

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Moses Harris S17996

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 17 March 2012.

State of South Carolina }
Edgefield District }

On this 31 day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty two personally appeared in open court before me, Richard Gantt one of the Judges of the Said State now sitting in and for the District aforesaid Moses Harris a resident of the District & State aforesaid aged eighty 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 June the 7th 1832.

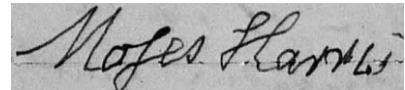
That he entered the service of the United States in the year seventeen hundred and seventy nine, as a private in the company of of Captain Frank Sinkfield [sic: Francis Sinquefeld], (the particular name and character of the Corps cannot be designated as the arms used were not uniformly of the same description) which said company was attached to a Battallion of the State and District aforesaid, commanded by Major John Purvis [sic: John Purves], belonging to a Regiment, commanded by Col. Leroy Hammond, which constituted a part of a Brigade of South Carolina militia, of which Brigade Gen'l. Andrew Williamson was commander. That this deponent together with the company aforesaid, remained in the service under the officers aforesaid, for the time of six months commencing the first of January continuing until the first of July 1779, the said company having its head quarters at Liberty hill near Augusta

This deponent again entered the service in seventeen hundred and eighty one (1781) and under Captain James Thomas, was engaged in the Siege and Capture of Augusta, in the year aforesaid [Fort Cornwallis, 24 May - 1 June], on this occasion we were under the immediate command, of Gen'l. Andrew Pickens.

This deponent was occasionally actively engaged, both before and after the last mentioned period, in various scouts in pursuit of tories and other disaffected persons, who in considerable numbers infested this section of the State. He was at times under the command of Capt Ryan and at others under the command of Capt Thomas.

Finally this deponent saith that he was occasionally engaged in the service of the United States, from the year seventeen hundred and seventy nine (1779) until the close of the war, and if the different periods of time for which he was actually engaged or doing military service were added together, it would amount to the term of two years at least

This deponent hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of the agency of any State



Additional amended Declaration of Moses Harris

The deponant states that he enter'd. the service at the date and place as stated in his original application, under Capt F. Sinkfield as a private, that they rendevoused at Homes Old field in Abbeville District So.Ca. that he with the company was marched off on an expedition against the Cherokee Indians, that the deponant with said company was then actively engaged against the Indians and in cutting down there crops &c. that the tour of service lasted two months, that the said company was then marched back to Liberty Hill on the Savanah River in Edgefield District [sic: on Savannah River in present North Augusta in Aiken County SC] that they he with said company was active employed in the service either in scouting in the immediate neighbourhood, or performing the duties of a soldier in the Camp until in July

1779 – making in that service Four months – which completed his tour of six months that he was in actual and active services. The company was then disbanded, it was not usual with the officer to give the Volunteer militia dischargs. he consequently rece'd. none.

That, during the year 1780 he was frequently engaged in scouts against the tories, that in one instance in which his memory serves him, an order was sent to him by Col. Purvis then in command, to proceed and arrested some tories of notorious character, that he accordingly done so and delivered them to him in camp, that at another time during the same year he Volunteer under Capt. F. Sinkfield, and to Reedy River in now Laurence [sic: Laurens] District, and under the said officer attacked a partie of Tories, and defeated them and took a number of them prisoner, that they then returned to this District and was again disbanded, that the deponant in the different tours which he served from July 79 to the beginning of 81 under the immediate command and orders of the officers, before stated, did serve during that period and the expedition stated the term of six months. That there in 81 as before shewn that he Volunteered under Capt. Thomas that he marched under said Thomas to Liberty Hill as before stated under the command of Col. Pickens – that he was then actively engaged in the service in digging entrenchments &c. untill the surrender of Browns Fort in Augusta. that he continued in actual and active service untill he serv'd. his tour of duty for the time Volunteered say six months. That after that tour he Volunteered under Capt. John Ryan, That Ryans company was general engaged in scouting, and had a station at a place called the Ridge in this District. that during that time he under said officer was actively engaged in pursuit of and dispersing the tories where ever small parties of them was collect and that these scouts frequently extend to the now District of Barnwill [sic: Barnwell] & Orangeburg. That he was const[edge of page] employed in the service for the time for which Volunteered say six months. that after that time, he was frequently after call'd. on to volunteer for a short periods which he done At one time under the command of Capt. John Carter, who commanded a company attached to Gen'l. Williamson Brigade he was engaged under him in pursuit of some tories which they pursued to the Lower part of the state and dispersed. The Deponant states from old age and loss of memory that he cannot state distinctly as to the time he serv'd. in the last tour but deposeth that he serv'd. more than two years in the tours as above specified.

The deponant further states, that the only reason why he has not the certificate of a clergyman, that there is no clergyman now living in District who knew him either in time of or immediately after the war, (that he knows of) that he relies with confid on the certificate of Daniel Rogers [pension application S18186] and William Howl [sic: William Howle S21303] with whom he serv'd. during the war, and who are now Pensioners of the Government.

The deponant from extreme old age & loss of memory does not recollect at this time any other facts relative to his services but avers that the facts already set forth are just & true

the deponant further states that he was borned in North Carolina, but not recollect the county he has no record of his age, that when a small boy his Parents moved to this District where he has resided ever since.

Sworn to before me this 10 day April [1834]

[signed] Moses Harris

Dear Sir In Compliance with your Request, of May last I shall now state what I know of the revolutionary Services of Moses Harris. I became acquainted with him sometime in January or February 1779 in the Militia Service under Colo LeRoy Hammonds of Gen'l A Williamson 96 Brigade, he was Deta[ile]d on Fatigue Duty with several others of some Reg't. of which Capt. Foster also of same Regiment & my self had charge he was then placed with us several times, while we were engaged building guard Hous & other necessary buildings, he acted as a good Labourer was Active & Spirited, I saw him frequent Dureing that year & he was with his Company with me on Detachments – I think he remained in service in that Campain Commonly Called Stono Campain untill the militias then on duty were discharged which was something over four Months, tho some of them went home on the day 4 months Expired. I saw him frequent after that still in service untill may 1780 after [illegible word] I know

nothing of him, untill the Siege of & Taking the Town of Augusta, date of which I do not now Exactly Remember & being absent from memorandums can only Refrer to Record of those Events. Mr. Harris Serv'd. as a Volunteer in Capt. John Carter or Ryan, who were ingaged or inRolled for Six months and wire Placed under my Command.

Sworn to before me 31st March } S Hammond [Samuel Hammond, pension application S21807]
1837 at Edgefield Court House }
South Carolina A B. Addision }
Colo. Blocker,

Sir, I have been so often Called upon for Testimony of this kind, that it has become Extremely Irsom to me, indeed but I Consid it a Duty due to the Soldier, & not less so, to the government, as I have detected several Applicants atempting to obtain a share of the Bounty which I personally knew were not Intitled to it.

I am Very Respectfully/ Your Ob't S/ S Hammond