Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of William Harris W8890
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 31 March 2012.

State of Kentucky } 
Shelby County } SS.
On this 14th day of May 1839, personally appeared before George Bergen a justice of the peace in and for said County Keziah Harris a resident of Kentucky in the County of Shelby aged seventy eight years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July 7th 1838 entitled, an act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows: That she is the widow of William Harris who was a private in the army of the Revolution That he entered the service of the United States as a regular soldier in the County of Hanover and State of Virginia and served three years the exact period when he entered the service she cannot say, but she says she distinctly recollects of hearing his say that he carried expresses for General LaFayette, which service he was put to in consequence of a hurt he received while in pursuit of a tory. She further states that the aforesaid William Harris was allowed a soldiers bounty in land that the land was located in the Western Country and was sold by her husband for fifty dollars. She cannot undertake to state the particulars of his service as she has no doubt his name will appear on the records of the war department, as he drew his bounty land. She further declares that she was married to the said William Harris on the 19th day of January 1785 (though the record says 1775 this is a mistake) She says the original record of her marriage was in her fathers bible in Hanover County Virginia and that many years ago her husband brought a copy of it to this country and in transcribing it 1775 was inserted instead of 1785. That her husband the aforesaid William Harris died on the 2nd day of October 1825. That she was not married to him prior to his leaving the services, but the marriage took place previous to the first day of January seventeen hundred and ninety four, towit at the time above stated. That in consequence of old age and infirmity she cannot appear in open court to make her declaration.
Sworn and subscribed on the date and year above written before.

State of Kentucky } SS.
County of Shelby } 
On this 11th day of November 1839, personally appeared before Henry Bohannon a justice of the peace in and for said County Keziah Harris a resident of Kentucky in the County of Shelby aged seventy eight years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following amended declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July 7 1838, entitled an act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows: That she is the widow of William Harris, who was a private soldier in the Virginia line, that he entered the service in Hanover County Virginia under Captain Dabney (who she believes was afterwards promoted to the office of Colonel [see endnote],) & served three years, and who commanded the Regiment at the time of his enlistment she cannot recollect.
NOTE: On 5 Jan 1844 Kezier Harris (as she signed) was said to be 83 years old. The file includes a copy of a bond signed on 13 Jan 1785 by William Harris and Peter Winn for the marriage of “William Harris Batchelor” to “Keziah Snead Spinster.” The family record is transcribed as follows:

William Harris was born the 18 December 176[?]  
Keziah Harris was born the 29th January 176[?]  
Mary Tinsly Harris was born 4th December 1785  
John Harris was born the 4th day Octr 1787  
David Harris was born the 14th Feby. 1789  
William Harris was born December 1790  
Jane W. Harris was born December 19th 1792  
Sampson Harris was born December 27th 1794  
Austin Harris was born May 6th 1797  
Jordan Harris was born September 14th 1800  
Wyatt Harris was born June 13th 1803  
Henry Harris was born February 12th 1806  
William Harris and Keziah Sneed was married on the 19th January 1775 [sic: see above] in Hanover County Virginia