

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John Harris S21808

SC VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 11 Nov 2014.

The State of South Carolina }  
Anderson District } Ss

On this 5<sup>th</sup> day of March 1833 personally appeared before the Honorable Josiah J Evans the presiding Judge in the Court of Common Pleas and General Sessions, being a Court of Record, John Harris Esq'r. resident in Anderson District in the State aforesaid aged seventy years, who being duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. That on or about the [blank] 1778 this deponant joined Capt. Alexander Noble's Company of Militia in Col. [Andrew] Williamson's Regiment and marched into the State of Georgia to aid the citizens of that State against the the indians, in which service the Regiment was absent, as he believes about three months. That after their return from Georgia the same Regiment was ordered to Charleston for the relief of that place beseiged by the enemy, that before they reached that place they received intelligence that Charleston had surrendered to British [12 May 1780], and the Regiment returned to Abbeville District. That he was then stationed as one of a guard under Lieut. Jos. Colhoun [Joseph Calhoun] at McGowen's Block House [McGowan's Blockhouse, now under Richard B Russell Lake W of Calhoun Falls SC] for the protection of the frontiers for about two months. That he was one of a detachment who pursued a Col. [James] Boyd with his Regiment of Tories into the State of Georgia with whom they were engaged for more than two hours [skirmish at Van Creek GA, 11 Feb 1779]. That at this engagement this deponant was severely wounded in the head. That in September 1780 this deponant joined Capt. [James] McCall and marched to Augusta, where McCall was promoted to the rank of Colonel, Samuel Taylor appointed Major and Alexander Luckie Capt. of the Company in which this deponant served. That the British Army in Augusta being reinforced they were compelled to rise the Sige [siege of McKay's Trading Post, 14-18 Sep 1780]. That McCall with his regiment marched into North Carolina and joined the army under General [Daniel] Morgan, was in the battle at the Cow Pens [Cowpens SC, 17 Jan 1781] where Tarleton was defeated. That he quit the Army in February following. That he served about five months in the periods above stated under McCall.

That on or about August 1781 this deponant joined Capt. Johnstons [possibly Zachariah Johnston's] Company of Militia in the State of Virginia, in Col. Sampson Mathews Regiment and joined the Army under Gen'l. Layafayette [sic: Lafayette], that he was detached with a party to remove some of the wounded of the American Army, and was not present at the Capture of Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781]. That he was about three months in the service at this time. That he afterwards returned to Augusta County in the State of Virginia.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declare that my name is not on the Pension Roll of the Agency of any State.

In answer to the first interogatory,

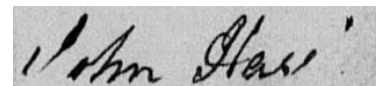
I was born on the Eastern Shore of Maryland on or about Dec'r. 1762.

In answer to the second. There was a record of my birth which, I believe, was burnt in a house accidentally destroyed by fire.

In answer to the third. I lived with my father in Abbeville District when I first turned out in defence of my country. That I continued to live in Abbeville for several years after the close of the war of the Revolution when I removed to Pendleton where I have lived ever since.

I have answered the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> interogatories in my general Declaration.

In answer to the 6<sup>th</sup> I do not recollect having received a discharge after any period of my service as above stated. [Signature partly covered by seal of the Clerk.]



Abbeville 26 Sep. 1833.

Dear Sir [John Harris Esq'r/ Anderson SC] I made application to Major Hamilton [probably Andrew Hamilton, pension application S18000], in your behalf, to furnish such information as he possessed, to aid you in procuring a pension for your military services in the Revolutionary War. From the effects of extreme old age, his memory is so much impaired, that he does not now recollect persons with whom he was once acquainted. I furnished him with some written questions touching your service and also called on him. You will see from the questions which I send you, what answer he has made to them. He knows nothing that will avail you anything.

Understanding that you had been attached to my father's [Alexander Noble's] Company a portion of the time that you rendered Military services, I examined such of his papers as I had, & learned, from them, some things which may possibly refresh your own recollection as to dates & tours of duty. I refer to certain Muster Rolls & Pay Bills which do not appear to be in his own hand writing, nor certified by him, but I have no doubt are correct lists of the men on duty, and the length of their respective services.

