

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of John Harris S38001

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 12 March 2012.

Virginia Southampton County to wit

On this 4th day of September in the year 1819 before me Richard C. Parker judge of the Superior Court of law for Southampton County now in session personally appeared John Harris aged sixty seven years resident of the county aforesaid & state of Virginia who being before me in open court first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the late act of Congress entitled "An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land & naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war. That he the said John Harris enlisted in the County of Brunswick State of Virginia in the company of Capt. James Lucas forth [sic: Fourth] Virginia Regiment in the Continental Service which regiment was commanded by Colonel [Robert] Lawson & belonged to Scots brigade [sic: Gen. Charles Scott's Brigade], that he enlisted about 2 years before the battle at Eutaw Springs [in SC on 8 Sep 1781] for two years & was discharged at the expiration of that term. that about two months afterwards he enlisted in Colonel Bailors [sic: Col. George Baylor's] regiment of light Dragoons belonging to the Continental Service for the term of three years & served the said time in that regiment first under Bailor & afterwards under Col. Washington [Lt. Col. William Washington] that the company he enlisted in was commanded by Capt. [William] Parsons. That he was discharged after having served the first term at Valley Forge in Jersey [sic: Pennsylvania] & at the expiration of the second term at a place called Round O in South Carolina. That he was at the battles of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777] Trenton [28 Jun 1778] Princeton [3 Jan 1777] Germantown [4 Oct 1777] Eutaw Springs Guilford [Guilford Court House NC, 15 Mar 1781] Cowpens [17 Jan 1781] & broad River [sic: probably the Broad River in NC north of Cowpens SC]. That he is in reduced circumstances & stands in need of the assistance of his country for support. That owing to the great length of time he has no evidence of his service & discharge but his Oath & that he has had no pension heretofore allowed him by the law of the United States. Sworn to before me judge of the said Court in open court the day & year aforesaid.

District of Virginia (Sct)

Southampton County (to wit)

On this 20th day of March 1821 personally appeared in open Court, being a Court of record, for the said County John Harriss aged sixty six years residing in Southampton County who being first duly sworn, according to law, doth on his oath declare that he served in the Revolutionary War as follows. That he served in the 4th Regiment of Virginia Infantry, Commanded by Col. Lucas and afterwards was transferred to the third Regiment of Light Dragoons Commanded by Col. William Washington And I do solemnly swear, that I was a resident of the United States, on the 18th day of March 1818, and that I have not, since that time, by gift, sale or in any manner, disposed of my property, or an part thereof, with intent thereby to diminish it, as to bring myself within the provisions of an Act of Congress Entitled "An Act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the Untied States in the Revolutionary War" passed on the 18th day of March 1818, and that I have not, nor has any person in trust for me any property, or securities contracts or debts, due to me, nor have I any income, other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed, Sixty acres of land, one horse, eleven head of hogs, three head of cattle, one shot gun, two Iron pots, two plow hoes, one dutch oven, one spider, one small skillet, one coulter six earthen plates, one dish, three knives and forks, one pair flat Irons, one coffee mill, one drawing knife, one hand saw, two jugs, and my occupation is a Farmer. a wife aged Thirty Eight years, three children, one aged eight years another three years and the other three years – John Harriss – Sworn to and declared, on the 20th of March 1821 in open Court.

I James Rochelle Clerk of the County of Southampton in the State aforesaid do hereby certify, that the foregoing oath and the Schedule herein contained are true copies from the records of the said Court, and I do further certify that it is the opinion of the said Court that the total amount in value of the property exhibited in the foregoing Schedule is (Three hundred fourteen) dollars and — cents

District of Virginia (Sct)

On this 20th day of March 1822 personally appeared in open Court being a Court of record for the County of Southampton, John Harriss, a resident in said county aged sixty five years who being first due sworn according to Law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the acts of Congress of the 18th March 1818 and the 1st May 1820, that he the said John Harriss enlisted for the term of three years on the [blank] day of [blank] in the year time not recollected) in the State of Virginia in a company of Dragoons commanded by Captain William Parsons in the Regiment commanded by Colo. William Washington in the line of the State of Virginia 3rd Regiment of Light Dragoons on the Continental Establishment that he continued to serve in the said Corps the three years for which he enlisted when he was discharged from the said service in the State of South Carolina a few years [sic] after the Battle of the Eutaw Springs. That he was in the Battles of Germantown, Brandywine, Trenton the Euta Springs Guilford Courthouse Camden [Battle of Hobkirk Hill near Camden SC, 25 Apr 1781] and Cowpens and that he has no other evidence now in his power of his said services having lost his discharge And in pursuance of the Act the 1st May in the year 1820... [oath similar to the above follows] Schedule

1 Spinning wheel \$1.50 1 pr of Cotton Cards 50 cents 3 rush bottom chairs \$1.00 1 Pine chest \$1.00 3 plates 12 cents 3 knives & forks 12 ¢ one Earthen bowl 6 cents 1 Plow hoe 25 cents 1 weeding hoe 25¢ 1 axe 50¢ Amount \$5.30 John Harris aged 65 by profession a Farmer a wife aged 41 years and four children aged as follows 8, 4, 3 years & one age three months. I am also considerable in debt and have no debts due me. Subscribed by me this 20th March 1822

Virginia Southampton County, Sct.

