

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Nathaniel Harrison R4678

Jemima

fn76NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

4/17/11

[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. 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 fails 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 8th of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of North Carolina County of Stokes: SS

On this 28th day of May 1842 personally appeared before me Charles Banner one of the acting Justices of the peace in and for the County aforesaid Jemima Harrison resident and pauper now in the poor house of the County aforesaid aged nearly eighty years, who being sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed July 7th 1838, entitled an act granting half pay and Pensions to certain Widows from her infirmities is unable to travel, That she has no record of her age only from hearsay of her parents who died many years ago – whose names was David & Mary Stewart; That she is the widow of Nathaniel Harrison who was a musician fifer & drummer in the Militia and regular Army during the war of the Revolution; and served in the several Tours she cannot remember all of them as he related them often times to her & others. But she recollects he said the first [text obscured and missing] t to Cross Creek called Fayetteville against Tories about the beginning of the War as Drummer or fifer in Captain Goodas [sic, Good's or Goode's?] or Capt. Dobsons Company, under Colonel Joseph Williams. She does not remember the date; but knew all the [text obscured and missing] named Officers well, they all lived in the then County & Colonel Williams was a neighbor to her father, and the next he said he went under the same officers. Shortly after the first Tour, against the Cherokee Indians & started in the Summer & warm weather & returned after the next Christmas, when he said they destroyed the Indian towns & their corn & potatoes etc., and afterwards he went in a Captain Maridiths [sic, Meredith's?] Company after Tories, and the last Tour she heard him talk of was under a Captain James Shepperd a long time to South Carolina was in several Battles with the said James Shepperd one battle he was in & had to run from British & swim a River, she thinks it was called Brier Fork or Creek. She does not recollect the length of time he served in all but he said it was nearly two years. But begs leave to refer to Mr. Lewis Wolff,¹ Jacob

¹ [Lewis Wolf \(Wolff\) W4403](#)

Helspeck² & Benjamin Jones³ who are now living acquaintances & served with her husband, as she heard him talk of etc.

She further declares that she was married to the said Nathaniel Harrison in Surry County North Carolina in September 1791, by William Thorton Esquire who was a Justice of the peace, that her husband the aforesaid Nathaniel Harrison died twenty three or twenty-four years past last October, that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the first day of January 1794 (viz.) at the time above stated – that she has but one living child named Peggy, two others are dead that was born of her body whilst she & her husband the aforesaid Nathaniel Harrison lived in Union together as man and wife, said Peggy is about forty years of age though she has no record of her age & is now a widow called Peggy Grimes –

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year first above mentioned before me
S/ C. Banner, JP

S/ Jemima Harrison, X her Mark

North Carolina Stokes County SS

Be it known that before me Charles Banner a Justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid personally appeared Samuel Stewart aged about seventy-six years brother to the above named Jemima Harris [sic] he being a person well known for veracity & truth being duly sworn on this 28th day of May 1842 declares on his oath that it was always reported & believed in the neighborhood and Counties of Surry & Stokes aforesaid that the above named Nathaniel Harris [sic] Served in the capacity of a fifer & drummer in the Revolutionary War as stated by he is this Deponent's Sister in the foregoing Declaration, and further he states that he has just reason to believe that his said sister Jemima was lawfully married to the said Nathaniel Harrison by William Thorton who was a Justice of the peace in Surry County aforesaid which marriage happened shortly after the division of said County when Stokes County was cut off about the year 1790 that he was present at the marriage because his parents & the family were very much opposed to the match and his sister Jemima aforesaid secretly absconded from her parents in Stokes County living near the line of Surry County & went over to Esquire Thornton's who said he had married them together and that they were lawful man and wife, that this deponent's Father David Stewart was very angry at his neighbor Thornton Esquire for marrying Jemima his daughter to Nathaniel Harrison aforesaid as it was alleged that Harrison was mixed blooded, and appeared somewhat dark complexion, the said Nathaniel Harrison died upwards of 20 years ago in Stokes County and that Jemima his sister aforesaid is now his widow and a pauper in the poor house of Stokes & has only one living child named Peggy now a widow Grimes. Sworn to and subscribed the date above mentioned before me

S/ C. Banner, JP

S/ Samuel Stewart, X his mark

[fn p. 7: On October 22, 1852 in Forsyth County North Carolina, Margret Conrod made application in which she states she is the only child and heir at law of the late Nathaniel and Jemima Harrison; that she is the widow of the late John Conrod and only living child and heir at law of her parents formerly of Stokes County; she appoints Isaac N Coffin her attorney to pursue her claim for the pension to which her mother was entitled as the widow of a revolutionary war veteran.]

