

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Bounty-Land Claim for Service of Richard Harris VAS8
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

From records in the Library of Virginia:

To his Excellency the Governor of Virg'a.

Your memorialist Benjamin Harris respectfully represents that his grandfather Rich'd Harris he has been informed and ever believes enlisted in the Va. Cont'l. Army in the War of the Revolution for 3 yrs. and served out his time. He therefore prays that his claim for Va. land bounty for the s'd enlistment and services of his s'd. grandfather (Richard Harris) may be referred for examination and if s'd claim sha'l. be ascertained to be just that warts [warrants] may be issued for so much land as is usual in similar cases – and he will ever pray.

Benjamin Harriss

[Certified 8 June 1835 in Rappahannock County VA.]

The affidavit of Mathew Neal

I was personally acquainted with Richard Harriss of Fauquier County who Inlisted in the Va. Cont'l army of the Revolution for 3 years I saw him several times during his Tour & know that he served out his whole Tour of service & returned home where he survived for several years after a near neighbor to me and I further know that Benjamin Harriss whose memorial is here with [illegible word] is the Grandson of the aforesaid Richard Harriss Given under my hand this 20th day of June 1835

Mathew Neal

Report on the claim of Richard Harris' heir, for bounty land for his services as a soldier of the Cont'l line.

To the Governor/ Sir,

The army documents prove the following facts – viz – that Richard Harris a Sergeant of Infantry, of the Continental line received (by Major Marshall) a certificate for £19-10-8 which was 1/3 of the balance of his full pay &c, on the 14th oct. 1782 – that he rec'd. June 11th 1783 (also by Major Marshall) a certificate for £39.1.4 – 2/3rds of the balance of his full pay &c as Sergeant of Inf'y. (see Army Register of the Cont'l line.).

That Richard Harris, a Sold'r. of Inf'y of the Cont'l line, received, himself, August 25, 1786, a certificate for £58.17.11 the balance of his full pay &c (see army Register of the Cont'l line)

Richard Harris, Sergeant of the Cont'l. line, has receiv'd 200 acres of land for his services. It does not appear that a private, of that name, has received bounty land.

The claimant has produc'd proof of the following facts – viz – That Richard Harris of Fauquier County enlisted for 3 years – that he serv'd his whole term of enlistment – and afterwards return'd home, and liv'd a near neighbour to the witness for several years. The witness, who proves these facts, speaks positively, and as of his own knowledge; and is said to be a man "of the most strict honour, and of gentlemanly deportment almost unequall'd – (in the afft of Mathew Neal)

Respectfully submitted/ John H Smith Comm. &c.

July 28th 1835