

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of George Harbinson R4586  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

South Carolina }  
Fairfield District }

Personally appeared before me George Harbinson & makes oath that he served as a private Soldier in Revolution war under Capt'n William Lang of Kershaw District and continued under Lang & Lieut Muse untill after the Florida Expedition Gen'l Andrew Williamson commanded and at Augusta and at Orangeburg under Capt'n John McKinny at the Four Holes [in present Orangeburg County] under Lieut Ruben Starke [pension application S21996] Col'n John Hunter commander & Black Swamp [in present Jasper County SC]

Sworn to before me this 10<sup>th</sup> day of June 1840                      George hisXmark Harbinson

South Carolina }  
Fairfield District }

Personally appeared before me Jeremiah Taylor [S21527] and makes oath that he became acquainted with George Harbinson in East Florida & then in Agusta the next time I saw him at my

Father's Richard Taylor in Cravin County [Craven County NC?] the said Harbinson to the best of my recollection was as a private Soldier and was a part of Kimbrell's Scouts [possibly Frederick Kimball's partisan company] and continued untill the end of the war & at the Four Holes Sworn to before me this 11<sup>th</sup> day of June 1840                      Jeremiah hisXmark Taylor

Georgia

City of Augusta                      Personally came Samuel Hammond [S21807] and on oath saith that he knows George Harbinson who is now here present. That he first knew him in the winter of seventeen hundred seventy eight - seventy nine. He was then a private soldier in a regiment of South Carolina militia commanded by Colonel Neal [sic: Thomas Neel]. He was that winter in an expedition commanded by Colonel Leroy Hammond, sent from South Carolina against a body of Indians south of the Ogechee [sic: Ogeechee River in GA, probably Mar 1779]. Deponent was in the same expedition, and knows that George Harbinson then served about one month. Deponent was on his return from this expedition placed in command of a company of light infantry and separated from the main body of the army and did not meet Harbinson until the battle of Stono [Stono Ferry SC, 20 Jun 1779]

After the battle of Stono Deponent marched with his company to Augusta, and did not see Harbinson until a few days before the seige of Savannah [24 Sep - 19 Oct 1779], when he again saw him. He was still attached to the same brigade - Williamson's. Deponent and Harbinson were both in the seige of Savannah. after the siege of Savannah deponent saw nothing of Harbinson until the Battle of the Cowpens [17 Jan 1781], when he again met him. Harbinson was then a volunteer in the battle, and severely wounded. Deponent knows of no further service rendered by him. Deponent has no doubt that Harbinson was in continued service from the time he knew him in the Indian expedition until the battle of Cow-pens and he believes he served until the end of the war; and Deponent knows him to have been an active faithful soldier.

Sworn to before me this 1<sup>st</sup> day of April 1841                      [signed] s Hammond

The State of Mississippi } S.S.  
Perry County                      }

In the Circuit Court of said county April Term A.D. 1842.

On this the 19<sup>th</sup> day of the month aforesaid in the year aforesaid personally appeared in open Court, Before The Circuit Court of said county now sitting, George Harbinson, a resident of said county and state, aged eighty 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 7, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated. The day, the month nor the year when he first entered the service, he

cannot recollect. I entered under Capt Wm Lang, Lieutenant Thomas Muse of the South Carolina Militia, then Camden county or district, now Kershaw District. Andrew Williamson was the General and Goodin (Robert I believe) [sic: Robert Goodwin or Goodwyn] was the Colonel the tour he thinks was month or six weeks. He went at that time in his father's place. This was called the Florida expedition. The exact Time of the expedition he cannot recollect probably more that six weeks. The went in pursuit of Mc[?] and Odum. There was a small skirmish not worth mentioning. The next tour was at Augusta. He was drafted went under the said Lieutenant Muse. [illegible name] Capt. Goodin Col. & Williamson Genl. He cannot tell how long this tour was. he thinks two months. the British were in Augusta [after 30 Jan 1779]. We on the opposite side of the [Savannah] river at Liberty Hill, now Hamburg [Hamburg, now in North Augusta SC]. No fighting except a small skirmish with the indians. In the Florida expedition was the 3<sup>rd</sup> Regiment Continentals the names of the Continental officers he does not recollect. In the Florida expedition he marched from said Camden or Kershaw district through Georgia to Florida.

