

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of John Harris S5491

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia to wit

On this 17<sup>th</sup> day of December 1832 personally appeared in Open Court before Daniel Coleman, Nathaniel Wilson, Stokly Turner and Wm. Graves the Court of Pittsylvania County now sitting John Harris a resident of this said County in the State aforesaid 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 Act of Congress passed June the 7<sup>th</sup> 1832 that he entered the Service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. I was drafted and marched from the County of Pittsylvania in the State of Virginia (where I resided) on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of June 1780 in a Company of Militia under Captain Isaac Clement and Lieut. Benjamin Dunkon [probably Duncan] to Hillsborough in the State of North Carolina where we joined the 3<sup>rd</sup> Virginia Regiment under Major Henry Conoway [sic: Henry Conway] and Colo. Glenn in Gen'l [Edward] Stevens Brigade. We staid at that place upwards of a Month, then marched to Coxe's [Cox's] Mill on Deep River [NC] from thence to Masses [sic: Massey's] Ferry on Peedee [sic: Pee Dee] River at this place about two hundred men were left under Major Conoway, Capt. Daniel &c of whom I was one to guard the said Ferry, secure the Boats &c and the main Army under Genl. Stephens marched on the South. We remained at this place untill after Gen'l [Horatio] Gates was defeated near Camden in the State of South Carolina [16 Aug 1780]. Many of the Virginia Militia and others retreated and rendezvoused with us at the said Masses Ferry and marched back to Hillsborough where we were stationed for some time then marched under Colo. [Ralph] Faulkner & others to New Garden in the County of Guilford N.C. where we staid some time then marched to Guilford Court House where I was discharged by Captain Daniel in the Month of September 1780 having served on this tour three Months. My discharge is lost and cannot be found but the service rendered is proved by Nathaniel Gardner and Joseph Hubbard who were soldiers with me in the same service at the same time

I again entered the service of the United States being drafted on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of October 1780 and marched from the said County of Pittsylvania in the State of Virginia in a Company of Militia under Capt. James Brewer crossed Dan River entered the State of North Carolina and again rendezvoused at Hillsborough and remained at that place for some time. I was transferred to Capt. Peter Mays Company in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Regiment of Militia under Major Conoway and Colo. [George] Stubblefield under Genl. Stephens from Hillsborough. We marched to Salsbury [sic: Salisbury NC] where we were stationed for some time. I was taken sick and sent to a Hospital after which I was discharged by Colo. Joseph Philips on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of January 1781 my term of service being three months having expired on that day. No payment whatever was made to me for that service rendered on this tour. Some time since the Revolutionary War ended I sent my discharge to Richmond Virginia by Colo. William Clark for the purpose of getting the pay that was due to me but received nothing and I have never seen my discharge since. I do not know a person living that was in the service with me at that time but have a certificate from Captain John Walters to prove that I was regularly drafted and entered the service -

In the month of September 1781 I was again drafted into a Militia Company under Captain Charles Hutchings which rendezvoused at Stony Hill or Buckleys in the County of Pittsylvania and State of Virginia and marched on to Little York, at the time this Company left Stony Hill I was not able (from disability) to march with the Company. I was furloughed by Captain Hutchins with orders to follow on & join the Company as soon as I should be able to march. Sometime in the Month of October I left home and was on my way to join my Company at Little York and in the County of Charlotte met many of the same Company coming home who informed me that Lord Cornwallis had surrendered [19 Oct 1781] and that they had been discharged. I then returned home and received a discharge from Capt. Hutchings which was also sent by Colo. Clark to Richmond and I have never seen it since from the time I was mustered into the service to the time of my return from Charlotte was at least one Month. I do not know a person living that was mustered with me into the Service at that time. In addition to the Service

above mentioned I was several times ordered out to take the field. Sometimes I would be on Dan River a few days. Once met at Peytonsburg in the said County of Pittsylvania and staid there ten or twelve days and was once ordered to meet Genl. [Anthony] Wayne and join his Army in the County of Halifax. We staid in that County ten or twelve days and was informed that Genl. Wayne would not march that way. We were discharged. The whole time of service rendered by me in the Revolutionary War was at least Eight Months — I was born in the County of Charlotte in the State of Virginia in the year 1753. My age was Recorded by my Father in a Book that I saw frequently, and have kept an account of my age from that. I lived in the County of Pittsylvania in the State of Virginia when I entered the service of the Revolution. I lived in the County of Pittsylvania when the War ended and have lived in that County ever since.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension Roll of the agency of any State-

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

John hisXmark Harris

I Thomas Williams a Justice of the peace for the County of Pittsylvania and State of Virginia do hereby certify that Nathaniel Gardner a credible man of said County personally appeared before me and made oath that in the year 1780 he was a soldier in the Army of the Revolution attached to Captain Isaac Clements Company of Militia from the said County of Pittsylvania and that John Harris who is applicant for a pension was also a Soldier in the same Company under Captain Clement, that we marched to Hillsborough in the state of North Carolina from thence to Coxes Mill on Deep River and from thence to Masses Ferry on Peedee River, at that place the said John Harris was left with major Conoway &c as a Guard and the rest of us went on to the Rugeleys Mill, and I was in the Battle when Gen'l. Gates was defeated. the Militia retreated and I never met with the said Harris until we were discharged. Given under my hand and and seal this 15<sup>th</sup> day of December 1832

Tho. Williams

This day Joseph Hubbard a credible man of the County of Pittsylvania in the State of Virginia personally appeared before me one of the Commonwealth Justices of the peace for the said County and made Oath that John Harris of the said County who is an applicant for a pension was to my own knowledge a Revolutionary Soldier, that he was attached to Captain Isaac Clements Company of Militia from Pittsylvania and stationed with me as a Soldier at Hillsborough in the year 1780 in the state of North Carolina, we marched from thence to Massees Ferry on Peedee the said John Harris was left as a Guard at that place and we went on to Rugely's Mill near Camden in the state of South Carolina. I was in the Battle when Gen'l. Gates was defeated the Militia were ordered to retreat and I met with the said Harris at New Garden in Guilford County North Carolina and that the said John Harris was honorably discharged from the said Service at the expiration of a three months tour of duty. Given under my hand and seal this 17<sup>th</sup> day of December 1832

R. Hutchings

[See also Joseph Hubbard's pension application S7048]

I John Walters of the County of Pittsylvania in the State of Virginia do certify that during the Revolutionary War, I held the rank of Captain and commanded a Company of Militia in the County of Pittsylvania where I then and now resides and that John Harris of the said County who is an applicant for a pension was attached to and mustered in the Company under my command and that he was several different times drafted and taken into the Army of the revolution and marched from the said County of Pittsylvania. I recollect distinctly that he went to the South as a Militia Soldier and that he was ordered to Little York just before the surrender of Lord Cornwallis &c. My impression at the time was (and I have never heard any thing to the contrary) that he served his tours in the army of the Revolution faithfully. I am well acquainted with the said John Harris and believe him to be an honest man, and one of truth that I would rely on his statement to be correct. Given under my hand this 15<sup>th</sup> day of December 1832

John Walters