Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of William Harris W8893 Lydia Harris [see endnote] VA Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 23 Feb 2016.

State of Kentucky } Sct.

On this the 21st day of August in the year 1832 personally appeared in open Court Bourbon County } before the Honorable of the Bourbon Circuit Court now sitting William Harris a resident of said County living about five miles from the Town of Paris, aged about eighty seven years the 3rd day of August next, 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 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers & served as herein stated. In 1776 in Augusta County Virginia he was drafted & served for three months, his Capt was John Gilmore, his Col. was [William] Christian, he was marched to the Cherokee Nation to suppress some attempts of Guess [probably Gist] a trader for Baltimore, who had raised the King's standard; Guess surrendered on French Broad River. He was discharged 7 Nov 1776. In 1778 he was drafted & served three months as orderly Sergeant in the Company of Capt. William Anderson, he was stationed at Dunlaps Fort in Greenbriar County Virginia [sic: Greenbrier County, at present Clover Lick in Pocahontas County WV], he was discharged 28 July 1778. He was afterward drafted & served a three months tour as sergeant in Capt. James Tate's Company under the Command of Brigadier Genl [Daniel] Morgan, during this service he was at the battle of the Cowpens [17 Jan 1781] & was also at the taking of one hundred and ten tories at Rugeley's Mills [Rugeley's Mill 12 mi N of Camden SC, 4 Dec 1780]. He was discharged 26th Jany 1781. He was afterward a volunteer for sd Capt. Ja's Tate and served one month & 14 days under Col George Moffett under Maj'r Gen'l Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] at the battle of Guilford Court [Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781] he was wounded & was discharged 21st March 1781. He was afterward a volunteer in Capt Patrick Buckhannan's [sic: Patrick Buchanan's] Company & served two months, he was at the taking of Cornwallis at York Town [19 Oct 1781] & was discharged 24th October 1781. He states that he has his discharge from the officers for all the above mentioned Terms of Service which he transmits with this declaration, that he was born in the City of London, came to America in the year 1769, when he went into the service he was living in Augusta County Virginia. He has been living in Bourbon County upwards of twenty years, he is known by John Prior, John McConnell, Elijah Basye, Benj B Todd, Edw'd McConnell and many other respectable men who can testify to his character & veracity & their belief of his service as a soldier of the revolution.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

[See endnote regarding the following discharges.]
Tenisee River

This is to Certify that Willliam Harris a Soldier in my Company of Militia from Augusta County Virginia hath faithfully served his Tour of duty for three Months for which he was drafted under Colonel Christian and is hereby discharged from the same and hath free liberty to pass unmolested to the said County on his good behaviour given under my hand this 7 Day of November 1776

John Gilmore Capt'n.

Willian Harris

This is to Certify that William Harris orderly Serjeant in my Company of Militia from Augusta County Verginia Stationed at Alexander Dunlaps Fort at Clover Lick to guard the frontiers hath faithfully served a Tower of duty of Three Months for which he was draughted and he's hereby discharged from the same and hath free liberty to pass unmolested to the County from whence he came on his good behaviour given under my hand this 28 Day of July 1778 William Anderson Capt'n.

Yadkin River North Carolina

This is to Certify that William Harris a Serjeant in my Company of Militia from Augusta County Virginia hath faithfully served his term of duty for three Months for which he was Drafted with Credit under Brigadier General Morgan and is hereby discharged from the same and hath free liberty to pass unmolested to the said County and State on his good behaviour given under my hand this 26 day of January 1781.

James Tate Capt'n.

Dan River North Carolina

This is to Certify that William Harris a Volunteer in Captain Tates Company of Militia from Augusta County Virginia his Captain being killed and Ensign killed and lieutenant taken and himself Wounded is hereby discharged from his service of one Month fourteen days under Major General Green and deserves Credit for the same and hath full Liberty to return unmolested to the aforesaid County on his good behaviour given under my hand this 21[?] day of March 1781.

Geo. Moffett Colo'l.

York Town Virginia

This is to certify that William Harris a Volunteer in my Company of Militia from Augusta County hath faithfully served a Tour of two Months under General Washington and is hereby discharged from the same and hath free liberty to return to the Country aforesaid unmolested given under my hand this 24[?] day of October 1781

Patrick Buckhanan Capt'n.

NOTES:

The application of Lydia Renfro Harris was erroneously filed with this William Harris. She was actually the widow of the William Harris whose pension application is numbered S30458. A transcription of her application is included with the latter's transcription.

The five discharges are on scraps of paper folded and worn to give the appearance of age, but they are not darkened as original discharges would have been. All are in the same handwriting, evidently that of the applicant judging by the similarity of the name "William Harris" with his signature. It is possible that he innocently copied them from original discharges. On the following page the discharge supposedly given to William Harris by James Tate can be compared with the presumably genuine discharge given two days earlier by Tate to Abner Hamilton, pension application S31105.

This is to Cartify that William Harris or Senguent in my Company of militia from Augusta County Birginar hath faithfully served his term of duly for three houstes from the same for which he wood he will broad winder Breader from the same General Morgan and is harrby diorcharges from the same General Morgan and is harrby diorcharges from the same band hath fra liberty to pa for around soled to the sold hand this 26 day of January 1781.

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