The first in which I find our name (spelled Herres) is dated 3<sup>d</sup> May 1778 headed "2<sup>nd</sup> expedition down Savannah River, & over Cuffee Town – Capt Alex. Noble's list of men in this expedition on horse back & they found their own provisions." In this list is the name John Harris & opposite wrote "served 3 days." 3<sup>d</sup> Expedition down over Turkey Creek towards Piney Woods house [Pine Wood House in Edgefield County near jct of US 25 and SC 121] – all on horse back & found themselves – dated 16 May 1778 & opposite your name wrote served "3 days."

"28 August 1778 Pay Bill of Captain Alexander Noble's Company of Militia on horseback in the service of the state under Col. Andrew Pickens." opposite to your name is put down "6 days @ 20 S. = £6."

"14 Octo. 1778. Pay Bill of Capt Alex'r. Noble's Company of Militia on foot in the service of the State of So. Ca. on duty in New Purchase Georgia [= Ceded Lands; land ceded by Cherokee Indians in 1773] under Col. And'w. Williamson opposite your name is put down "43 days"

"3<sup>d</sup> August 1779 Pay Bill of Cap. Alex'r. Noble's Company of Militia on horse back in the service of the States of So. Ca. & Georgia from the 13<sup>th</sup> February to 15<sup>th</sup> July following under Col. Andrew Pickens." opposite your name is written "John Harris, wounded, 150 days:" – These are all the times I see your name mentioned. They show an agregate service of 205 days, being 6 months & 25 days

I have been this minute in giving you all the information in my power to enable you to obtain a pension which I know you richly deserve, & if the documents to which I have referred will be of any advantage to you, the use of them is entirely at your service. I am with regard yours truly

[signed] Patrick Noble

The State of South Carolina } In the Court of Common Pleas Special Sessions, a Court of Record  
Anderson District } I John Harris (who heretofore on the 5th day of March 1833 made a declaration in order to obtain a provision under the act of 1832) having, since my papers were returned to me, ascertained the dates of important events by referring to history, and having obtained possession of the pay rolls made out in 1778 & 1779 by Capt. Alexander Noble under whom I then served, am enabled to speak with more precision than was used in my former declaration, and do on oath make this supplemental declaration.

I was born in December 1762 on the Eastern Shore Maryland. My Father removed to North Carolina when I was a small boy and lived there one year. We then removed to Abbeville District South Carolina and settled on Little River where he resided throughout the revolutionary contest. My first military service was in a small fort near Capt. Noble's, where the neighbors assembled for protection against the Indians. I cannot remember the year nor the number of months that I was there, but I distinctly remember that I was there in the winter & was there at harvest time when 40 or 50 men would go to harvest a field, that I stood sentry & that I frequently with some negroes would go from the fort to my father's place six miles distant to look after the crops & stock — In the spring 1778 my father first yielding to the entreaties I had long urged, and permitted me to enter the ranks of the Whigs as a