On the 16th day of June 1823 personally appeared in open Court, being a Court of record in and for the County of Southampton aforesaid, John Harriss a resident of said County, aged Sixty Eight years, who being first duly sworn, according to Law, doth on his oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the provisions made by the acts of Congress, of the 18th march 1818 and the first May 1820. That the said John Harriss served in the 4 Regiment of Virginia Infantry, commanded by Col. Lucas. That he then enlisted for three years, in the County of Brunswick, Virginia, on the [blank] day of [blank] In the year 1778 in the troop of Cavalry Commanded by Capt. William Persons [sic] in the third Regiment of Light Dragoons, commanded by Col. William Washington in the line of the State of Virginia on the Continental Establishment. That he continued to serve in the said troop untill the date of 1780 when he was discharged, from the said service, at a place called the round O about Twenty miles from the Utaw Springs [sic: about 30 mi SSW of Eutaw Springs] where Col. Wm. Washington was taken prisoner in the State of South Carolina.

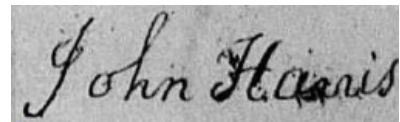
That he served in the Battles of Germantown, Trenton, Prince Town, Brandy Wyne and several others. That his name has been placed on the pension list and dropt therefrom on account of his property [oath similar to the above follows]

Two head of Cattle, Ten head of hogs, two plough hoes, two Jugs, four plates, five knives and forks, four cups and saucers, one ax, one Coulter, Six Table puter spoons, one bole, one shot gun, one cider barrel, one dutch oven, one spider, one skillet, one Iron pot. Signed, John Harriss – by occupation a farmer. That he is very infirm, from old age. that he has six residing in his family with himself, To wit, his wife Mary aged about forty years, Son Anthony aged nine years, Daughter Caroline aged seven years, Son George aged Three years and Son William aged Eighteen months. That since the Exhibition of my first Schedule

the following changes has taken place in my property Sixty Acres of Land which was improperly inserted in the former schedule is to be accounted for in this way. True it is I had partly contracted for the said land, but never had a deed executed to me for the same. Consequently never had a legal title thereto, nor could the grantor have made one at that time, or any time since, the same being under an incumbrance by deed in Trust, to a Mr. James Scott. That there were other articles, To wit, on cow and one hog which I have killed, for the support of my family and one horse which died, one pot sold to Matthew Muntford for one dollar and seventy five cents (money) one coffee mill, sold to George Johnson for one dollar money, one drawing knife, sold to Hardy Drake for Thirty seven cents, one hand saw sold to Hardy Drake for one dollar and seventy five Cents money, and one pair of flat Irons sold to George Johnson for one dollar and fifty cents money. All sold about February 1822 Signed John Harriss

Virginia Southampton County Sct.

I John Harriss In order to be restored to the Pension list under the act of the 1st day of March 1823, and in pursuance of instructions received from J. L. Edwards [Commissioner of Pensions], bearing date July 18th 1823 do hereby certify, that the tract of land mentioned in my first Schedule, dose not stand charged to me, on the land role of the said County, or any where else, nor has Edwin Drake with whom I contracted for the said tract of land containing sixty acres ever made me a deed of Conveyance therefor, nor could he at that or any time since, have conveyed the same to me, he having previously conveyed the same land to James Scott of this County by deed in Trust, That I the said John Harriss have paid the sum of Two hundred dollars in part payment for the land, and am unable to pay the balance which would be Two hundred dollars principal and about fifty dollars interest thereon. That I do at this time and have for the last four years lived upon the said tract of land without paying any rent therefor, but by reason if his having paid the sum aforesaid. That I do not consider the said land mine because I have no deed for the same nor do I ever expect to have a deed because I am unable to pay the ballance of the purchase money – In consequence of which I have petitioned for a pension, for services rendered my Country during the Revolutionary War. Given under my hand this 22nd day of August 1823

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Harriss". The ink is dark and the background is a light, textured paper.