

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Bounty Land Warrant information relating to Benjamin Harrison VAS1410

[vsl 26VA](#)

Transcribed by Will Graves

2/22/14 supp'd 5/8/15

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[From [bounty land records in the Library of Virginia](#)]

In Charles City County Court the 19th day of January 1809

On the motion of Benjamin Harrison who made oath as the law directs and entered into bond and surety in the penalty of \$40,000 conditioned according to law, certificate is granted him for obtaining letters of administration in the estate of Benjamin Harrison deceased in due form, with his will annexed.

A Copy Test [indecipherable first name] Christian

In Charles City County Court the 17th day of July 1828

This Court doth certify that Benjamin Harrison the elder late of Berkley in this County died about the year 1791; That the said Benjamin left three sons, Benjamin, Carter and William H Harrison; that the said Benjamin the younger about the year 1784 generally signed his name Benjamin Harrison Junior; that the said Harrison Junior also late of Berkeley in this County died about the year 1799, leaving the present Benjamin Harrison of this County his only child and heir.

A copy from the Minutes

Test [indecipherable first name] Christian

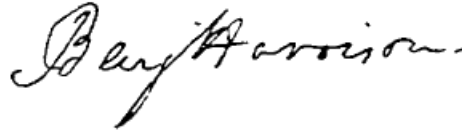
Richmond January 24, 1833

Dear Major

In February 1776 Congress appointed my Father Pay Master for the State of Virginia in that capacity he acted until the war with England was closed [indecipherable word or words] having resigned his commission in April 1782, during which period he was addressed by the different Residents of Congress sometimes as the Pay master of the Southern Army, again as Pay Master for Virginia and frequently as Deputy Pay Master General in one of his letters he says that he is frequently called on to act in every capacity for paying and provisioning the Army – during this period he disbursed upwards of \$16,000,000 according to the specie Standard; for which his pay of \$75 per month seems to have been an inadequate compensation. I believe or recollect that Colonel Palfrey was regarded as having the rank of Colonel although only the Paymaster General and that at this moment Charles Fricke [?] of Norfolk ranks as Major because he is the Pay Master in Virginia. I wish your opinion my dear Sir whether or not under the circumstances my Father was not entitled to rank as a Major and of course to bounty as a

Virginia Officer.

Your most truly
S/ Benj. Harrison



To Major Jas. Gibbon

Berkley January 25, 1833

Dear Sir

On the 15th February 1776 my Father was commissioned Pay Master General for Virginia with a pay of \$50 per month and for rations per day. On the 20th of August 1777, his pay was increased to \$75 per month: the pay I believe of a full Colonel; on the 20th April 1782 he resigned his commission, being then subject to military duty he employed a Substitute for the continuance of the War. These facts please to present to the Executive.

Very respy [respectfully?] I am
S/ Benj. Harrison

Capt. W. Richardson

[p 21]

Philadelphia April 27, 1776

Sir,

The Congress having ordered two hundred fifty thousand dollars to be sent to you for the use of the Continental Troops, I do myself the Honor of forwarding the same here with.

By the enclosed Received you will perceive I have paid Messrs. Willing & Morris of this City forty thousand dollars, which you will consider as Part of the two hundred fifty thousand.

I have also forwarded by this Opportunity to the Committee of Safety of your Colony, fifty thousand dollars to be exchanged for specie. Should they do so successfully as to get more than that Sum in Specie, I have requested them, by Order of Congress, to draw on you for all they can procure above it, in which Case you will take Care that their Drafts are duly honored. The Money is packed up in these Boxes, and committed to the Charge of Captain West.

I have the Honor to be
Sir, your most humble
and very obedient Servant
S/ John Hancock, President



Benjamin Harrison Junior, Esquire

[p 23]

Pay Office Williamsburg 8th [?] of December 1777

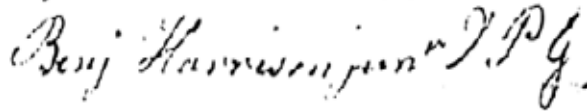
Sir,

About six weeks ago I did myself the pleasure of acknowledging the receipt of your favor

of the 9th September covering ten copies of additional instructions from the Treasury Board and I beg leave to refer you to that Letter.

I now enclose you to Copies of Accounts & Warrants drawn on me by which you will find how Complicated the Business of my office is & how liable the Public is to abuse from the irregular manner that I am [word or words too faint to discern] for Money. The accounts that I this day enclose to the President of Congress will Discover to you at large that I act in every Capacity of the Army when Money is required. If you are of opinion with me that this is improper & that this means many sums are paid away which would be recovered again if they were through the [word too faint to discern] Officers' Hands you will lay the matter before the Board of Treasury & get such resolutions pressed as will effectually put a stop to the Abuses. I have for some time expected your answer to my last letter but suppose it will come yet.

