

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Samuel Harris S10813

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Kentucky }

Mercer County Viz }

On this 14th day of March 1833 personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace and Judge of the county court of Mercer County in sd state Samuel Harris aged 69 years and very infirm so that he cannot attend court who having first duly affirmed according to law (he being of the denomination called believers or Shakers) doth declare and affirm the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed the 7th day of June 1832 viz – I Samuel Harris do hereby solemnly affirm in answer to the several interrogators put to me by direction of the War department that I was born in Dutchess [sic: Dutchess] county in New York on a tract of land called the nine partners – and at an early age I moved with my father to York county Pennsylvania, and from there to Berkly county in Virginia [sic: Berkeley County now in WV] when about 7 years old where I lived when I was called into the service of my country in the revolutionary war as follows, according to an act of the Virginia legislature in the fall 1780 I volunteered as one of a class of fifteen for eighteen months in the county of Berkly and in October of that year my company commanded by Capt Conaway [sic: Conway] Oldham rendezvoused at Winchester, where we was organized in to companies, and we then marched to Hillsborough in North Carolina where we were organized into Battallions & Regiments, and we were commanded by Maj'r Riddle and we then marched to Charlotte court house in North Carolina. Then we halted a few days, and then commenced marching and countermarching and in March 1781 I was engaged in the Battle of Guilford [sic: Battle of Guilford Court House, 15 March], and Maj'r Riddle was arrested for disobedience of orders and our Regiment was then commanded by Col Rich'd Campbell [Richard Campbell], and after the battle of Guilford we marched to Camden where we had a battle with Lord Rawdon and he retreated and we pursued on to ninety six which place we besieged for some time [see note below] and again retreated to the high Hills of Santee where we was stationed in August and on the 8th day of September 1781 we fought the Battle of Eutaw Springs which was a sever one – and Col Campbell was killed and then our regiment was commanded by Col Edmonds But I was taken Prisoner by the British with whom I was kept for three weeks when I was sent back on account of being taken on the field when I was left as a guard to some wounded officers who had been parolled. I then marched to the south beyond Charleston to a place called round O and then toward Stono, but our term expiring we was marched back to Head quarters & then to Salisbury in North Carolina where we were honorably discharged. Capt Oldham was killed at the Eutaw Spring we were then commanded by Capt. Robert Jouitt [sic: Robert Jouett] who continued my captain until I was discharged – having fully performed my time of eighteen months and a month more. I further state that I kept my discharge for many years and lost or mislaid it since I came to my present residence and I have no documentary evidence of my age or my services neither do I know of any person alive now by whom I can prove them who lives in this state, but John Noris and Elisha Thomas have long known me and have heard me relate my services in the revolutionary war at least twenty years since I further state that I lived in the state of Virginia Berkely county during the war of the revolutionary war except in 1783 I lived some time at my fathers in Washington county Pensylvania, and in the year 1784 I removed to Kentucky where I have resided ever since, and for the last twenty two years in the county of Mercer. I never held any commission during my term of service, and I entered in my tours as I have stated. I further state that I am not now a pensioner of the United States or of any state and I hereby relinquish all claim which I have to any pension except the present, witness my hand this 14th day of March 1833

[signed] Samuel Harris

NOTE: The battle against Col. Francis, Lord Rawdon occurred at Hobkirk's Hill at Camden SC on 25

April 1781. Rawdon was victorious, but he soon left Camden for Charleston. Gen. Nathanael Greene began the siege of Ninety-Six on 22 May, but gave up on 19 June after learning that Rawdon was bringing reinforcements from Charleston.