volunteer. I joined the company of Capt Alexander Noble which comprised all the Whig settlers of our neighbourhood, and went out when so summoned by the captain. From a pay roll of that company now before me, it appears that in a short expedition commenced 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1778 in which the company marched down into Edgefield District, my name is put down as entitled to pay for 3 days – And in another expedition commenced 16<sup>th</sup> May 1778 my name is put down for 3 days more. And I am sure that I was at least for these six days in actual service in these two tours of duty under orders of my Captain — One object was I believe was to prevent the embodying of Tories — I know of no living witness to this service within my reach. — In the summer of 1778 I was again called out and went in Captain Noble's Company under Col. Andrew Williamson and Maj. Andrew Pickens, in an expedition against the Indians, when we crossed the Savannah River for the purpose of aiding the settlers in the upper part of Georgia, who were mostly in Forts and blockhouses threatened by the Indians. From a pay roll now before me it appears that my name is entered for 6 days commencing 28<sup>th</sup> August 1778 and for 43 days commencing 14<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1778 and it is said in a remark at the bottom of the roll that Capt. Noble returned all the men at the Blockhouse (Abbeville C. H. [Court House]) from 29<sup>th</sup> August to the 4<sup>th</sup> December 1778 — I believe I was in actual service all this time, but I can be sure as to the 49 days for which my name is entered. Samuel Earle [pension application S21174] is the only living witness that I know of who could prove this period of my service and he is not now in my neighbourhood. From another pay roll of Capt. Noble's Company now before me it appears that this company on horse back was employed in an expedition against the Tories under Col. Andrew Pickens from 13<sup>th</sup> Feb'y 1779 to 15<sup>th</sup> July 1779, and that my name is entered for 150 days with the remark that I was wounded— The whole of this period and long after, I was either actually engaged in service or disabled by a wound. I belonged to a detachment under Lieut't. Calhoun which was stationed at McGowin's Blockhouse on the Savannah River near the Cherokee Ford. Whilst we were there a large body of Tories under Col. Boyd attempted to cross the Savannah River into Georgia, and being prevented by our Fort from crossing there, they crossed above at Vann's Creek, and the Whigs from the Block house and neighborhoods attacked them on the Georgia side, three days afore the battle of Kettle Creek [14 Feb 1779] in which Col. Pickens defeated them. In this attack, I was shot through the head, the ball entering at the left eye and coming out in front of the right ear, and by this wound I was prevented from being in Pickens' expedition and disabled for more than a year. My name it [illegible word] was returned by the Capt. for the whole time his company was out, but for a much longer time I was suffering under my wound — I know of no living witness to this period of my service— some who were in the battle of Kettle Creek having no recollection of me as I was wounded 3 days afore. In the spring of 1780 the regiment to which I was attached was called out for the relief of Charleston then besieged, and not being liable to draft on account of my wound I went as a substitute for one Hadden[?]. We marched down to Cong[page torn; Congaree River?] under Col Pickens, and learning of the fall of Charleston [re]turned through the Dutch Fork & I was one of the Det[ach]ment which on our return was stationed at the block House at Abbeville Court House to guard the public Arms. This time of service was at least one month & I believe much longer — I joined Col. (then Capt McCall) in an enterprise which he undertook to surprize the British at Augusta by raising a body of active Whigs secretly and joining himself to Col. Clark [sic: Elijah Clarke] of Georgia who was chief in command. We embodied at least a month before the battle of King's Mountain (which was 6th [sic: 7<sup>th</sup>] Oct 1780) say 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 1780. marched to Augusta, took 60 British prisoners, engaged at this same time with the Indians, shut the British Forces in their fort & would have taken them all had not a detachment from Ninety [sic: Ninety Six SC] under Col. [John Harris] Cruger come to their relief. Being deserted by the Georgians, McCall retreated up the Saluda River spent two weeks in the mountains on the border of North Carolina, almost without food, and joined Gen'l. Morgans army in North Carolina a short time after the Battle of Kings Mountain. With this army I remained until the battle of the Cowpens Jan'y. [17th] 1781, in which I was in the left wing of the militia under Col. McCall. After this battle I was under Gen'l. Pickens, who marched the prisoners in to the mountains of North Car., and I left this army a few days after it crossed the Yadkin River, I think about 15<sup>th</sup> Feb. 1781. With the other refugees I was then obliged to retire from So. Ca. & went into Augusta County Virginia. I know of no living witness to this period of my service. In

the Fall of 1781 I joined Capt. Johnsons Company in Virginia & in Col. Matthew's Reg't. joined the army under Gen'l. LaFayette. & continued in service until after the surrender of Cornwallis at York at least 3 months. My memory is frail but I can safely say that my periods of actual service were not less than what I above stated and below recapitulate, and that during most of the intermediate times I was too much engaged in military duty to attend to any other.

In the Fort under Capt Nobles – 1776 or 1777

1778 Spring under Capt Noble – 6 days or longer  
under Capt. Noble & Col. Williamson 49 days or longer

1779 Feb. to July: Capt Noble & Col. Pickens 150 days

1779 to Spring of 1780. Suffering under wound –

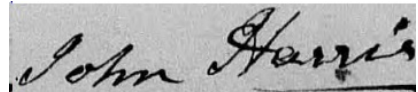
1780 employed in attempt to relieve Chston: one month or longer

1780 Sept 1<sup>st</sup> till 15<sup>th</sup> Feb. 1781: Col. McCall 6½ months

1781 Capt. Johnson in Virginia 3 months or longer

The names of the officers under whom I served were Capt. Noble, Col. Willi[page torn; Williamson], Major, Col [illegible word] Pickens, Major Taylor, Col. Clark, [Ca]pt or Col. McCall, of So. Ca. afsd: Capt. Johnson & Col. Mathews of the militia of Virginia: and Gen. Morgan & General LaFayette of the Continentals.

