

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of William Harris S5441

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 28 March 2012.

[Capitalization partly corrected]

State of Tennessee } Aug Term 1848 of the  
Sumner County } County Court of said County

On this the 7<sup>th</sup> of Aug 1848 personally appeared in open Court before the County Court of Sumner County now siting, William Harris a resident of the above County and State aged Eighty eight years who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefits of an act Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832 that entered the service of the United States and served as herein stated he enlisted in Franklin County North Carolina [formed from Bute County in 1779] in the year Seventeen hundred and seventysix under Capt. Martin whose given name is not recollected Col John Hogan commanded the Regiment He enlisted as a private for 3 years which time he served out he was in the Battle of Monmouth [28 June 1778] and was wounded slightly in the left knee in that action marks of which wound are now to be seen – he was near the Battle of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777] but was not actively engaged in that battle he was discharge in the year 1779 at Trenton New Jersey He has no discharge now in his possession he continued to reside in North Carolina for several years after the war I think nearly Twenty years after which I moved to Florida Burk County and lived there two years and from thence to the State of Tennessee in the year 1806 and have been living in Tennessee Sumner County up to the present time. He hereby relinquishes every Claim 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 or if any only on that of the State of [blank] for proof of his services see the attached certificate from the secretary of State of North Carolina  
William hisXmark  
Harris

State of Tennessee }  
Smith County } On this the 3<sup>d</sup> day of April 1849 personally appeared in open court before the Hon William B Campbell Judge of the fourth Judicial Circuit in and for the State of Tennessee now sitting William Harris a resident of said County formerly resident of Sumner County Tennessee aged eighty nine years in october next who being first 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 of the 7th June 1832. That he enlisted in the army of the United States in the early part of the year seventeen hundred and seventy seven in Captain John Martins Company for a Tour of three years that at this time declarant lived in Franklin County North Carolina near the line of Nash county that he entered the service in said company as a private that he belonged to the fourth Regiment of the North Carolina line which regement declarant thinks was commanded by Col. John Hogen that we were marched thence through the State of Virginia to Trenton in New jersey where we joined General Washingtons Army by way of Philadelphia. that we were marched thence to Brandywine where in September seventeen hundred and seventy seven we had a battle with the enemy from thence we were marched to Menmouth Courthouse where in June seventeen hundred and seventy eight we again engaged the enemy in battle that by this time declarant had been taken from the ranks by General Washington as an attendant for the purpose of taking care of his horses. that during this battle while declarant was holding one of the horses of General Washington he was slightly wounded by being shot in the left knee that during the previous winter while stationed with General Washington at Valley forge in Pennsylvania declarant with the rest of said troops suffered much. declarant further states that he remained in said service still acting in the capacity of Ostler [sic:

hostler] for General Washington and was marched in the direction of White plains where we were stationed for some time near that place after which declarant remained in said service until his term of service had near expired. When General [Horatio] Gates was ordered to the south with his army declarant applied to General Washington to be discharged in order that he might return home to North Carolina with General Gate's army to which request General Washington consented and discharged declarant and he returned home where declarant remained until the month of august or September seventeen hundred and eighty. there was a light horse company raised in Franklin county North Carolina by Captain Samuel Jones to serve twelve months that declarant again enlisted in said company and was appointed first Lieutenant in said company. that we marched thence to Salsbury [sic: Salisbury] thence to Charlotte. that we were then under Col. Sewall. that we remained in North Carolina for something near six months when we were ordered to give up our horses and march across to South Carolina to the hanging rock thence to the High Hills of Santee where we fell in with the army under General Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] that we were marched thence to Monks Corner and thence to the Eutaw Springs [sic: Moncks Corner after Eutaw Springs] where our twelve months tour expired which was a few days before the battle of the Eutaw Springs [8 Sep 1781] but we were kept in said service until after said battle was fought in which engagement declarant was slightly wounded in his right ankle that declarant farther states that he faithfully performed said twelve months tour of service acting all the time as first Lieutenant of said company that immediately after said battle we were discharged and returned home having in his possession the muster roll of said company which he was directed to make return of to General Clinch but before declarant returned said roll it was accidentally destroyed by fire by the burning of his Fathers house shortly after his return home; declarant further states that the first tour of three years service as above mentioned he performed faithfully as above specified that he was honourably discharged by Genl Washington but which discharge he cannot now produce having lost or mislaid it many years since and that his commission as Lieutenant was burnt with the muster roll as above stated, that he knows of no one at this late day by whom he could prove his said service that he has no other documentary or record proof in support of his claim, unless it can be found in the old records at Washington city or at Rawleigh [sic: Raleigh] North Carolina but of which he now knows nothing. that for a coroboration of facts relative to his last tour of service as Lieutenant he refers to his own affidavits which he made some years ago in support of the claims of Isaac Henry and John Lane for a pension which he supposes is on file at the department [not found] they both being members of said Jones Company declarant further states that something near six months since before the county court of Sumner county Tennessee he did make and was qualified to a declaration for a pension which was drawn up he thinks by a Mr Key of said county but in which he is of opinion he omitted to specify his last tour of twelve months service as Lieutenant under Captain Jones as herein claimed being then informed that the first tour was sufficient to entitle him to a pension that he therefore makes this declaration in order to amend his first application and claims to be allowed a pension for his services as an officer as well as a private. that he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state that the reason why he makes this declaration in Smith county is that he has removed from Sumner county to Smith County where he is residing with his grandson that the reason why he has not applied for a pension previous hereto was that he was in easy circumstances and did not consider that he needed it. nor did he ever expect to apply had he not the luck to loose the most of his property and is now poor and needy and so regards declarants standing for veracity and credibility. he respectfully refers to Genl. William Hall and Elijah Boddie and Col Alfred Wynn all of Sumner county Tennessee in which declarant has lived for the last forty seven years.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year above mentioned [signed] William Harris

Interrogatories propounded.

1<sup>st</sup>. Where and in what year were you born (answer) I was born in Edgecomb [sic: Edgecombe] County North Carolina in the year seventeen hundred and sixty.

- 2<sup>d</sup>. Have you any record of your age. (answer) I have a record of my age but do not now know where it is.
- 3<sup>d</sup>. Where were you liveing when called into service where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live. (answer) When called into service I lived in the state of North Carolina. after the Revolutionary war I removed to Sumner County Tennessee where I remained forty seven years and I now live in Smith County Tennessee
- 4<sup>th</sup>. How were you called into service. was you drafted did you volunteer or were you a substitute & for whom answer. I refer you to that part of my declaration
- 5<sup>th</sup>. State the name of some of the Regular officers who were with you or the troops where you served such continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service. (answer) I refer you to the statements made in my declaration [signed] W Harris