The next time he entered the service at Orangeburg S.C. under Capt. John McKinnie (was drafted) — Henderson was Genl. [possibly Lt. Col. William Henderson] Hunter was Col. This Term he cannot recollect whether one month, six weeks, two months or what. We were stationed at a place called the Four Holes about forty miles from Charleston. Had a little battle with the Tories on Edistoe [sic: Edisto] River. John Johns and Glyssom[?] Tanner[?] were the head men of the tour. In '79 when under Lang was driven from Stono Bridge into Charleston by the British (Prevost or Provoze was the British Genl.) The British then retired to Savannah. [See note below.] We went home. Lang threw up - Richard Tucker succeeded him. We had a battle at Rocky Mount [30 Jul 1780] ([Gen. Thomas] Sumter I think was our head man) My Capt. (Tucker was taken prisoner by the British and hung at Camden [see note below] - fifty pounds reward was offered for me dead or alive. I was a volunteer this time. Cornwallis and Rawdon were the British Commanders at the time Tucker was hung. - I was at the battle of the Cowpens (Thicketty creek) as a volunteer, under no officers; Tarlton there got his finger cut off by Battle Washington (Col. Wm. Washington) [sic: see note below] There were in this battle a great many British taken prisoners and many killed. Morgan was the American Genl. — I went from there to Guilford Court House N. C. (a volunteer) Gen'l. Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] was our commander, Morgan was also there [sic: see note below]. We there had a battle with Lord Cornwallis. Cornwallis proposed to Green a cessation of arms; and at sunrise next day was Twelve miles off. He was during the war in several other little scouts and skirmishes, and after being duly sworn in open Court as aforesaid he further deposes & says that by reason of old age, and the consequent loss of memory, he can not swear more particularly and positively as to the precise length of his said services than he has above, but according to the best of his recollection he served as above stated, the Florida expedition he thinks was at least six weeks - The Augusta trip was at least a month and The Four Holes or Charleston was at least a month

He was born in North Carolina upon Haw River on the 14<sup>th</sup> da of May in the year 1756. He has no record of his age. At the Time Cornwallis was at Camden his (applicant's) father's house was burned by the British [sic: see note below] and the record of applicants age together with his & his fathers papers, furloughs, discharges &c destroyed and fifty pounds offered as above stated for his (aplicants head). He has stated where he lived at the times he entered into the service. I remained in Kershaw Dist. some years after the War. married there & my wife had their ten children. I moved into Georgia Houston County - from there to Florida - from there to ~~Dale County Ala~~ Dale County Ala this County. When in Florida I went over into Dale County Ala. and proved my services as a Rev. Soldier before the Clerk of the Court, by one John Bird a Rev. Militia soldier and sent on my papers, but never got any answer. I came into the county last Summer. He has no documentary evidence of his said service & knows of no one in this country by whom he could prove his said services. At the Cowpens Applicant was shot in the thigh & cut on the top of his head, skull split, & a piece of it taken out

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity, except the present, and declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the Agency of any state. Sworn to and subscribed the day year aforesaid

George hisXmark Harbinson

Columbia South Carolina

Indent Book }  
Z. No. 532 } Issued 16<sup>th</sup> June 88 to George Harbinson £8.17.1 St'g Militia Duty  
{No 1} Pr Als.[?] from the Comm'rs. Interest 12.4.

The State of South Carolina  
1781 To George Harbinson Dr.  
{No 2.} To 62 days duty as a footman in Capt John McKines Company Col. Thomas Taylors  
Regm't. on an expedition to the four Holes and Edisto  
Cert is'd Col. Taylor £31.  
£62.  
£8.17.1

Pass'd Cop'd.

Comptroller Gen'l Office }  
Columbia 20<sup>th</sup> Feb'y 1841} I hereby certify that the above memorandum No. 1 is a true copy  
taken from the margin of Indent Book Z. No 532. & that No 2. is a copy of the account for which  
the said indent was issued Wm. F. Arthur [illegible abbreviation] Comp'r. Gen'l.

