

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of James Harris S38006

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 16 Nov 2013.

State of Virginia

Cha's [Charles] City County. To Wit

on this 17 day of August in the year 1820 before us the subscribers Justices of the peace and Judges of the County Court of Cha's City being a Court of record of said County personally appeared James Harris aged sixty two years resident in the County of Af'd in the state af'd who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by an Act of Congress entitled an Act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the u States during the revolutionary war. That he the said James Harris enlisted into the services of the u States in the County of Cha's City in the State of Virginia in the year 1778 in the month of February and was stationed in Williamsburg in Virg'a a place of rendezvous for several months, when he was marched to the Valley Forge under the command of Capt Carohill Minnis [sic: Callohill Minnis] and there after a short time enter'd the company commanded by Capt Tarlton Paine [sic: Tarleton Payne] under the command of Colo Richard Parker of the first Virginia Regiment on continental establishment. That he continued to serve in said corps until the 4th day of February 1779 when he was discharged from service at Middlebrook in the state of New Jersey. That he was in the battle of of Monmouth [28 June 1778] and Red Bank Fort [Fort Mercer NJ, 22 Oct 1777] and that he is in reduced circumstances and stands in need of the assistance of his country for support and that he has no other evidence now in his power of his said services—

And in pursuance of the act of 1st May 1820 I do solemnly swear that I was a resident citizen of the U States on the 18th of March 1818, and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or in any other manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with [intent] there by so 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 services of the u States during the revolutionary War passed the 18th of March 1818 and that I have not nor has any one 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 viz

1 Horse about 18 years old 5 shoats, 2 Sows, 1 Axe, 3 hoes, 1 Pot, 1 Old Dutch oven, 2 Pails for Water 20 lead[?] Trays & plates & Dishes

That he is by profession a farmer but is only able to cultivate a small field and cannot raise corn enough to serve him

That his family consists of his wife about fifty eight years of age and is sickly, and a grand child of one years old

Washington March 6th 1820

Dr. Sir [J. L. Edwards of the Pension Office]:

The application of Jas. Harris for a pension was rejected by you on the ground that the rolls of the army proved that he did not serve nine months. I now enclose you two certificates, one of the orderly Sergeant of Minnis's company and the other from a gentleman of the first respectability, which go to prove the period of service to have been 12 months. This testimony has lately been forwarded to me and reposing every confidence in the correctness of the Decision you may pronounce upon it. I have the honor to subscribe myself

Yr Most Obt Serv't/ John Tyler

NOTE: The 1820 and 1830 federal censuses for Charles City County show James Harris, Sr as head of a household of free persons of color.