² Sic, [Jacob Hilsabeck S7013](#)

³ [Benjamin Jones S7076](#)

[fn p. 13]

Stokes County 13th of February 1843

Joseph Helsepeck being sworn declares that he knew Nathaniel Harrison as Lewis Wolff says but was called Nat. Harris the drummer commanded by Captain Joseph Shepperd from Surry County marched to Salisbury, Charlotte & SC under General Rutherford crossed Savannah River & had a scrimmage or small Battle at Brier Creek by a part of Rutherford's men said Harris acted sometimes drummer & then fifer in the whole route in this expedition we turned out for 5 months & served 6 months for want of any recruits, then we came home, but thinks Nat Harris enlisted in South Carolina for during the war he returned after the war & married a Stewart & died in Stokes County leaving his widow Jemima Harrison who is now in the poor house. The above service was in 78, 79 this is right –

He further says that said Nat H was always ready at his post as musician, Sergeant etc. he cannot tell the different places, they marched all the time of 5 months under command of General R – though in a strange region – Lewis Wolff said that Nat Harris had served a Tour of 3 months in the spring of 1776 against the Scotch Tories down to Fayetteville with said Wolff as his brother fifer & drummer & in the fall of the same year said Harris set out under Captain H. Smith to the Cherokee Nation & served 4 months so said Wolff told him, all the tours was under Captain H. Smith

[this affidavit ends here]

[fn p. 32]

State of North Carolina County of Forsyth: SS: Additional proof in favor of Jemima Harrison

Be it known that on this 10th day May 18 51 before me Charles Banner a Justice of the peace in and for the County & State aforesaid personally appeared Elizabeth Blackburn the widow of Younger Blackburn Deceased aged ninety-five years who being duly sworn according to law to declare what she remembers of the services of a certain Nathaniel Harrison in the War of the Revolution, declares that she recollects said Nathaniel Harris they called him he was a fifer & drummer & saw him often one time she remembers when she was a young woman Captain Henry Smith with his Company encamped near her Father Thomas Goode's in the then Surry County North Carolina on Town Fork now Stokes County said Harris played on a drum for the company & she with other young people asked him to play on the drum which he done for them also on the fife which was at the time they were marching down the Country against the Scotch Tories as she understood the date she cannot remember but recollects that her uncle Richard Goode went with them as Captain or Lieutenant & shortly after their return said Harris came back with the Company. She was married to Younger Blackburn the next June & in the fall her husband was drafted to go against the Cherokee Indians, when she went with him to the place of Rendezvous near old Richmond being Surry Court house her husband hired one Ezekiel Young to go in his place, when she saw said Nat Harris going with the Army as drummer in Captain Smith's company under the command of Colonel Jo Williams her article Richard Goode had the command of a company also, said Harris went with them & returned she thinks in the fall or winter of the year 1776 & 1777. She saw said Harris often afterwards & he next went with her uncle Richard's Company or Captain Smith's she don't recollect which in a Tour to the South & she never saw any more of him until after the end of the War, Sworn to & subscribed the day and year above written before me

S/ Elizabeth Blackburn X her Mark

[fn pl. 36: Elizabeth Apperson,⁴ 81, gave testimony in Stokes County North Carolina on March 10, 1846 that she is the widow of William Apperson, a pensioner for his service in the revolution; that she remembers Nathaniel Harrison (known as Nat Harris) who was a drummer and fifer; that they went against the Scotch Tories in a tour to Fayetteville; that they with another expedition against the Cherokee Indians and that he was in the battle of Briar Creek and the taking of Cornwallis at Little York; that when he returned home he returned with his brother John; that John took sick and died; that Nat Harris some years later married Jemima Stewart.]

[fn p. 42: William Young⁵ testified on July 7, 1843 in Stokes County North Carolina that he is a pensioner of the United States for his service in the revolution; that he was well acquainted with a certain Nathaniel Harris (whose nickname was Nat Harris the fifer) for many years before and since his marriage to Jemima Stewart in Surry County; that he recollects that said Nat Harris served as Sergeant & fifer for 3 different tours under the command of this deponent's brother-in-law Captain Richard Goode who married this deponent sister, Rebecca; that Nat Harris first served as orderly Sergeant and fifer in a 3 months tour in 1776 from Surry County, having rendezvoused at Dobson's and marched to Fayetteville to siege against the Scotch Tories; the next tour was an expedition to the Cherokee Nation in the fall & winter of 1776 for 4 months; the next tour was a 5 months tour to go to South Carolina and was under General Rutherford and in the Battle at Brier Creek; "shortly after said Battle the term of five months expired so said Captain Goode, But his soldiers were retained one month longer for new recruits to come forward to General Rutherford's Army; & a part of his company was dissatisfied to be kept in service longer than the term of five months, in consequence of which Captain Goode stated that he lost several of his company by their enlisting in the Regular Army among which was his Sergeant fifer the said Nat Harrison who enlisted for during the war under a Regular officer near Savannah River South Carolina. Captain Goode did not tell the officers names but after Harrison returned to his home & neighbors to this Deponent he brought a written discharge after the war ended which he showed to Major Goode, that he stated in his narrative of Regular Service that he performed he had been in several Battles particularly in the Battles of Guilford (and there he was slightly wounded in the arm by a ball) and the taking of Cornwallis at little York where he got his discharge. Major Goode seemed to believe him and this Deponent believes the said Harris and served as above stated.]

