

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Nelson Harris R4668

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 18 March 2012.

State of Arkansas }

County of Columbia }

On this the 18th day of December A.D. 1858, personally appeared before the undersigned, an acting and duly qualified and commissioned Justice of the Peace in and for the County and State aforesaid Elizabeth Harris a resident of Columbia County in the State aforesaid aged about Seventy two years, who first being duly Sworn according to law, doth on her oath, make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the provision made by the act of Congress passed on the 3rd. February A.D. 1853 granting pensions to Widows of persons who served during the revolutionary war; That she is the widow of Nelson Harris, who was a Sergeant in the company commanded by Captain Lytle in the [10th] Regiment of North Carolina Continental line Commanded by Col. Abraham Sheppard [sic: Abraham Shepard]. That her said husband enlisted in said service at [blank] about the 1st April 1781 and served as such Sergeant in said company up to April 12th AD 1782 in said Revolutionary War

She further declares that she was married to the said Nelson Harris, in Hancock County in the State of Georgia on the 17th day of October A.D. 1812, by a Justice of the Peace of said County, whose name this applicant does not now recollect. that she was not married to him prior to the 2 day of January 1800 but at the time above stated— And that her name before her said marriage was Elizabeth Thomas, that said Nelson Harris before his intermarriage with this applicant emigrated from North Carolina sometime in the year 1800 and settled in Hancock Co Georgia and that previous to said intermarriage of this applicant and said Nelson Harris the said Harris was intermarried to one Nancy Long sometime in the year A.D. 1793 — and had by said Nancy Eight Children

And further that said Nelson Harris died sometime in the month of May in the year AD 1820, in Hancock County Georgia — and that this applicant removed from Hancock County Georgia and and settled in Columbia County in the State of Arkansas in the month of March in the year 1854, and that this applicant is now, and has been a widow since the death of her husband (said Nelson Harris)

She makes this declaration for the purpose of obtaining the Pension to which she is entitled under the act of Congress passed 3rd February AD 1853 And she hereby constitutes & appoints P. M. Henry of Washington D.C. her Attorney to prosecute her claim and procure her pension. Hereby authorizing and empowering her said Attorney to obtain from the proper Authorities at Washington City or elsewhere certified copies of any Army records or documents in which her said husband's services may be recorded and to do and perform any and all other lawful acts and things that may be necessary to establish her claim and revoking and countermanding all other authority that may have been given for the above specified purpose.

Elizabeth herXmark Harris

NOTE:

With Elizabeth Harris's application was a "Secondary Proof of Marriage" dated 10 Dec 1868 and certifying that Nelson Harris married Elizabeth Thomas in Oct 1812 at Sparta in Hancock County GA, and listing her children by this marriage: Merrimoth Harris born July 1813 (now dead); Clara Harris born February 1815 (now dead); Nancy Harris born March 1818 age 50; and Jane Harris born June 1820 age 48 years.

On 30 Aug 1859 Guilford Harris of Fayette County GA stated that his father Nelson Harris, moved from North Carolina to Greene County GA between 1793 and 1797, married Nancy Long who died about 1812, then married Elizabeth Thomas in 1813 or 1814, and died 8 May 1820.

On 11 Dec 1868 Elizabeth Harris applied for restoration or her pension, which had been

suspended during the Civil War, during which period she subsisted on the charity of her son-in-law, John D. Prater.

A document in the file states that Elizabeth Harris died on 13 Aug 1871.

The file also includes a power of attorney dated 17 June 1890 from their daughter Jane Prator of Magnolia in Columbia County AR in pursuit of accrued pension due to her mother and for bounty land.