NOTE:

On 23 Apr 1779 Gen. Augustine Prevost marched from Savannah with the intention of besieging Charleston, driving Gen. William Moultrie's SC Continentals from camp at Black Swamp before him. Prevost arrived at the Ashley River on 11 May and demanded the surrender of the city. On learning that Gen. Benjamin Lincoln was on the way, however, Prevost abandoned the siege the next day to avoid being trapped between Lincoln and Moultrie.

There were only Loyalists, not British forces at Rocky Mount, so Tucker may have been captured later, possibly at the Battle of Camden on 16 Aug 1780. Elias Veatch (pension application R10926) suggested that Tucker was at the battle. The hanging occurred during those when Lord Cornwallis was at Camden, between 13 Aug and about 6 Sep, if the following is correct: "At Camden, under the very eyes of Cornwallis himself, Samuel Andrews, Richard Tucker, John Miles, Josiah Gayle, Eleazer Smith, with others whose names were unknown, were taken out of jail and hanged without any ceremony whatsoever." (McCrary, E. *The History of South Carolina in the Revolution 1775 - 1780*. New York: Macmillan, 1901, p. 711.) McCrary implies that Tucker's offense was the violation of patrol - promise not to fight again.

Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton and Lt. Col. William Washington are said to have fought each other with sabers at the Battle of Cowpens, but this is only one of many legends of how Tarleton lost one or more fingers.

Gen. Daniel Morgan was not at Guilford Courthouse NC, having retired to recover from rheumatism before Greene arrived. The passage about the Battle of Guilford Courthouse (15 Mar 1781) is particularly difficult to read or understand. The notion that Cornwallis proposed a cease-fire after pursuing Greene's army for two months is absurd.

British troops had not yet arrived at Haw River at the time Cornwallis was in Camden. Harbinson may have intended to refer to Loyalists as having burned his father's house.

On 19 Apr 1842 Isaac Harbinson certified in behalf of his uncle's application.

Transcribed by Will Graves

3/12/22

[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. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' or 'undeciphered' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. 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 skills fail 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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

[p 3]

The State of South Carolina

to George Harbinson

Dr.

1781 To 62 days Duty as a footman  
in Captain John McKine's [sic]  
Company Colonel Thomas Taylor's Regt.  
on an Expedition to Orangeburg  
Certified per Colonel Taylor at 10/ <sup>2</sup>

£31

1781 To 62 days ditto as ditto and ditto  
Company Colonel Taylor's Regiment  
on an Expedition to the four Holes &  
Edisto Certified by said Colonel Taylor

31

£62

Stg [Sterling]

£8.17.1

Received Columbia 26 January 1791 from Commissioners Treasury an Indent No. 532 Book  
[obliterated and rendered illegible] 4 8 pounds 17/1 in full for the above account.

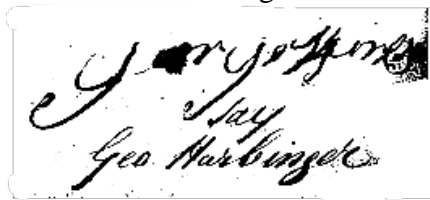
£8.17.1

Test S/ R. W. Homar

S/ [undeciphered signature]

say

Geo. Harbinger

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Geo. Harbinger". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background. The first name "Geo." is written in a larger, more prominent hand, and "Harbinger" follows in a similar but slightly smaller hand. The signature is enclosed in a simple rectangular border.

<sup>1</sup> The South Carolina Audited Accounts (AAs) are now available online at <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>. To find the AA for a specific person, click on the [Just take me to the search page](#) link, then enter the person's surname first in the "Full name" box followed by a comma and the person's Christian name. The "SC" file number shown on this transcript has been assigned by the administrator of this website for indexing purposes only and is not an officially recognized file number. The number behind the 'pp' indicates the number of pages in the file and the 'Audited Account No.' is the actual Account Number assigned by the South Carolina Archives.

<sup>2</sup> Ten shillings old South Carolina currency being the per diem pay rate for a South Carolina militia man serving on foot.