I am Sir
with much respect
Your most Obedient Servant
S/ Benjamin Harrison, Junior, ? P. G.



John Gibson Esquire

[p 24]

Williamsburg 5 December 1777

Sir

I have the Honor to transmit my Office Account for the Month of November, Ba^s [Balancel] on hand, 19,456.65 of dollars of which I am indebted 13,330.13 of dollars to the Virginia Treasury & liable to be called on for it every moment. The trifling Balance thence on hand I conceive will not be adequate to Colonel Mason's purposes as his demands on me are very frequent in deed many of them appear to me to be very and properly made and seen open [one or more words too faint to discern] for abuses, but of this Congress is the best judge. I have the honor to be very respectfully Sir

Your Obedient Humble Serve
S/ Benjamin Harrison Junior, ? P. G.

To
The Honorable President of Congress

[p 12: partial image of a letter from Henry Laurens, President of Cont'l Congress sent from York Town (PA) January 24th [year unclear, but Laurens as President of CC only from November 1, 1777 to December 9, 1778, so the year would have to be 1778]

York Town 24 January [1778]

Sir,

Your Favor of the 1st Instant reached me no earlier than the 22nd, it was immediately presented to Congress & sent to the Treasury Board –

Please to receive in closed an Act of Congress for regulating the Pay & Rations of Continental Officers in the Land service, who are or may be in Captivity, or in lodged upon parole to which I big leave to refer.

I have the honor
with great Respect

Sir
your obedient & most
humble servant
S/ Henry Laurens,
President of Congress

[p 13]

Pay Office Philadelphia 15th of April 1780

Sir

I wrote you on the 14th Ultimo since which I have obtained a warrant on George Brook Esquire Treasurer of the State of Virginia for one hundred thousand dollars which I enclose you – I fear you will not get the money very soon, but [?]¹ is there is no money in the Public Treasury, your Chest cannot be Supplied in any other way – You will please to acknowledge the receipt of this warrant by the Post.

I am

Sir your very humble Servant
S/ Jonth Burrell, A. P. M. G. [Jonathan Burrell, Assistant
Pay Master General]






Benjamin Harrison Junior Esquire
Deputy Pay master General

[p 19]

Richmond 13th of July 1780

I am applied to by Colonels White [Anthony Walton White] & Washington [William Washington] of the Horse for about \$50,000 each, by Colonel Buford [probably Abraham Buford] for \$50,000 for his Corps, by the Commissioner of Loans here [?]² for the 40 odd thousand sent me in [indecipherable]³ last by Colonel Kinnie for warrants on me taken up last fall to the Amount of 20 odd thousand dollars (which he showed to you the other day and which debits me you verbally ordered should be paid out of the money that I now have coming out of the Treasury) & by several other Corps for about \$100,000 among them & they are all im m [sic?], I give you this information in consequence of your Order that you be made acquainted with the demands made of may, although there is but little prospect of their being in, you will be turned the to excuse this Letter's being wrote out of Office, as by this means, you will be informed of the Exigencies of the [indecipherable] Post the sooner – In answer to this I shall thank you to inform me by what authority I am to issue money, hitherto it has been done by the Commandant's Warrant, within the State, at present there is none, or rather he (General Muhlenberg) resides at Fredericksburg. I am Sir

1. 
2. 
3. 

[the above letter is presumably a copy of a letter sent by Benjamin Harrison to an officer of higher rank, possibly John Pierce, Paymaster General]

[p 26]

Halifax October 17th, 1780

Sir,

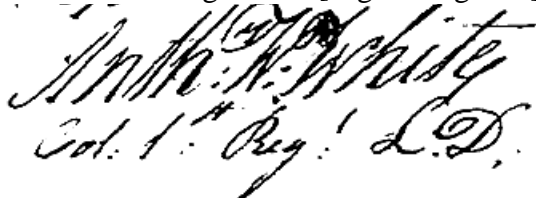
Captain Belfield [John Belfield] acting as Pay Master to my Regiment waits on you for the Pay of the same. By the information I have received by Mr. Gordon Pay Master of the 3rd, I suppose it will be out of your Power to let Captain Belfield have the whole of the Pay due the Regiment, the most of my Cap[balance of word too faint to discern, perhaps "Captains"] are now from the Regiment on duty, and have all their Papers, Pay Rolls, and Muster Rolls &c with them, which prevents Captain Belfield handing you the Pay Rolls at Present, a circumstance that I hope will not induce you to let him have as much Money as you can spare on account, he giving his Receipt for the same; the Regiment have been without Money a Considerable Time, and if you will grant them this Indulgence, you will greatly oblige them, and you may depend on having the Pay Roles sent as soon as my Officers get together, which will be very soon. I am

Sir with respect

Your Humble Servant

Anthy W. White [Anthony Walton White]

Col: 1st Regt. L. D. [Light Dragoons]



[p 15]

Sir

Yours of the 6th March with the enclosed I had the Honor of receiving yesterday.

