Maryland legislature for a pension for his services and report in her favor - her husband having been a state pensioner and land man.

These papers were filed by the widow, in this case

Name and residence of Agent

J. J. Coombs
Present

S. G. Dodge

Examining Clerk.

No 1229

Declaration of Mrs.
Bethula Harper,
Widow of Hilleam.

M^o Act 7th July
1848

Adm^d evidence

J. J. Gault

State of Maryland,
Dorchester County 4th,

On this fourteenth day of February 1853,
before me David W. Tyler one of the Justices of the Peace ^{of the place} in and for said county,
personally appeared Bethula Harper, of said County, aged
Eighty Six - years, who being duly Sworn according to Law, upon her
oath declares, that she is the Widow of William Harper, dec^d,
who was a Revolutionary Soldier of the Maryland Continental
line, and who died on or about the 17th day of February 1814.

That in the year 1846, she made application for a pension
under the act of Congress of 7th July, 1838, but her claim was
suspended, as she is advised, for want of satisfactory evidence that
she was married prior to the first day of January, 1794. - She
further states, that having no record of her Marriage, she was
unable to state in her former declaration, the exact time it took
place, nor can she now state the exact time, she however knows,
that she was married long before the first day of January 1800,
and herewith exhibits testimony, which she hopes will be entire-
ly satisfactory to prove that she was married to the said Will-
iam Harper prior to the last mentioned date, if not prior to
the 1st of January, 1794. And she hereby prays, that in case
the Commissioner of Pensions, shall still deem the evidence insuffi-
cient to entitle her to the benefits of the act of 7th July,
1838, that he will allow her a pension under the act of 29th,
July, 1848, - She further states, that she still remains the
widow of said William Harper, dec^d, never having married since
his death. -

Sworn to and subscribed by the said Dependent
before me this day and year of aforesaid

D. W. Tyler

Bethula Harper
mark

State of Maryland Worcester County, Md.

I hereby certify that D. W. Taylor Esquire before whom
the annexed affidavit was made did whose name is hereto
subscribed was at the time of taking & subscribing the same
one of the State of Maryland Justices of the Peace in and
for Worcester County duly commissioned & sworn.

In Testimony whereof I hereto subscribe
my name & affix the seal of the Circuit's
Court for Worcester County this 15th day
of February 1853

Francis J. Adams Esq.

The State of Maryland Dorchester County to wit
Birt Rembert and it is hereby certified that on the 14th day of
February in the year of our Lords Eighteen hundred and fifty
three that I David W^{ry} Tyler one of the Justices of the peace
for and for Dorchester County and State of aforesaid did visit
Betula Harper widow of William Harper at her place of
Residence and that she is to aged and infirm and
sick at that time to go or be taken before any Judge Justice
or any other person authorized to take Depositions and
I do further certify that she is very Ill and not likely to live
certified by me the Subscriber the day and year aforesaid

D. W. Tyler
Justice of the Peace
in and for Dorchester County

State of Maryland Dorchester County Feb.
I hereby Certify that W. W. Tyler Esquire who
since this Certificate was at the time of so doing on the State
of Maryland Justice of the Peace in and for Dorchester County
Duly Commissioned & sworn.

For Testimony whereof I hereto subscribe
my name & affix the Seal of the Circuit
Court of said Dorchester County on this
18th day of February 1853.

Francis J. Henry esq

Eccleston

Petition of Be-
thula Harper of
Dorchester County
Widow of Wm
Harper praying
to be compensated
for revolutionary
services done by
her husband

Pensions and Rev-
olutionary Claims

Reported favorably

Report favorable
& recommended to be
passed on the per-
mission of the
life and to receive
the pay of a private

To the Hon^{ble}. the General assembly of the state of Maryland

The undersigned being now well stricken in years, and in very indigent Circumstances, is advised in her extremity by those more knowing than herself to ask such relief as she is told, and believes, she is entitled to, at the hands of the Legislature of the State of which her late Husband William Harper was a native and citizen to the time of his death; and she is prompted to this by the fact that her Husband was a soldier of the Revolutionary War by which this Country's Independence was achieved and by the fact, that, aid by the Government was generously afforded him by in his lifetime and that a generous Government has kindly offered relief to the poor and generally helpless widows of those who in time of peril braced the storm of oppression forced upon this now happy Country by the mother Country, in the hope and belief that you will not suffer one 'entitled' as your petitioner trusts, she will be able clearly to shew by the annexed Deposition, to suffer longer in penury and want as she has been living for many years through Ignorance of the Law and willingness of the proper authorities, to render aid to ^{the} widows of revolutionary soldiers, your attention and favorable action will be gratefully remembered.

And your petitioner as in duty bound will ever
pray
12th January 1846
Bethula Harper

It appears from the books of the Treasury that Wm Harper was placed on the pension roll by Resolution of Nov 1812 and drew his pension to 9 Aug 1814.

Treasury Dep^y John 27th Jan'y 1846

D. Blauvelt
Clerk