

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Overton Harris: S31107

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Kentucky}

County of Todd} SS

On this 10th day of December 1832 personally appeared in open court before the county court of Todd county now sitting Overton Harris a resident of Todd county Kentucky aged seventy one years the 4th day of next January who being first 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 he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. In January 1778 I went to Albemarle Barracks where Burgoinnes men were stationed [sic: Burgoyne's troops captured at Saratoga 17 Oct 1777 and imprisoned] and there entered the service as a substitute for my stepfather Elias Thomason a malitiaman under Captain [Richard] Phillips Lieutenant Wm Smith Ensign [William] Clark, the company were from Louisa county Va Capt Robert Mosby commanded another company of malitia from said county. The guard consisted of about six malitia companies. I served this tour only 18 days we had no higher officer than captain but I was very young at the time and can not remember who was principal officer of the Guard at the end of 18 days we were relieved by the state troops, who were regular guard.

I again entered the service in July 1778 to my best recollection but can not recollect the day of the month and was discharged sometime in the August after having served one month— I was drafted and marched directly to the same Barracks to guard the same prisoners and there continued until my month expired. I served this month with the regulars who guarded the prisoners constantly. I am not able to say what the name of the commanding officer of the guard was, but he was a colonel of a troop of horse belonging to the United States service, and I was acquainted with the regular captain who served with us to wit Robert Barret a state troop captain and Benjamine Timberlake both from Louisa county Va Anderson Thompson and Richard Whatkins[?] Lieuts. Captain Holman Rice from Goochland county Va Capt Roberts from Culpepper [sic: Culpeper] c. Va who was advanced to Maj. at the end of the month I was discharged and went home having served the whole time at said Barrack. In January 1779 I entered the service as a substitute in the place of John Thomson. I was marched directly from Boswells Tavern in Louisa c. Va. to the above named Barracks where I performed my months tour in guarding the above named prisoners with the above named regulars. I can not remember my captain or company officers, they were total strangers not being the officers that mustered me at home. I was discharged in February 1779. I again entered the service in the next July 1779 being drafted and were again marched to the barrack before mentioned & again served one more month with the same regulars before mentioned and all the time guarding the same prisoners. We had a new set of company officers each term, and serving as short a time under them can not remember their names, we never had any malitia officer higher than captain. Col. [Francis] Taylor a regular took command of the guard and commanded during my third tour and Col. Fountain commanded during my last mentioned tour and Maj. [Morgan] Roberts under them About the last of October 1780 I entered the service as a drafted malitiaman under Captain Philips the same I served under the first service above stated. Lieut. David Meriwether we were marched from Louisa to Richmond Va having no malitia field officers and were joined to a part of a state regiment commanded by Majors Mcgill & Maj. Declerman state regulars Declerman a frenchman We were marched from Richmond to Fort Pohatan [sic: Powhatan] then Fort Flood there crossed James River then marched to Mckees Mills in Isle of Wight County from there after the British had quit the Virginia coast we were ordered to retreat to Petersburg and were there discharged the 4th day of December 1780. I again in April 1781 about the middle of the month was drafted with the service under the same company officers and served under them in the regiment of malitia commanded by Col. Charles Dabney Maj. Campbell both regular officer the middle regiment of General Nelson's Brigade who commanded us and was a malitia officer. We marched from Louisa to Richmond from there to the Morvern [sic: Malvern] Hills. We then

retreated to Richmond from there we marched to Dandridge, there I was discharged the 20th[?] of May. This tour we were under the command of Gen La Fayette who retreated to the Raccoon [sic: Raccoon] Ford on the Rapidan river where he met Gen Wayne [Anthony Wayne on 10 June 1780]. In June about the middle of the month I entered the service as a substitute in the place of James Dickenson under Captain John Sanders who was very soon after relieved by Capt Jesse Pollett who took command of our company in Col. Dabneys regiment and General Nelsons Brigade and served one month. We marched from Louisa to Hanover from there Henrico from there to New Kent from there to James city county and there was discharged the 20th of July 1781. About the middle of Sept. after I was again drafted into the service under Captain [George] Lumsden and went in company with two other militia companies one commanded by Captain White the other by Capt Harris my captain was soon relieved by Capt. O. Pettis his next was Samuel Terril we had no other officer higher than captain until we got to poplar spring church in Glouster [sic: Gloucester] County when Col. Thomas Baytor took command of us, but we were afterward put under the command of Maj. John Baytor who commanded a militia regiment, and adjutant Heresford[?] and General [George] Weedon a regular officer, we marched from Louisa through Hanover King William King & Queen to Fearn[s?]? Ferry there crossed Mattaponi [River], from there to poplar spring church, from there to Sowels Tavern in the neighbourhood of the siege of York There we we stayed until after Cornwallis surrender in Oct 19th 1781 and then were discharged. I served at least eight months during the revolutionary war.

1st I was born in Hanover county Virginia 4th day of January 1762

2nd I have a record of my age in and old family prayer book now in the possession Ben Harris in Louisa C. Va.

3rd I was living when called into the service in Louisa County Virginia, where I lived until 15th of Oct 1819 then moved to Todd County Kentucky where I now live and have lived ever since.

4th I was drafted as set forth and substituted as set forth and for whom I have set forth.

5th I was acquainted with the following regular officers, Capt Thomas Johnson Wm White his Liut. Anderson Thompson his ensign, Col. Dabney Col. Meriwether Col. Thom. Mathews, Col. Holt Richison [sic: Richardson] Maj. Armstead, Brigade inspector, Maj. Ragsdale Maj. Meckelhainy, Maj. Dick Maj. Boyar[?] Maj. McGill Declermen Maj. Frazer General [Peter] Muhlenburgs inspector Generals Weeden Muhlenburg [Daniel] Morgan Wayne LaFayette. I was acquainted with the regular troops at the Albemarle Barracks and I have stated the regular officers I served with in the foregoing part of this declaration 7th [sic] I never received any discharge

7th I am acquainted in my present neighbourhood with the following persons who can testify as to my character for veracity and their belief as to my military services to wit, Wm. M. Terry Wm Logan Richard W Burton Rawlin Grady Gabriel Roach Saml. Toliver and Leroy Toliver, Wm Willis and others

I hereby declare my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state and I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension except the present. I never was in any engagement except being in the neighbourhood during the siege of York at Cornwallis capture

I know of no person whose evidence I can procure who can testify as to my service further than is proven by the accompanying affidavit of Martin Walton a resident of Robison county

Tennessee I cannot procure a clergyman

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid

[signed] Overton Harris