The \$400,000 you mentioned to have been received at the request of the Baron, was undoubtedly for some particular purpose, which will justify him in his directions to you, or it may be more necessary at this time to have that purpose answered, than that the old warrants should be paid.

I do not know when or how you can obtain money for them, as well as other the man's on you – a particular return of what will be necessary may possibly obtain you a warrant from Congress on yours or some other state.

Perhaps in order to justify your conduct and evidence the propriety of your payments it would not be unessential that you obtain a certified list from the commanding Officers of that Post of the Warrants which they issued & you have lost, as they are by act of Congress to keep an entry of all they grant, which together with your Receipts will make your vouchers as complete as the present circumstances will admit.

I am, Sir, Your Most

Obedient Servant

S/ John Pierce, Pay Master General

Philadelphia April 11th, 1781

Benjamin Harrison Esquire

[p 17: another letter from John Pierce, Paymaster General to Benjamin Harrison dated Philadelphia August 18, 1781 but the image of this document as posted renders it largely illegible and I have not tried to transcribe it.]

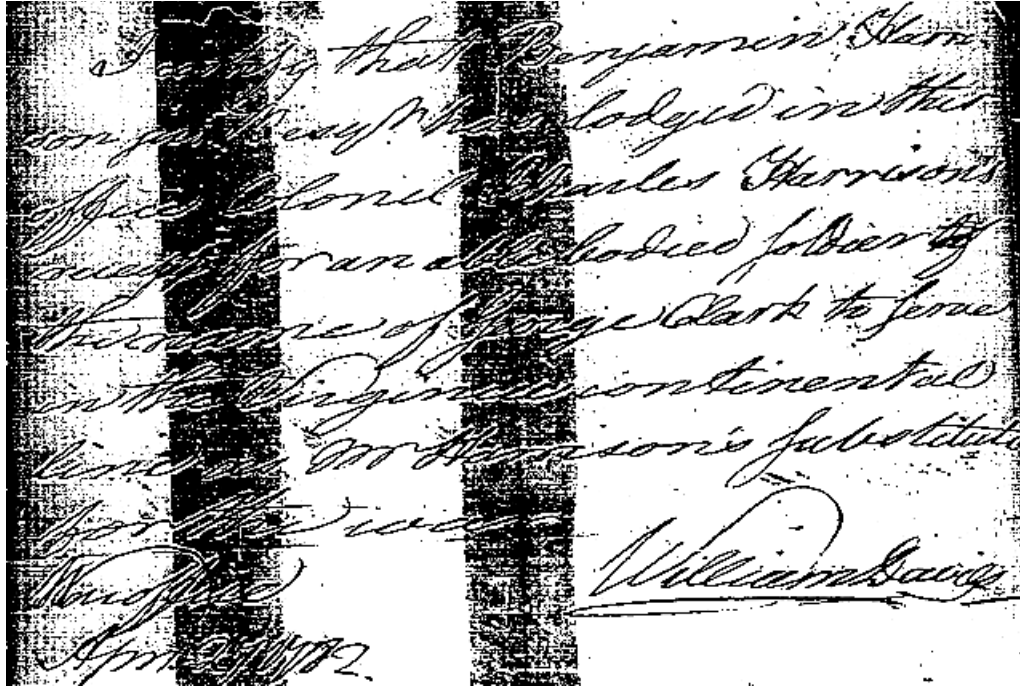
[p 11]

I certify that Benjamin Harrison [indecipherable word or abbreviation] has lodged in this office Colonel Charles Harrison's receipt for an able-bodied Soldier of the name of George Clark to serve in the Virginia Continental line Mr. Harrison's substitute for the war.

War Office

April 27, 1782

S/ William Davies



I certify that Benjamin Harrison
has lodged in this
office Colonel Charles Harrison's
receipt for an able-bodied Soldier of
the name of George Clark to serve
in the Virginia Continental
line as Mr. Harrison's substitute
for the war
William Davies
April 27 1782

[From [Digital Library of Virginia](#)] Henrico County Legislative Petitions

To the Hon. the Speaker of the General Assembly of Virginia
The Petition of Benjamin Harrison Jr. Sheweth

Your Petitioner has held the Commission of Paymaster to the Continental Troops in Virginia upwards of six years & has passed millions of pounds real value through his hands at the Risque [risk] of his Reputation & private fortune, & that at this Day, he finds himself the only one on provided for among all the Continental Officers of this State, added to this, a suit is commenced in Henrico Court by one of your Petitioners Deputies in his private Character for pay due to him. Your petitioner therefore Prays that he may be allowed his Land According to his Rank, & his own & deputies Depreciation, if his allegation shall be found to be true –

[Reverse]

Harrisons petition December 6th 1783

Rejected