

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of George Harding S17220

f44VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

2/14/14

[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' 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.]

Virginia: At a Court held for Albemarle County, 4 February 1833

On this fourth day of February 1833, personally appeared in open court before the Justices of the Court the County of Albemarle now sitting, George Harding, a resident of said County of Albemarle & State aforesaid aged seventy-six 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 7<sup>th</sup> June 1832.

That he was born in the County of Loudoun & State aforesaid on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of October 1756. That he thinks it was in the month of August 1777, in the town of Winchester & State aforesaid to which place he had removed and where he had settled as a hatter, he was drafted for three months in the militia under Captain William Helms – Lieutenant Adam Heiskell [Adam Hiskell or Hiskill] & Ensign John Helms – & was immediately marched to the neighborhood of Philadelphia in a Regiment commanded by Marcus Calomese [Marcus or Marquis Calmes] & Major John White. After serving out the tour he was discharged at camp near Valley Forge & returned to Winchester. That he thinks it was in the month of January 1779, he was again drafted, from what was then called the single-men draft, in the militia in the said town of Winchester for an eighteen months service – that immediately after his draft he exchanged with a 12 months militia man, giving him one hundred fifty dollars to boot – the name of the man with whom he exchanged was William George – the name of the Officers who commanded the Company in to which he was drafted were Captain Christopher Fry, Lieutenant George Kizer & Ensign Philip Woolwine. The names of the Officers of the Company into which he was transferred by the above exchange were Captain Samuel Wilkinson, Lieutenant Goodloe Heiskell [Goodlove Hiskell or Hiskill] & the name of the Ensign he thinks, was Charles Catlett – that he remained in service at Winchester for the twelve months in the Company as a guard to the prisoners taken at Princeton & Trenton. That in the month of May 1781 he volunteered at Winchester & joined a troop of horse; finding his own horse – the troop commanded by Captain Adam Heiskell – & joined a volunteer Regiment of horse commanded by Colonel John Smith, the major's name not recollected – they were marched against a gathering of Tories on the South branch of the Potomac [River] – & having dispersed them returned home after an absence of about five weeks, and was discharged.

He has no record of his age – the record being in his father's Bible, which is gone into the possession of some other member of the family – whom he does not know.

He removed from the County of Frederick into the County of Augusta in Virginia in the year 1787 or 1789 – and in the year 1790, he removed to Albemarle where he has resided ever

since – He recollects the names of Colonel \_\_\_ Crawford, Captains Marcus & George Miloese [sic, very likely intended to be Marcus or Marquis Calmes and George Calmes], Peter Bruin – Captain John McGuire and Colonel William Heath [William Heth], as regular officers who were with the troops where he served near Philadelphia. He never received a written discharge from service. He refers to Alex Garrett, Dr. Charles W Carter and Andrew McKee as to his character for veracity, he knows of no person in Albemarle who can testify, their belief as to his being a soldier of the Revolution – He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the agency of any State. Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Geo. Harding, X his mark

The Court then propounded to the Applicant the following interrogatories, to wit:

1<sup>st</sup> Where and in what year were you born?

Answer; I was born in the County of Loudoun & State of Virginia in October 1756

2<sup>nd</sup>. Have you any record of your age? And if so, where is it?

Answer. I had a record of my age in my father's Bible but do not know what has become of it.

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

Answer. When called into service, I lived in the County of Frederick, State of Virginia from which I removed to Augusta County in the same State about 1787 or 1789 & from thence I removed to Albemarle in Virginia about 1790 where I have remained since.

4. How were you called into service? Were you drafted, did you volunteer or were you a substitute? And if a substitute, for whom?

Answer. In my two first terms of service I was drafted, in my last I volunteered

5. State the names of some of the Regular Officers who were with the troops where you served; such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your Service?

Answer. I have stated the names of officers & circumstances in my declaration as fully as I recollect them.

6. Did you ever receive a discharge from the Service? And if so by whom was it given – and what has become of it?

Answer. I never received a written discharge from service.

[Charles Carter and Andrew McKee gave nonstandard affidavits as to the veracity & integrity of the applicant.]

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Virginia Albemarle County Sc.

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned a justice of the peace for said County, George Hardin, who being duly sworn deposed and saith, that he faithfully served the tour of 12 months mentioned and described in his accompanying declaration – that he entered the Army & performed this tour of service in the town of Winchester County of Frederick & state aforesaid; a distance of 100 miles & upwards from this place – that, since he performed said service, a period now of 54 years, & since his removal from Winchester, a period of 45 or 6 years, all who may have served with him, or who testify as to his service, having either died or removed to parts unknown to the affiant. That, upon inquiry after persons, by whom his service could be established he learns all RD it – and, after diligent search, he has been enabled by traveling to Staunton, a distance of 45 or 50 miles from his residence to discover & procure the testimony of

a witness as to the 3 months tour.  
Witness my hand this 5<sup>th</sup> day of August, 1833

S/ James R Watson, JP

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Michael Syford a resident of the Town of Staunton, County of Augusta & State of Virginia aged about 81 years – States that he was well acquainted with George Harding (who is now present with him & who states that he is a resident of the County of Albemarle in the State of Virginia) he remembers the said Harding resided with this affiant in the Town of Winchester Virginia in the year 1777 – that him and the said Harding were members of Captain Christopher Fry's Company of militia, and were drafted for a three months tour of duty – they marched from the town of Winchester together as well as this affiant recollects about the first of August 1777 to near Germantown in the State of Pennsylvania, where they joined the main Army under General Washington – the following were the officers who commanded the Company to which this affiant and said Harding belonged Captain William Helms, Lieutenant Adam Heiskel and Ensign Charles Catlett, the field officers were Colonel Marcus Calimies & Major White – all of said officers being of the Frederick County militia – After they joined the Army near Germantown, they marched from point to point until they arrived at Valley Forge – where the company to which this affiant and said Harding belonged were discharged, but they received no written discharge – this affiant knows that the said Harding did serve under the officers above named a tour as set forth of 3 months, and some days, but the number of days he cannot state. Given under my hand this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of February 1833

S/ Michael Syford, X his mark

[p 8: On March 30, 1836 in Callaway County Missouri, the veteran applied for the transfer of his pension benefit to the Missouri agency stating that he had moved there to be with his children. He signed this document with his mark.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$50 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 15 months in the Virginia service.]