

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Richard Harrison¹ W3807 Mary f62GA
Transcribed by Will Graves 3/22/12

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Virginia, County of Albemarle

On this thirteenth day of October in the 1832 personally appeared in open court before Lucas P. Thompson Esq. Judge of the Circuit Superior Court of Law & Chancery for said county, now sitting, Richard Harrison, age seventy-five 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 7th, 1832.

That he was born in the County of Goochland and State of Virginia on the 10th of December 1757; that about the fall of the year 1775 he removed to the County of Caswell North Carolina. In March 1776 he volunteered against the Tories who rose in that State to protect their Governor and marched to Hillsborough under Capt. Adam Saunders and at Hillsborough the troops were organized and marked to Cross Creek in the same State His Major was named William Moore and his Col ___ Thaxton [probably, James Thackston]. At Cross Creek intelligence was received of the defeat of the Tories at a place called Long Bridge[sic, Moore's Creek Bridge, February 27, 1776] in Said State by Colonel Caswell [Richard Caswell]. He then marched back to Caswell County under the same officers and was discharged after being gone five or six weeks. The same fall about the last of November or first of December of same year he marched from the County of Pittsylvania, Virginia to Georgia under command of Capt. John Dooley [John Dooly] [&] Lieut. Burwell Smith, when he reached Georgia, Capt. Thomas Dooly was placed over him, who was killed by the Indians. He had enlisted in the Continental service for eighteen months. He was afterwards commanded by Capt. Burwell Smith who had been promoted after Capt. Dooley was killed, they were attached to no Regiment as he knows of. He once saw a man who reviewed the troops soon after they reached Georgia and who was called a Colonel, but he was attached to no other troops but the two companies which marched with to Georgia. The troops were promised a bounty of two hundred acres of land, which he has never received and a monied bounty of eight dollars which was all he received for his service. He continued to serve the eighteen months in Georgia and was discharged in Wilkes County some time in the Spring of 1778, which discharge he has lost. After being discharged in Georgia he came home when Genl. Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] was sent to command the army in the South. He was drafted in the Militia from the County of Pittsylvania Virginia under command of Capt. James Turner to the siege of

¹ BLWt2359-160-55

96 [May-June 1781]. He marched first to Guilford court house North Carolina; thence to Salisbury; thence to Charlotte Town this side Catawba River; thence to 96. He continued there till the siege was raised by Genl. Greene and he then marched to the high hills of Santee; there the time of the Virginia militia to which he was attached was nearly expired and he was sent on with some British prisoners to Salisbury, and thence on to Virginia where he was relieved by other troops near the place of his residence in Pittsylvania County and the prisoners were sent across the mountains towards Winchester, Virginia. He was in the service this tour three months and eight days. This was in the year 1781. In September of that same year he took the place of his employer John Lewis who was drafted in the militia and marched to the siege of York [September-October 19, 1781] and remained there till the surrender of Cornwallis, when he marched to Noland's ferry on the Potomac with some prisoners where he was discharged which discharge he now produces to the court. Fleming Bales [Fleming Bates?] who discharged him was his Captain; Rogers was his Major and he forgets the name of his Colonel, this last tour. He removed from Pittsylvania to the County of Albemarle in the fall of 1784 and has lived here ever since. He has no other positive proof of his services but his lost discharge, and can only refer to the annexed certificates of persons to whom he is known and who will vouch for his respectability and voracity He hereby relinquishes any claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and vouches his name is not on the pension rolls of the agency of any state.

S/ Richard Harrison²

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

And thereupon the following interrogatories were propounded to the said Richard Harrison

1. Where and in what year were you born?
Ans. In the County of Goochland State of Virginia on 10th December 1757
2. Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?
Ans. I have, it was in the possession of my mother, who died about 18 months since and I have not seen it since.
3. Where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the Revolutionary War, and where do you live now?
Ans. I was living in the county of Caswell, North Carolina when I first entered the service, and afterwards in the County of Pittsylvania Virginia I have lived since the revolution in the counties of Pittsylvania, Albemarle Virginia and now live in the latter.
4. How were you called into the service, were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute?
Ans. I first volunteered, I then enlisted and in the last tour I was a substitute
5. State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental & Militia Regiments as you can recollect other general circumstances of your service.
Ans. When I marched as a volunteer in March 1776 I was commanded by Captain Adam Saunders, Major William Moore & Col Thaxton - afterward say in the fall of 1776 I was commanded by Capt. Dooly, Lieut. Burwell Smith. The second

² I do not believe the signature is the actual signature of the veteran since the handwriting is identical to that of the body of the application.

tour 1781 I was commanded by Capt. James Turner and afterwards by Capt. Fleming Bates who gave my written discharge here produced to the court Rogers was our Major.

