

Petition of John Harper, December 5, 1809, Elizabeth City County, Legislative Petitions of the General Assembly, 1776-1865, Accession 36121, Library of Virginia.

Your Petitioner John Harper of Elizabeth City begs leave respectfully to represent that a private in the Company of Capt. William Hoffler of the first Virginia Regiment under the Command of Colo. George Gibson he fought three years under the Banner of Liberty in the late Revolution which freed America from British oppression. That in the war memorable Capture of Stoney Point it was your Petitioner's misfortune to receive a wound in the thigh. Upon the return of peace your Petitioner, dependent upon his own manual labour for a maintenance, returned to an honest Course of Industry. And altho' his active powers were considerably impaired by his wound, yet whilst youth and health continued, his labours were adequate to the exigencies of life and the wants of Nature being supplied. the sweet reflection of having suffered in the great and glorious Cause of Liberty constituted a balm to the wound he had received; and he ever esteemed himself more happy than him upon whom the God of Gods had showered his Bounties, But Alas. Age has succeeded Youth, vigour and health have fled at the approach of weakness and disease, and Poverty with her haggard train seem impatient for the victim against want alone. A poor soldier asks aid, a Scanty pittance to satisfy the erodings of Nature and sustain his declining age is all he asks. Let it be recollected that he has suffer'd in the Cause of his County, in his defence he was disabled. Let it be recollected that whilst he was able he labored, and thought not of the benevolence of his Country. But at length unnerved by the effects of patriotic wounds and unavoidable old age, he is forced to seek in the Charity of his Country an asylum from the punishing gripe of necessity. And it is the last wish of this disabled Soldier that his Country for whom he has Bled, will not withhold her Bounty in the hour of his distress.

John Harper

Geo. Wray
Sam Barron
Charles M. Collins
Charles Jennings
Miles Cary
Aug. [illegible] Jr.
[?] Armistead
Jas. Baytop
William Ham
Robert Armistead

[Docket] Harper's Pet. To Claims

Dec 6th 1809

Rejected Dec. 11th 1809

Reported 12 Do. 1809

This is to Certify that John Harper did serve for the Term of three Years as a true and faithfull Soalger in My Company in the first Virginia state Regiment under the Command Colonel George Gibson and that he was wounded in taking Stoney Point. Given from Under My hand this Twelveth day of November 1809.

William Hoffler Capt.

