

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Virginia documents pertaining to Thomas Harris VAS20

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 17 May 2015.

[From [pension records in the Library of Virginia](#).]

[Top part of the following is missing from the online image:]

several wounds in defence of the armoury at Williamsburg in a mutiny of the American soldiery and who then acted as an Armourer in the Service of the United States, is put on the list of Pensioners of this state pursuant to an Act of Assembly passed at the present Session thereof with an allowance of twelve pounds yearly commencing the first day of January One thousand seven hundred and ninety four.

Given under my hand as Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia at Richmond this sixth day of December 1793. [signed by Gov. Henry Lee, formerly Lt. Col. and commander of Lee's Legion]
Sam'l. Coleman



Know all men by these presents that I Thomas Harris a pensioner of the state of Virginia Do hereby Impower Capt'n. Hennary Garrett [sic: Henry Garrett] now Representative of Louisa County to act as my attorney & draw my half years pention 20 Ds be comming due the first day of Janu'y 1807 his Rec'pt shall be my suffic't Disscharge. In wittness whereof I have heereunto affix'd. my hand & seal this 25th Day of Nov'r. 1806 & the Thirtieth of Amarican Independence in the presence of John Sanford



Sam'l. Shepard Esq'r. auditor

Sir/ please to pay my half year pention unto Will'm Tomkin Esq'r Sherrif of Fluvanna County as it becomes Due from the first day of July last his Receipt shall be my Suffitiant Disscharge for the same.
given under my hand this 11th Day of October 1808 [signed] Thom's Harris
Test/ Lewis Harris

L[?] ct L

Fluvanna January 10th 1812 58 12

to Sam'l. Shepard Esq'r. auditer of public accounts

Sr. please to pay my half years pention being 20 Dollars unto lewis Harris my Son or unto Will'm Raglin [sic: William Ragland] Esq'r a member of the assembly from Louisa Either of their Receipts Shall be my Suffitiant Disscharge. & Remain Yours Truly [signed] Thos Harris

Fluvan'a octob'r 2^d 1812

Honr'd S'r. my Sircumstances is verry low which compels me to creave a quarters pay of my penti'n being ten Dolr's the bearer my son Lewis Harris his Recp't shall be my Suffitiant Disscharge & Rema'n y'rs Truly [signed] Ths Harris

Mr Samuel Shepherd Esq'r/ Auditor

Upon

1812 Rec'd a Warrant of Ten dollars

Oct 15

[signed] Lewis Harris

[The file contains many other receipts and assignments of pension payments, the last dated 8 July 1818.]

[From [Library of Virginia Legislative Petitions Digital Collection](#)/ Richmond (City).]

To the Honourable the Members of the General Assembly of the State of Virginia
The Memorial of Thomas Harris/ Respectfully sheweth,

That your Memorialist, at an early period of the late WAR was captured and compulsorily detained in a Vessel belonging to Dunmore's fleet, from which, with a considerable loss of property, and at the imminent hazard of losing his life; he made his escape.

That in the State of Virginia, he immediately entered in the American Service in the Capacity of an Armourer; in which business he flatters himself it will appear from the testimony of Eminent public Characters in Virginia, that he has rendered his Country considerable Services; at a critical period when it was extremely difficult to procure Hands to work at that business Particularly,

1st Your memorialist fitted and repaired fire arms at Gloucester to a considerable amount.

2nd He repaired the Arms for the 1st and 2nd Virginia Regiments at Williamsburg.

3rd He made Bayonets and Gun Locks, and instructed a number of Hands in that business: Moreover he constructed a Mill, at the arsenal in Fredericksburg, which proved very advantageous in polishing & finishing work of that kind.

4th He was engaged as an Artificer in General Green's [sic: Nathanael Greene's] army, where he repaired many stand of Arms

Your Memorialist after several years has been industriously and (he trusts) usefully engaged in the Service of his Country, for which he has received no adequate compensation notwithstanding many fruitless applications made to the Legislature of Virginia for that purpose. Your Memorialist has been wounded and disabled in the public service; he is now old and infirm and has a numerous growing family, which he is unable to support without assistance.

That in the year 1793 I appealed to this Hon'ble House, when I gave up all my Claims to be placed on the pension list, and was expecting to be compensated as Invalids are in the Continental line with back pay, to the time of receiving my disability.

He therefore submits his Claims to the Honourable House humbly trusting, that they will take his case into Consideration, as there are Gentlemen in the House who can satisfy them touching his faithful activity in said Service (except that of Gen'l. Greens) and with their usual Justice and Generosity, allow him such compensation as his services Merit. And their Memorialist as in duty bound shall ever pray &c
Richmond December 9th 1797.