Sworn to in open Court 1 Oct 1833.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John Harris", written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Addendum to Pension application of John Harris S21808

Transcribed by Will Graves

4/6/22

[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' or 'undeciphered' 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. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

South Carolina Audited Accounts<sup>1</sup> relating to John Harris  
Audited Account No. 3363

pp50

Transcribed by Will Graves

4/6/22

South Carolina  
Anderson District }

On this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_ personally appeared in open Court before the Honbl. \_\_\_ Presiding Judge of Circuit Court of Anderson District, now sitting, Jno. Harris a resident in Anderson District in the State of So. Ca. Aged 70 years who being 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 7, 1832. That on or about the \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_ he joined Captain Alexander Noble's Company of Colonel Pickens [Andrew Pickens] Regt. commanded by General Williamson [Andrew Williamson] and marched into the State of Georgia to aid these Citizens of that State against the indians – That after his return from Georgia the same Regt. was ordered to Charleston for the relief of that place besieged by the enemy, that before they reached that place they received intelligence that Charleston had surrendered to the British, and the Regt. returned to Abbeville District and he was employed as a guard under Lieut. Jos. Colhoun [Joseph Calhoun] at McGowens Block. house for the protection of the frontier for a month or more that he was one of a detachment who pursued a Colonel Boyd [James Boyd] with his Regt. of Tories into Georgia where he this deponent was wounded in the [one or more pages missing] That in September 1780 he joined Captain McCall [James McCall] and was in the battle at the Cal Pens [Cowpens, January 17, 1781] in January 1781 when Colonel Tarleton [Banastre Tarleton] was defeated that he continued with Colonel McCall who had been promoted & under the immediate command of Captain Alexander Luckie that they marched into North Carolina where he quit the Army – in 1781. – That on or about Agt. 1781 he joined Captain Johnston's Company under Colonel Sampson Mathews and joined the Army under General Lafayette that he was detached to take care of some <sup>7</sup> [of] the wounded of the Americans and was present at the capture of Cornwallis and his Army at Little York – That he was about three months in the Service during this time – That he afterwards returned to Augusta County Virginia.

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<sup>1</sup> The South Carolina Audited Accounts (AAs) are now available online at <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>. To find the AA for a specific person, click on the [Just take me to the search page](#) link, then enter the person's surname first in the "Full name" box followed by a comma and the person's Christian name. The "SC" file number shown on this transcript has been assigned by the administrator of this website for indexing purposes only and is not an officially recognized file number. The number behind the 'pp' indicates the number of pages in the file and the 'Audited Account No.' is the actual Account Number assigned by the South Carolina Archives.

I hereby relinquish any claim whatever to a Pension or Annuity except the present, and declare that my name is not on the Pension Roll of the Agency of any State –

In answer to the 1<sup>st</sup> Interrogatory

I was born on the Eastern Shore of Maryland on or about December 1762 –

In answer to the 2<sup>nd</sup> – there was a record of my birth which was burnt in a house destroyed by fire –

In Answer to the 3<sup>rd</sup>. I lived with my father in Abbeville District when I first turned out in defense of my Country – That I continue to live in Abbeville for several years after the close of the War of the Revolution, when I removed to Pendleton where I have lived ever since

I have answered the 4<sup>th</sup> in my general Declarations –

I have answered the 5<sup>th</sup> in my Declaration –

In answer to the 6<sup>th</sup>: I did not receive a discharge as I recollect

That in Sep. 1780 he joined Captain McCall and went to Augusta where McCall was promoted to the rank of Col. and Saml. Taylor [Samuel Taylor] Major and Alexr. Luckie Capt. of the Company in which this deponent Served – That British in Augusta being reinforced they were compelled to raise the Siege – That the Regt. went into North Carolina and joined the Army under General Morgan [Daniel Morgan] and was at Tarleton's defeat at the Cowpens, that he quit the Army in Feb<sup>y</sup> following – that during the above this deponent served about five months –