

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Richard Harris R4671

MD

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 13 Aug 2015.

State of New York

County of Niagara SS. On this seventh day of September 1837 Before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas held at Lockport in and for the County aforesaid personally appeared Richard Harris a resident of the Township of Grantham, District of Niagara Upper Canada, aged seventy eight years last February, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7, 1832. That he enlisted in the army of the United States in the year 1777, in the month of August, with Capt. Joseph Burgess in the County of Baltimore as he believes about thirty miles from the city and served in the 4th Maryland Regiment commanded by Col. Josiah Carvill Hall [Josias Carvel Hall] for three years, being the term of his enlistment – he resided at the place where he enlisted. after his enlistment he was marched to Baltimore City where he was supplied with arms and clothing. after the battle of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777] the Company to which the deponent belonged joined the Regiment near Valley Forge. the Regiment was in the battle of Germantown [4 Oct 1777] and wintered at Wilmington, Delaware. Gen. [William] Smallwood commanded. The 4th Regiment was at the battle of Monmouth in the summer [28 June] of 1778, though the deponent believes it was not in the action. the Regiment passed thence to West Point where they were engaged on the fortifications. the Regiment left West Point late in the season and wintered in log huts near Middle Brook and Bond Brook [Middlebrook and Bound Brook NJ]. the following Summer was spent in the jerseys and along the North River and the next winter at Princeton where the Regiment occupied the College building. the next Spring (1780) they went to the head of Elk [now Elkton MD], and there took vessels to Yorktown in Virginia. Gen. [Horatio] Gates commanded the army passed on through Virginia, No Carolina to near Campden [sic: Camden], South Carolina where he was discharged, his time having expired. Capt Burgess died at Fishkill N.Y. Lieut. Belt [probably John Sprigg Belt, pension application S34644] was promoted and took command of the Company. Lieut. Shoemaker [possibly Jacob Shoemaker] served under him. Capt. Belt did not go to the South. the Lieutenant commanded. the Regt. was under command of Col. Hall all the time this deponent was with it. the discharged of Col. Hall was in writing but has been lost for many years. In the same Company were Hugh Gill [R4022], Isaac Isaacs and Joseph Carroll a mulatto.

he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity, except the present, and he declares his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state.

Sworn to and subscribed this 7th day of Sept. 1837 before me in open court Joel McCollum Judge of Naagara County Court

Richard Harris

The said deponent under oath answered to the following questions propounded by the Court as follows.

1. Where and in what year were you born?

I was born at Horley near Banbury Oxfordshire England in the year 1759.

2. Have you any record of your age, and if so where is it?

I have no record of my age.

3. Where were you living when called into service and where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

I lived in Maryland, County of Baltimore where I enlisted. after my discharge I went to Worcester Massachusetts thence to Boston, then went aboard of the Revolution Privateer of 20 nine pounders. Capt. Webb took three prizes and carried them to L'Orient, France and returned to the U. States in 1783. lived in Worcester after that. then went to Pennsylvania, thence to New Jersey. and about 5 years since came to Canada where I now live.

Qu. 4. I volunteered into service.

Qu. 5. The names of officers I have stated above.

Qu 6. I received a written discharge which is lost.

Qu. 7. Richard Woodruff and William Woodruff I am known to in my neighborhood and who can testify to my character for veracity and the belief of my services as a soldier in the Revolution.

Land Office, Annapolis, 15th March, 1838,

I hereby Certify, that it appears by the Muster rolls of the revolution remaining in this office, That Richard Harris, enlisted as a private, for the term of three years, in Captain Burgess's Company, in the 4th Maryland Regiment, on the 13th day of August, 1777, and on the 13th day of August, 1780, was discharged.

George G. Brewer/ Reg'r. Land Off. W.S.Md.

NOTE: Harris;s claim was rejected with the following "explanation": "[I]t is necessary that he should be identified by a credible witness as the soldier he describes himself to be in the Maryland line."