

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Jesse Harris W1277

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 7 March 2012.

District of North Carolina Ss.

On this twenty second day of June 1818, before me the subscriber, one of the Judges of the United States for the District aforesaid, personally appeared Jesse Harris, aged sixty odd years, resident in Wake County in the said District who being by me first duly sworn, according to law, doth on his oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the provision made by the late act of Congress, entitled "An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land & navel service of the United States in the revolutionary war." That some time towards the latter end of the war aforesaid, at Hillsborough, in the State of North Carolina, he the said Jesse Harris was hired by a class of men & entered the service for them, for eighteen months, in the company commanded by Captain Wm. Lytle [William Lytle], of the tenth Regiment, in the North Carolina line on the Continental establishment, in said war; that he continued to serve in the same company & in Captain [Joshua] Hadley's, to which he was transferred, until the end of the said war, when he obtained a furlough at Hillsborough aforesaid & was never after called on to serve – his said furlough is lost or destroyed; that he was in no battle; and that he is in reduced circumstances, & stands in need of the assistance of his country for support.

DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA, SS.

On this 23rd day of August 1821 personally appeared in open Court, being a Court of Record held in and for the county of Wake in the State (and District) of North Carolina Jesse Harris a private soldier once and now a pensioner of the United States aged upwards of sixty years, a resident in and of the said county and state who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his Oath declare that he served in the Revolutionary War, as follows (Viz) that he enlisted in Captain William Lytles Company in a regiment Commanded by Col. Elijah Lytle [sic: Archibald Lytle] belonging to the North Carolina line and quota of Continentals which served at the South and that he was changed & transfered into other companies and regiments while in the service the names and numbers of which he now partly forgets as his memory fails him a good deal and that he has received a pension as by law allows as will appear by Pension Certificate No.5445 which is now [illegible word].

And I do solemnly swear that I was a resident citizen of the United States, on the 18th day of March, 1818; and that I have not since that time, by gift, sale, or in any manner disposed of my property, or any part thereof, with intent so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress, entitled "an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war," passed on the 18th day of March, 1818; and that I have not, nor has any person in trust for me, any property, or securities, contracts, or debts due to me, nor have I any income or property, other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed, and by me subscribed which by my estimation amounts to fifty nine Dollars & ten Cents which is the extreme value as I think of the several specified articles forming & being the whole of my property except my Bed & Bedding & necessary apparel. that my occupation was that of a labourer and planter which from increasing bodily infirmities and a failure in my Eye sight, I am now unable to persue so as to support myself thereby. that I have a wife (my second one) and two Children Boys one named Fennel upwards of sixteen William about nine months old. that Fennell is small for his age but is able to assist me somewhat in getting a support and that I am in extremely indigent circumstances tho labourous and frugal notwithstanding my afflictions

Sworn to and declared on the 23rd day of August 1821 in open Court.

Jessee hisXmark Harris

State of North Carolina }
Wake County }

A Schedule of the property of Jesse Harris a Revolutionary Soldier and a pensioner of the United States (to wit)

one lot or parcel of pewter.	\$3 50
one old saddle almost worn out.	1 —
some old knives & forks.	50
one old iron pot	1 25
one old chain 25 cents an old brandy Barrel 50 cts.	75
one old spinning wheel nearly useless & worn out	50
one broken old coffee pott.	25
one old smoothing iron with the handle broken.	25
one small Bay Horse rather old.	25 00
a small parcel of moldy Tobacco somewhat rotten.	6 —
plough Hoes Weeding Hoes Club axes & Iron Wedges. . .	7 00
one Bread Baker \$1 a Lot of plantation Tools \$3.	4 —
one Scythe 25/ one pair Hames 6/ —	3 10
Two sows & two pigs.	5 .00
three grubbing Hoes.	<u>1 00</u>
	\$59 .10

The above is a faithful Schedule of my property and the full value thereof in my own estimation and I believe that I value them higher than any other person would or will do for as most of them have grown old with me I have the greater regard for them as being old companions.

Witness my name August the 23rd 1821 Jesse his Xmark Harris

NOTES:

A typed summary states that Harris enlisted at Hillsborough NC on 1 Aug 1782 and died 15 April 1844 in Wake County NC.

A 13 Sep 1821 letter from John Dev'x DeLacy of Raleigh to the Secretary of War states the following in part: "I must confess that I am at a loss to manage the concerns of this poor man Harris, or be of that use to him I am desirous to be, for the poor man has such an impediment in his speech, which is aggravated by increasing infirmities and debility, That I can not understand him, and am compelled always to have some one of his family or neighbours to explain what he attempts to say. And the old man is known to be so honest that every one is interested for him Indeed the rage, the unconscionable rage for speculating on this interesting and deserving class of men is now carried to such a pitch as to excite the indignation of every well meaning man and I confess determines me to disappoint the vultures that prey on them as far as I possibly can." The "vultures" were apparently those who took advantage of pension applicants and recipients.

On 16 May 1853 in Wake County NC Judah Harris, 50, applied for a pension stating that as Judah Tabum she was married to Jesse Harris on or about 25 Feb 1815 or 1816, and he died in April 1844. The file includes a copy of a bond signed in Wake County on 23 Feb 1820 by Jesse Harris and Thomas Roycroft for the marriage of Harris to Julia Tabon. In an application for bounty land dated 1 May 1855 Judah Harris was still said to be 50.

On 25 April 1866 Judah Harris, 70, applied for the restitution of her pension, which had been suspended during the Civil War, in which period she had lived on the land of Joseph Mangum, then E. P. Hester, then Willis Jackson, and finally Edward Rochell, where she still lived. She stated that she had subsisted in part on her labour as a spinster and partly on aid from her children, who furnished her with a home on rented land. Buckner Nipper and George W. Thompson certified that Judah Harris, "a woman

of colour," had not encouraged the rebellion. Solomon H. Bledsoe and William A. Jackson stated that Judah Harris, "a coloured woman," was in a "suffering condition" during the Civil War, but had been aided by her two sons, who were also very poor.

The 1840 Federal census for Wake County NC lists Jesse Harris as follows:

"Free Colored Persons" Males: 1 under 10, 1 55-100; Females: 1 under 10, 2 10-24, 1 36-55;

"Pensioner for Revolutionary or Military Services Included in the Foregoing" Jesse Harris 80.