

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Gideon Harrison S2602

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Transcribed by Will Graves

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

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State of Tennessee, County of Rutherford

On this 23rd day of August, 1832 personally appeared in open Court before Henry Tutt, James C. Mitchell and Varner D. Cowen Esq., the justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for Rutherford County now sitting Gideon Harrison a resident of the State of Tennessee in the county of Rutherford and town of Murfreesborough, aged seventy 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 July [sic, June] 7th, 1832. That he entered the service of the United States as a volunteer under Col. John Sevier in the company commanded by Capt. James Wilson some few weeks before the battle at Kings Mountain [October 7, 1780], he thinks early in September 1780 but the precise day he does not recollect.

He states he entered as a volunteer for no particular period. He marched under the command of Col. Sevier to Kings Mountain and was in that battle. He knew Col. Shelby [Isaac Shelby], and Campbell [William Campbell] who also commanded at that battle and under stood Col. Cleaveland [sic, Benjamin Cleveland] commanded but he did not know him. He thinks Bald Sevier [probably Valentine Sevier] and _____ Tipton [probably Jonathan Tipton] were Majors in that expedition under Col. John Sevier and the force commanded by Col. Sevier was about five hundred as well as he recollects. He states when he entered the service under the command of Col. Sevier he resided in Washington County Territory South of Ohio, now East Tennessee. After the battle at Kings Mountain he marched in a few weeks under the command of Col. John Sevier into the ~~Creek~~ country of the Creek & Cherokee Indians and ranged thru the mountains three or four months or perhaps longer. In addition to the field officers named as being at the Battle of Kings Mountain he thinks in this expedition in the Indian Country a man by the name of Williams was along who was called Col. Williams.

In this expedition they fell in with a party of Indians supposed to be thirty in number, in the skirmish they had they killed eighteen Indians, took three prisoners and all the blankets, guns belonging to the party of Indians. One of our company, Elisha Hadden, had his horse killed in the engagement but our party sustained no other injury.

After being out the time above stated, Col. Sevier returned with his men to the White Settlements. In a few weeks they marched back again to the Indian country with the same field officers except Col. __ Williams. Their force was not quite as large as in the first

expedition but they were out longer than in the other. In this expedition they took several Indians prisoners and killed several but had no battle or skirmish with them. They returned to the settlements to recruit and in a short time afterwards they set out on a third expedition to the Indian country. In this expedition Col. Sevier made a treaty with the Cherokee tribe of Indians soon after he got into their country after which they proceeded to the Creek country and ranged thro their country some three or four months or longer, took some prisoners and killed two Indians but had no fighting. After he returned from this tour sometime he marched under Col. Sevier to a place called the greasy cave. In this expedition he thinks Col. Sevier had about one hundred men under him. They killed one Indian and was gone several weeks. This deponent states he was in all the foregoing expeditions, he cannot recollect the precise period he was absent in any one of them but he states from the time he first entered the service until he quit the service which was not until they ceased to apprehend danger from the Indians, upwards of two years he was either out on some expedition under Col. Sevier or at home recruiting and waiting until the forces were ready to march and for that period of two years or upwards he engaged in no other pursuit or occupation.

This deponent states he never served with any of the Continental Regiments or companies unless some of that description of force was at the Battle of King's Mountain and was not acquainted with any of the regular of officers. He further states he never was discharged from Service. That he has no documentary evidence and he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any other state.

S/ Gideon Harrison, X his marl

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ J. R. Laughlin, Clk.

The following interrogatories were put to Gideon Harrison the within named applicant for pension in open court by the court of the 23rd day of August 1832.

1st. Where and in what year were you born?

Answer: I was born in Rockingham County, Virginia, I am not certain of the year but think 1762.

2nd. Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Answer: I have no record of my age within my power. The register which was made is lost.

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

Answer: I lived in Washington County now East Tennessee when I entered the service, since that I lived some years in Alabama and within 6 or [document torn—text missing] years past I have lived in Murfreesboro, Rutherford, Tenn.

4th. How were you called into service; were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute and if a substitute for whom?

Answer: I entered the service as a volunteer under Col. John Sevier.

5th. 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 services.

Answer: I never served with any Continental troops, was not personally acquainted with the names of any of the regular officers. I do not recollect whether the troops commanded by

Sevier were known by any particular regiment and as to the last member of the question, I refer to the facts stated in the body of my declaration.

6th. 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 discharge.

7th. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution.

Answer: I live at present and have lived for near six years in the town of Murfreesborough, Rutherford County, Tennessee. I presume I am known by every citizen in town and many of the citizens in the neighborhood. I refer to the affidavits annexed as my answer to the last question. I believe I could get many others to certify to my veracity and their belief of my services but am advised the annexed certificates are sufficient.

S/ Gideon Harrison, X his mark

Subscribed and sworn to in open court 23rd August 1832.

S/ J. R. Laughlin, Clk.

[William Eagleton and William Gilliam gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 10: William Mitchell¹ gave a supporting affidavit in which he states that he is 69 years old (his testimony is dated August 23, 1832); that he was at Kings Mountain; that he has had detailed conversations with the applicant and based on the conversation with the applicant he is convinced the applicant was at the battle of Kings Mountain.



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Amended declaration of Gideon Harrison for a pension

Before me Verner D. Cowen an acting justice of the peace in and for the County of Rutherford & State of Tennessee, this 9th day of May, 1833, personally appeared Gideon Harrison, who being duly sworn, deposed & saith, that, by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades; For 8 months I served as a private under Colonel John Sevier in the company commanded by Captain James Wilson, this being my first campaign & the same in which the battle of Kings Mountain was fought. In my original declaration I intimated a shorter time for this tour of service; but upon reflection I feel assured that I served at least 8 months as herein stated.

2. For six months commencing I believe in June 1781 I served as a private in Captain Wiers company under Colonel Sevier. This is my second tour mentioned in order in my original declaration where I stated that this tour of service was longer than the first, but upon reflection I now think it shorter as herein stated.

¹ [William Mitchell S4221](#)

3. For 4 months I served as a private under the same officers being the 3rd expedition mentioned in my original declaration. This tour commenced in the winter of 1781 – 1782.

4. For 3 months I served as a private under Colonel Sevier in a company styled a Dragoon company commanded by Captain Weir. This expedition by neglect or inadvertence was not mentioned in my original declaration. Captain Wiers Company wore leather caps with stripes of bear skin & were armed with swords & pistols. Their uniform was blue pantaloons & blue short coat faced with white. There were 5 other companies with Colonel Sevier. One, I remember was commanded by Captain Been. This expedition was against the Cherokee & Creek Indians, but without any important engagement. It was entered upon sometime I think in the spring of 1782, but in this as in other dates I may be in error, as my memory has much failed me.

5. For 2 months I served as a private in Captain Weirs company under Sevier. This was the expedition to the greasy Codes being the last tour mentioned in my original declaration and was entered upon shortly after the end of the one last mentioned; and for such service in all 23 months I claim a pension. I do not recollect my Lieutenant or Ensign in either tour. In the several campaigns above mentioned I always served as a horseman & furnished my own horse.

S/ V. D. Cowan, JP

S/ Gideon Harrison, X his mark

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$95.84 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for one-year and 11 months service as a private in the cavalry of the North Carolina militia.]