

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of William Harris W4222

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 27 Jan 2012.

State of Virginia } SS
County of Hanover }

On this the 17th day of February 1839 personally appeared before me a justice of the peace in and for said county Mrs. Diana Harris a resident of the County and State aforesaid aged seventynine years and upwards who being first duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July 4th 1836: That she is the widow of William Harris who entered the service of the United States she thinks was the commencement of the war she cannot recollect at what time but expects that it was in 76 as he was always called old 76, she recollects that he entered under Capt. Richard C. Anderson and was marched toward the north and then he acted as comisary. she does not recollect any engagement he was in except at Brandywine [11 Sep 1777] before marriage and at Hicory Neck Church [see endnote] after her marriage to said William Harris, at which place he was taken sick and was brought home in consequence of which he was not at the siege at York Town Virginia [28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781]. She believes that her husband served during the whole war nearly but she cannot say what engagements he was in or what officers he was under except the above, as all of his papers that would give her the information have been destroyed not thinking they would be of any value to any one hereafter. She further declares that she was married to the said William Harris by Parson Barret in the County of Hanover on the 22nd of December (1780) seventeen hundred and eighty and that her husband the aforesaid William Harris died on the 26th January 1802 and that she has remained his widow ever since that period as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed.

Diana herXmark Harris

State of Virginia, County of Hanover. SS

I Hensly Grubbs [Hensley Grubbs, S37962] of the County and State aforesaid a Revolutionary pensioner, do hereby certify that I was very intimately acquainted with William Harris who was a Revolutionary soldier and husband of Mrs Dianna Harris of this County that he entered the service of the United States in the year seventy six and was marched to the north where he served three years after which I was seperated from him and was marched to Williamsburg Virginia and saw Harris no more until I returned home sometime I think in the year 82 or 3 when I found him married to the above mentioned Dianna Harris given under my hand and seal this 22nd day of July 1839

Hensly hisXmark Grubbs

I Benjamin H. Munday [pension application S10250] of the County of Essex and State of Virginia do hereby certify that I was acquainted with William Harris of the County of Hanover and State of Virginia who was in the war of the Revolution I know said Harris was in an engagement at a church (above YorkTown (Virginia,) in New Kent or Charles City County just before the Seige of York Town [28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781] at which place I believe said Harris was taken sick and returned home & I saw him no more during the war. Given under my hand this 19th day of January 1840

[signed] Ben H Munday

I John Gilman [S39574] of the County of Hanover & State of Va Revolutionary pensioner do hereby Certify that I was well acquainted with William Harris formerly of this County but died many years ago – and that said Harris started in this county just before the seige of York Town in the Malitia and although he did not get to York Town. Yet I had so much confidence in said Harris as to believe that he quit either

from sickness or some good cause. I had just returned to Hanover from Winchester where I was discharged from my enlistment when the Malitia started to Wmsburg & York Town in October 1781
Given under my hand this the 13th day of February 1840 [signed] John Gilman

I John Hope [S18033] of the County of Hanover and State of Virginia aged 79 years and upwards do hereby certify that I was very intimately acquainted with William Harris who was a soldier in the war of the Revolution from this county, and who is said to have served to the north the time of three years, and although I did not serve to the north myself, yet I verily believe from what I have heard that Harris did serve that length of time to the North, I know positively he was in service to the south for before the siege at York, (I cannot say though how long) I was with him at a place call'd Cabbin Point, below Richmond Virginia [sic: Cabin Point on James River in Surry County], where he was acting in the capacity of Captain; I did not see Harris at the Seige at York, if he was there he was on the York side. I being on the Gloucester side, he was called at this death Major Harris, but did not get the commission in the army. I do not know when he was married, but am well acquainted with his widow Mrs. Dianna Harris of this county, who I believe is now living; Given under my hand this 25th day of July 1840

[signed] John Hope

I Samuel Terrell of the county of Caroline and State of Virgin'a do hereby certify that I was well acquainted with Wm. Harris of the County of Hanover who was called Major Harris and who was the husband of Mrs Dianna Harris who I believe is now living. I was too young to know anything about the services of said Harris during the war of the Revolution but have heard Enoch Davis of Hanover speak frequently of he and Harris serving together to the north and I believe they were engaged in the Battle at Brandywine from his speaking so often of the services they had renderd at that place. this I heard from Davis in the year 1786 at which time I was 16 years of age. from my acquaintance with Harris and from what I have heard from others I verily believe that he was a faithful soldier during the war Given under my hand this 3rd day of August 1840 –

[signed] Samuel Terrell

I Edmund Gilman [S8565] of the County of Hanover and State of Virginia a Revolutionary Pensioner do hereby certify that I was well acquainted with William Harris who was the husband of Mrs. Dianna Harris of this county formerly Dianna Goodwin and I have heard that William Harris was in service at the north for three years, after which time he returned and was married to the aforesaid Dianna, after the said Wm. Harris was married he enlisted again and was to the South. I was with him at Cabbin Point below Richmond and then again at some place (I don't recollect exactly where) between Hanover & Williamsburg where he got disabled accidentally and was permitted to return home just before the siege at York, I do not know certainly that Wm. Harris was a Captain to the South but think it very probable as he had gone through much hardship during the war and was well qualified for that office Given under my hand this 5th day of August 1840

[signed] Edm'd Gilman

[On 29 Jan 1840 John G. Harris applied to the state of Virginia for bounty land for the service of his father. The following document is with his rejected claim in the [Library of Virginia](#):
Virginia – Hanover County to wit:

This day Hensley Grubbs personally appeared before me a justice of the peace for said county who being duly sworn according to Law, made the following statement that he is now in the seventy fourth year of his age that he was well acquainted with William Harris of the said County, that the said Harris marched in company with him as a private under Beverley Stubblefield [pension application W2263] from Edmund Taylors Tavern in the County of Hanover to the Valley Forge in the state of Pennsylvania, where he joined the 14th Regiment commaded by Col. Davis [sic: William Davies] – the said Grubbs further states that he enlisted for three years and is under the impression that the said Harris

enlisted for the same time, he also states that after he had served upwards of twelve months he enlisted for during the war and marched on to the South and left the said Harris in service and always understood and has no doubt that the said Harris served his time of three years to the North.

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 5th day of April 1834 Hensley hisXmark Grubbs

NOTES:

Captain Richard C. Anderson, who took the oath of allegiance at Valley Forge in 1778, was in the 5th Virginia Regiment, so it is likely that William Harris was in it as well.

"Hickory Neck church" probably should be Hickorynut Church 8 mi NW of Williamsburg. The Battle of Spencer's Ordinary occurred 2 mi from there on 26 June 1781.

The file includes a copy of a bond signed 20 December 1780 by William Harris and John Harris for the marriage of "William Harris Batchelor" to "Miss Diana Goodwin."

The file includes the family record transcribed below.

William Harris was born January 13th, 1753

Diana Harris his wife was born February 1st 1760 & was married December 22nd, 1780

William Harris departed this life January 26th, 1802

Ages of William & Diana Harris's Children

William Overton Harris was born November 22nd, 178[page torn]

Elizabeth Doswell Harris was born September 28th, 1788

Mary Garland Harris was born November 20th, 1791

Frances Goodwin Harris was born August 31st, 1796

Anne Nelson Harris was born August 3rd, 1798 and departed this life Saturday night 26th of October 1799

John Goodwin Harris was born June 21st 1800