[fn p. 63]

North Carolina Stokes County: SS

Be it known that on this 12th day of August 1842 before me Charles Banner a Justice of the peace in and for the County of aforesaid personally appeared Lewis Wolf & Joseph Helspeck both Pensioners of the United States and of good & respectable character of veracity & truth, they being duly sworn according to law to declare what they knew of a certain Nathaniel Harrison's Services in the Revolutionary War, first the said Wolf declares that he was well acquainted with said Harris they both were fifer musicians in Surry County North Carolina, resided not far apart and in the spring of the year 1776 said Harrison & this Deponent both served a Tour of three months in Colonel Williams Regiment of militia as musician fifers that he does not recollect the Captain who Harrison served under but thinks it was Captain Goode or Dobson and marched from Dobson's cross roads in Surry County to Fayetteville North Carolina

⁴ [William Apperson \(Epperson\) W3915](#)

⁵ [William Young R11969](#)

against the Tories who was defeated before they reached Fayetteville & they returned home and was discharged this deponent was in Captain Henry Smith company. Harrison officiated sometimes as drummer and was a first [paper torn text missing] and at either the fife or drum, and in the summer or autumn of the same year 1776, they served together & marched together in Colonel Williams Regiment from Richmond Surry County aforesaid to Wilkes County North Carolina to South Carolina troops to go against the Cherokee Indians the South Carolinians failed to meet & our Regiment returned back to old Richmond then Surry Court house & rendezvoused sometime then marched over the Blue Ridge to join the Virginia troops this deponent did not go, but said Harrison went as fifer or drummer & returned with the Army he thinks they were at least four months in the service against the Cherokees, and further this Deponent understood that said Harrison went a tour to South Carolina as fifer in Captain Smith's & Captain Shepperds Companies and when he was an old bachelor was married to David Stewards daughter of Jemima; he died in Stokes County many years ago & his widow is now a pauper in the poor house as this deponent is informed. Sworn to & subscribed the date above written

S/ C. Banner, JP

S/ Lewis Wolff, W his Mark

Next Joseph Helsepeck declares that he knew Nathaniel Harrison named as written by Mr. Wolff but he was called by the name of Nat Harris the drummer in a company commanded by Captain James Shepperd from Surry County North Carolina & marched to Salisbury & Charlotte then into South Carolina under General Rutherford to Savannah River & crossed over to Brier Creek where we had a Battle, the said Nat Harrison was in the whole route sometimes Drummer & then fifer as occasion required in this expedition was engaged for five months but were detained for want of new recruits a month longer & then was discharged & returned home to Surry County, he thinks Harrison afterwards enlisted but is not certain that he did; he married a Stewart many years ago & he died in Stokes many years ago he cannot recollect but understands his widow is now in the poor house of Stokes County. Sworn to and subscribed the date first mentioned on the other side; the above service was in the year 1788 or 1789 [sic, sic]

Sworn to before me

S/ C. Banner, JP

S/ Jacob Helsepeak, X his mark

The said Jacob Helsepeck further declares that the aforesaid Nathaniel Harris alias Harrison acted always at his post as musician fifer in the grade of Sergeant in the expedition to South Carolina above mentioned, but cannot recollect the different routes & stations they marched in the five months Tour above alluded to while under the Command of General Rutherford it being a strange Region to him, Lewis Wolff who testified to the within (who died a few weeks past) remarked to this deponent about the time we gave our Depositions aforesaid that, the said Nathaniel Harris or Harrison was his brother fifer in a tour to Fayetteville North Carolina for three months in the same grade as himself as Sergeant & fifer and afterwards acted in the same capacity in was sent out to the Cherokee Nation of Indians in 1776. Sworn to and subscribed this 13th day of February 1843 before me

S/ C. Banner, JP

S/ Jacob Helsepeck, X his mark

[the widow died February 4, 1852]