

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Ferdenan Harless (Horless) R4612

f10VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 2/17/14

[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.]

State of Virginia, Giles County

On this 22d day of March 1834 personally appeared before me Robert M. Hutcheson a Justice of the peace in and for said County Ferdenan Horless a resident of said county aged Seventy Nine years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the Act of Congress passed the 7th June 1832.--That in the Spring of 1777 in the County of Botetourt in that part that is now Montgomery County Virginia -- he volunteered to serve against the Indians and served as herein stated and under the command of the following named officers -- That owing to the invasions and depredations of the Indians committed on the Inhabitants along the frontier Settlements of Western Virginia the people was compelled to erect [a] Fort and station men in them for their defense -- that for this purpose in the spring of 1777 as above stated -- he volunteered under the command of Capt. Floyd and served in a garrison situated in the County of Botetourt Virginia at a place called Smithfield in that part of the county that is now Montgomery. That he served in this garrison from the 1st of April 1777 until the first of October of the same year.

That there was a regularly embodied corps stationed in garrison with him under the command Captain Floyd and Col Preston [William Preston] was there -- that the nature of his service was to remain in Fort for its defense in case it was attacked by the Indians or to hold themselves in readiness to repair to the assistance of any other Fort that might be attacked by the Indians.

That again in the Spring of 1778 volunteered and served under the command of the same officers above named and served in the same garrison (at Smithfield) from the first April 1778 until the 1st of October -- and that the nature of his services this year was the same as the year previous.

That in the Spring of 1779 he volunteered and served from the 1st of April until the first of October under the command of Capt. Lucas [John Lucas]¹ and was stationed in a garrison situated on Sinking Creek a tributary stream of New River then in the county of Botetourt in that part that is now Giles.

¹ [John Lucas W5468](#)

That he volunteered in the Springs of 1780 & 81 and served from the 1st of April until the 1st of October in each year - in the last named garrison under the command of Capt. Lucas.

That the nature of his service was to remain in garrison for its defense and to range and reconnoiter in spying parties to watch the approach of Indians that the company to which he belonged was divided and a part remained [in the] garrison with him, some was stationed in a garrison situated at the mouth of Sinking Creek also some was stationed in a garrison at the mouth of Stony Creek both tributary streams of New River all within the same neighborhood -- owing to the scarcity of men in these new settlements there could not be a sufficient number of men raised to defend these points until there was men drafted and brought out either from Augusta or Franklin counties and stationed in these Forts.

That he was one of the early settlers of Western Virginia and had to endure much of the hardships of Indian warfare -- that he recollects a party of Indians given chase after Martin Harless and that he narrowly escaped and arrive in the Fort after a race of 3 or 4 miles, then he recollects of the murder and the taken into captivity many of his neighbors amongst whom was of the families of Sybrook, Chapman, McKinsey and a number of others; a daughter of Sybrook's was scalped and beat on the head with a war club and found living next morning and when she was found asked for a drink of water and soon after expired -- in scenes like these he passed through the Revolutionary or at least up until the fall of 1771 after which time he declined to be engaged against them.

That the time he served was with an embodied corps that during which time he followed no civil pursuit.

That he can support his declaration by the evidence of Philip Harless, Parker Lucas and Daniel Harless who served in garrison with him

1st : He was born in the County of Shenandoah Virginia in the year 1755

2nd : He has no record of his age.

3rd : He was living in that part of Botetourt Virginia in that part that is now Montgomery since the revolutionary war he has lived in that part of Botetourt that is now Giles

4th : he volunteered

5th : in the years 1777 & 78 Col Preston and Captain Floyd - after 1778 Captain Lucas

6th : he never received a written discharge

7th Rev Isaac Scott and Robert W. Dennis testify to my character for veracity.

He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or an annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any State - sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ Ferdenen Harless, x his mark

and I Robert M. Hutchison Justice of the peace in and for said county do hereby declare my opinion that the above named applicant served against the Indians as he states

S/ Robert M Hutchison JP

[Isaac Scott, a clergyman, and Robert W Dennis gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of Virginia Giles County: SS

On this 24th day of March 1834 personally appeared before me Robert W Hutchison a Justice of the peace in and for the County of Giles and State of Virginia

Daniel Horless² and Philip Horless³ both residents of said County and state aforesaid and after being first duly sworn according to law doth on their oath state that they well recall of Ferdenen Horless serving against the Indians during the Revolutionary War that they served with him in a Garrison situated in that part of Botetourt County Virginia that is now Montgomery, that they served in this garrison under Captain Floyd in the year 1777 and 1778 that they also served with him in the year 1779 – 80 – 81 and a Garrison situated on Sinking Creek in that part of Botetourt that is now the County of Giles Virginia under the command of Captain John Lucas.

Given under my hand the day and year aforesaid

S/ Robert M Hutchison

² [Daniel Harless R4611](#)

³ [Philip Harless R4613](#)