6. Did you ever receive a written discharge from the service and if so by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Ans. I did receive one written discharge as above stated.

7. State the names of persons to whom you are ---in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution

Ans. John Goss & Richard Duke

[John Goss, a clergyman, and Richard Duke gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[f p. 61]

Virginia in Albemarle County Sc

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned, a Justice of the Peace for said County, Richard Harrison, who being duly sworn deposed and 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 periods mentioned below and in the following grades:

In March 1776 he volunteered in Caswell County North Carolina against a party of Tories and served as a private for at least 5 weeks:

In fall 1776, being the last of November or the 1st of December, I enlisted in Pittsylvania County Virginia in the Continental service for 18 months served the whole tour as a private.

In April 1781, I was drafted in Pittsylvania County Virginia in the militia and served as a Private for 3 months and 8 days – the draft was for 3 months.

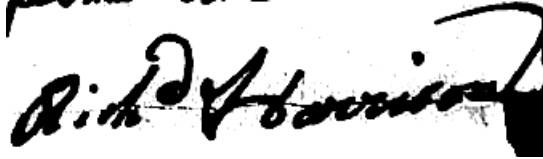
In September 1781 I entered the militia in the above County of Pittsylvania as a substitute for John Lewis for a 3 months tour – was marched as a private to the Siege of York & remained in such substitute till the surrender of Cornwallis – being in the whole a service of at least 3 weeks.

In October about the 20th or 21st in the year 1781, the militia discharged at Yorktown, after the surrender of Cornwallis, were called upon to furnish volunteers to act as a guard to the Prisoners then surrendered – I became a volunteer upon the occasion: acted as a private & was marched with the Prisoners to Noland's ferry on the Potomac [River] – and was discharged the 6th of November 1781 – making a service of at least 2 weeks. For this service each volunteer was promised, at the time his services were called for, credit for a tour of duty. I received a written discharge which stated the fact – but the same being produced in open court on the day my declaration was made (as is therein stated) was lost or mislaid in court. The company in which I marched to Noland's ferry was commanded by Captain Fleming Bates who signed my discharge. And for such service I claim a pension.

Given under my hand as a Justice of the Peace this 28th Me 1833

S/ John R Jones, JP

S/ Rich'd Harrison



[f p. 39]

This is to certify, that it appears from a list in this office of such Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia Continental Line as settled their accounts and received certificates for the balance of their full pay, according to an act of assembly, passed the November session 1781, directing the Auditors of Public Accounts to settle and adjust the pay and accounts of said Officers and Soldiers from the first January 1777 to 31st December 1781, (see Hening's Statutes at Large, vol. 10, p. 462,) that a settlement was made on the 4th day of Me 1784 in the name of Richard Harrison as Sol Arty [Soldier of artillery] and evidence of the indebtedness of the State to him was £54.10.5, delivered to Captain Shelton but as the original settlements or copies thereof or not to be found in this office, the term of service embraced therein cannot be stated.

Given under my hand at the First Auditor's Office, Richmond, this
11th day of April 1855.

S/ G. W. Chilton

Auditor P. A.

[No Seal of Office]

[f p. 11: On March 7, 1848 in Albemarle County Virginia, Mary Harrison a resident of St. Ann's parish in the County of Albemarle, aged 86, filed for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of Richard Harrison; that she married him the 4th day of November 1784; that her husband died February 7, 1848. She signed her application with her mark.]

[Facts in file: The widow's maiden name was Mary or Molly Clarkson; the place of their marriage is not stated; the widow died August 2, 1856, place not stated; there is no reference to children or other than descendents in this file.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$77.10 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 23 months and 4 days in various states' services. Veteran's widow was pensioned in a like amount.]