Dec 11 1797 Claims/ Rejected Dec'r. 13 1797/ Reported

[From [Library of Virginia Legislative Petitions Digital Collection](#)/ Fluvanna County]

To the General Assembly of Virginia,

Your petitioner Thomas Harris, a citizen of Fluvanna County and state of Virginia, respectfully represents, that from a consideration of faithful services rendered during the last revolutionary War, the legislature of Virginia about the year 1800 was pleased to grant and allow to your petitioner the small sum of Forty Dollars, pr. annum as a pension during his life – your petitioner unwilling to become burthensome to his Country was well pleased to receive that small reward, by way of gratitude from the state of Virginia for his toils, his struggles and the wounds which he received in its Service during the late Revolutionary war. Your petitioner has untill a few years past, with his own exertions, together with the small pension heretofore allowed him, been able to procure in a tolerable degree the ordinary subsistence for himself and an aged Wife and family – but alas! the means of subsistence are almost entirely diminished, as He is myself, – hastily passing to a bourne from whence no traveller returns – yes, I am now in my ninety & odd years and incapable of rendering any kind of service for myself my aged Wife and but one daughter who remains with us, to take care of her aged parents – and nothing to depend upon for subsistence but the small pittance which was granted me as a pension by the liberlality of some

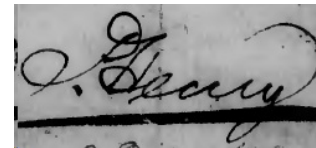
former Legislature your petitioner earnestly looks up to the liberality of your Honorable Body to take his situation into consideration and refers you to several certificates accompanying this petition to place his claim fairly before you, and Humly begs that you will in your known liberality & Justice so increase his present pension, as to render the few remainder of his days but tolerable, which have almost dwindled to a span, and your petitioner as in duty bound will ever feel grateful, in consideration thereof.



This is to certify that Thomas Harris entered into the service of Virginia at a very early period of the late War in the Capacity of an Armourer – that he was very serviceable in his profession & behaved well in cleaning & repairing Arms when it was very difficult to procure Hands to work in that Business

I am informed that he was the Father of a number of Children, who together with his Wife are in very low Circumstances The man appeared to me whenever I had a [undeciphered word] to offer him, to be a stirring[?] industrious man & as far as I know of honest inoffensive character

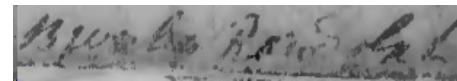
[Patrick Henry]



Richmond Dec'r 18th 1790

The above mentioned Thos Harris was employed for some time in the arsenals of this State in the character of an armourer a Business which I am inform'd he is well acquainted with. He has a large Family one of whom he brought up to his own trade & is now engaged in the public service the others are too young to assist[?] their aged Parents in procuring their subsistence

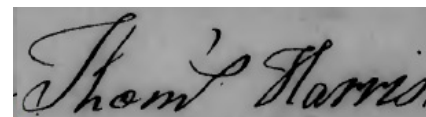
Beverley Randolph



To the humane and Benevolent

The petition of Thomas Harris represents, that he was a soldier in the late revolution War, whereby the Independence of America was established: That at the battle of Guilford Courthouse [15 Mar 1781] your petitioner fighting for his Country occur'd several wounds on the body and head which honorable the painful testimonials of his exertions in his country's Cause, he still bears about him. that by these wounds he was nearly disabled and has so continued since he receiv'd them. Your petitioner is now upwards of eighty years of age, and with the encreasing infirmities of age the effects of these wounds also encreasing, he finds himself incompetent to make his wanted exertions to support a family consisting of seven, some of whom are as helpless as himself. To the humane and benevolent therefore he is compelled to apply for Charity to whom as the friends of the distressed, and the participaters in that invaluable Boon secured to us by our late arduous struggle he submits his Case.

May 30 1807



I hereby certify that the Bearer Thos. Harris was prevailed on by me whilst I was Vice-President of the Committee of Safety of this Commonwealth to remain in Virginia and work as an Armourer in Williamsburg instead of going to North Carolina where he had heard he had a Brother living; and that whilst he was acting faithfully in that Capacity & endeavouring to prevent some Mutineers of Captain Gibson's Rifle Company from forcing their way into his shop, I understood, that he received a wound or wounds. His certificate respecting this, given him by Dr. [John Minson] Galt of Williamsburg, he has

told me, was delivered to Col. [Theodorick] Bland whilst he was one of our Representatives in Congress. I also certify that I have seen several certificates of his zeal & faithful services, & that when he left the british service to enter into that of our Country, he had a Certificate of S'r.[?] William Draper that he was entitled to five hundred Pounds as his share of the Manilla Ransom [a 1763 agreement by Spain to pay Great Britain £four million for the return of Manila, capital of the Phillipines, captured in October 1762 by British forces under William Draper] &c and that to induce him to enter into our service I told him I had no doubt of his receiving Land as the [undeciphered word]. I have given to Mr. Harris this Certificate which is the substance of one which I gave him when he was about to apply to Congress for Compensation for his services, & was referred by that Body to the Legislature of Virginia.

Richmond Jan'y. 6th 1808.

John Page [former Governor of Virginia]

Dec'r 6th 1817 ref'd to Claims/ Reasonable Dec'r 11th/ Reported Dec'r. 12th/ Bill drawn Dec'r. 13th

NOTE: The pension file includes a document stating that on 26 Oct 1818 in Fluvanna County Thomas Harris's last will and testament was proved. The executors were Elizabeth Harris and Eleanor Humphrey, with Lewis Harris, James Curren[?], and John Doyle as securities.