

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of James Harris R4659

NC

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 3 Sep 2014.

State of Virginia

County of Southampton

On this sixteenth day of September one thousand eight hundred and thirty three, personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the Court of Southampton County now sitting James Harris a resident of Saint Luke's Parish in the County of Southampton and State of Virginia aged eighty four 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 act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup>. 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers Colo. [Thomas] Matthews and Majr Cassaway (being the only field officers recollected. Captain Simon Adley [sic: Simon Hadley] Lieutenant Francis Cooly and Thomas Burnsidés, that he entered the service about the middle of January 1780. the day or day of the month not recollected. but he well recollects that from the time he entered the service he was stationed (until the 1<sup>st</sup> of February 1780) at Cross Creek [present Fayetteville, Cumberland County NC] on which said 1<sup>st</sup>. of February he marched. He does not recollect the day on which the troops with whom he served were discharged, but as this applicant was waitman to Colo. Matthews he was not discharged until he got to Colo. Matthews house (in Cumberland County now Moores [sic: Moore] County near this applicants own residence) which was on the 9<sup>th</sup>. day of November 1780 having been subservient to all his the said Matthews orders in capacity of Servant. That this applicant served under the before mentioned officers during his whole term of service That he was living in the county of Cumberland now Moores County State of North Carolina when he entered the service, that he was drafted in the North Carolina Militia 10<sup>th</sup> Division That he never was in a battle, commenced service at Cross Creek and served as a private for three months or upwards immediately after which he served in capacity of Cook, Washer & Hostler &c to Colo. Matthews for six months & upwards, making his whole term of about 9 months & 24 days, marched from Cross Creek Wayne County North Carolina to Charleston S. Carolina thence to the two sisters [on Savannah River], Came back to Charleston, where all were discharged about the last of October. 1780 excepting this applicant, he being discharged as before stated. That he recollects Genls Morgan & Linkhorn [sic: Benjamin Lincoln]. That he does not recollect any of the Continental regiments or Companies. That he was born in the County of Isle of wight State of Virginia on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September 1749. That there was once a record of his age, but can give no account of it. immediately after the Revolutionary war he lived in the same County that he resided when he entered the service (Six years) since which time he has lived in the County of Southampton State of Virginia where he at present resides. This applicants discharge given him by Colo. Matthews as before stated was taken from him, together with other papers, by Robbers who took every thing in his house. That he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year first above mentioned.

James hisXmark Harris

State of Virginia        }

Southampton County } SS

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned a Justice of the Peace in and for the aforesaid County of Southampton James Harris who being duly sworn deposeth & saith, that by reason of old age & the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the period mentioned below and in the following grades: For three months I served as a private. For six months I served as a Cook Washer & Hostler and for such service I claim a pension.

James hisXmark Harris

Sworn to and subscribed before me Benjamin Griffin a Justice of the peace for the County of Southampton this 18th day of September 1833

State of Virginia.

Southampton County To wit

On this 4<sup>th</sup> day of April in the Year of our Lord 1835 personally appeared before me Aubin Middleton a Justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid and State aforesaid, James Harriss a resident of the County and State aforesaid in Saint Lukes Parish– aged eighty four 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 June 7th 1832 – That he was drafted and entered the army of the United States some time during the revolutionary war the date of the month or Year he does not recollect but remembers that when he left Cross Creek it was on the first day of February–and served in the 5 or Sixth Regiment of Militia of the line under the following named officers: That he set out from Cumberland or More County, (as the County has been since divided) In the State of North Carolina under the Command of one Simon Adley or Adderly as Cap't. and marched to CharlesTown South Carolina, where he was also commanded by one Col. Thomas Matthews, a Major Hog and Gen'l. Lincoln. That he served there as a private soldier and boman or Cook for the said Col. Thomas Matthews, for the space of Nine months. And had left the Town but a few days, before it was taken by the Enemy [12 May 1780] as he this deponent was informed, That I served several small Tours of duty afterwards of about Two months duration in the State of North Carolina upon the great Pede [sic: Great Pee Dee] River, officers names not recollected, but at one time believed to be Commanded by one Capt. Woodley and at another time by one One Hughs or Hugh Gilmore, who was called Capt. That I was born in Isle of Wight County Virginia. That I now live in Southampton County first aforesaid and State of Virginia where I have resided for the past fifty Years. That he has lived so long all of his old acquaintances has gone and left him. with the exception of one Nicholas Tyner [pension application S7773] a resident of North Carolina. who was or acted as Sarjent Major to the Regiment (and Benj'n. Coffield [Benjamin Coffield] as Adjutant) and should I live to see the first day of September next I shall be eighty five years of age that I am poor and much afflicted, and unable to work to support myself and stand in need of assistance from my Country which will also appear by proof below and I further declare, that I was not on the 15th of May 1828 or since upon the pension list of the United States. Witness my hand and seal this 4<sup>th</sup> day of April In the Year first aforesaid 1835

James hisXmark Harris

NOTE: The reason given for the rejection of Harris's claim was that he "Did not serve in a military capacity." The decision is evidently contrary to the Act of 1832 and the Pension Office's own regulations.