State of Tennessee } on this the seventh day of August 1849  
 Smith County }

Personally appeared before the under signed an Acting Justice of the peace in and for said County William Harris a resident of said County aged eighty nine years or within a few months of that who on his oath makes the following amended declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress of the 7<sup>th</sup> of June 1832 that he is the identical William hoo in August 1848 made a declaration before the County Court of Sumner County claiming a pension in which he Alledged three years service as stated in said declaration and which declaration was drawn up by a Mr Kee[?] hoo informed declarant at the time that it was not necessary to alledge the service as a Lieutenant as the three years service would entitle him to a full pension but afterwards being informed that he should have Alledged his services as a lieutenant as it would entitle him to a higher grade of pension he therefore did make a second declaration in April 1849 before the Circuit Court of Smith County in which he alledges his services as a lieutenant under Capt Samuel Jones [pension application W230] that he did actually perform the services alledged in his former declaration – that his first declaration as made out by Mr Kee was not made out to coberate with any certificate which might have been procured by Mr Kee from the Secretary of North Carolina nor does affiant recollect of seein gor hearing of any such certificate at the time he made said declaration – that he has many years ago spoke of his said services to various persons that when he entered the service for twelve months under Capt Jones he done so through the persuasal of Col Ben Sewell who told affiant if he would join said company he should have the first Lieutenants place for the reason that he had been out in the regular army under Washington that he thought him best qualified. Affiant therefore joined said comapny and remained in service in North carolina about six months when we were ordered to the South on foot that we did give up our horses and marched to the South and joined General Greens army at the Hanging Rock [in SC] affiant therefore considered his company as belonging to the Continental Army as they remained under General Green twill after the battle at the Utau Springs where he was discharged as stated in his former declarations Affiant also recollects the meeting of the board of commissioners at Halifax and that they met at the house of Col Zang's[?] said commissioners settle a part of his account for his his services and recollects being present receiving from said commissioners a surtificate as a part of his pay which he let go afterwards for Continental money which proved to be worthless affiant also rec'd various small certificates not only for his services but for payments by [illegible word] made for the government whilst acting as commissary which he done a part of his time whilst a lieutenant he also recolects that on one occasion whilst under Capt Samuel Jones he purchased a hors and paid his own money for him and let one of the soldiers by the name of Michael Savage have said horse which money was refunded to him by surtificates after wards by the State of North carolina the said Savage was a member of said Company that the horse he started out on died and that affiant is of opinion that he received surtificates from the State of North carolina for the whole amount of his services as a private and as an officer that he is certain that he performed all of the services alledged in his former

declaration but to give all of the partikulars in relation to the various certificates or amounts of them he cannot not recollect but that he recollects that he was entitled to bounty land for his three years service as a private but at that time it was looked upon as not being worth but little he did not therefore apply for his warrant for some three or four years after the close of the war that when he did apply for it he was informed that the warrant had been drawn which I then informed them had been done by forged papers that I had not nor did not give any bodd any authority to receive my land warrant affiant thinks the warrant was deliverd to one John Bands shortly after this time there was various charges pressed against said bands and Mr Berry & a Mr Glasgow and proberably several others for having forged powers of attorney and drawd various warrants of the soldiers and for which they were indited and affiant having lost his warrant in this way was summonsed as a witness for the State against them that he attended as a witness against them two courts propably as much as a week at a time that before the suit was determined the said bands and Berry and proberably others of the said company runaway and left the Country affiant therefor was deprived of his land warrant which he never recoverd but the papers uppon which it was isude was forged affiant further states that the reason why he did not apply for his pension hertofore or imediately after the Act of 32 is given in my declaration of April 1849 that he was then a man of property and was able to live without it and in fact had too much pride as he then thought to ask for a pension

Wm hisXmark Harris

State of Tennessee }  
 Smith County } On this 8<sup>th</sup> day of August 1849 personally appeared before the undersigned an acting Justice of the peace in and for said County Wm Harris Jr a resident of said County aged twenty six years and makes oath in due form of Law that he is well acquainted with William Harris who is his grand father and who in August 1848 made a declaration for a pension in Sumner County Tennessee affiant has been living either with or in the immediate neighborhood of his grand father all his life, and from affiants earlies recollection he has heard the said Wm Harris speak repeatedly of his having been in the service of the United States under General Washington also speak of his Captain name being Martin and also repeatedly have heard him speak of being a Lieutenant under Captain Samuel Jones that he was always called Captain Rid Eyed [sic: Red Eyed] Sam Jones has heard him frequently tell his neighbors when in conversation about the Revolutionary war that he served under Capt Jones as an officer that he was at the battle of the Eutaw Spring that he was wounded in his knee and upwards of twenty years ago affiant distinctly recollects seeing him show where he was wounded in the knee which he allways heard the old man say was done while he was under Genl. Washington affiant further states that the conversation and circumstances as above given and which he has frequently heard the said Wm Harris detail is not only of recent date but that he has heard him speak and give repeated accounts of His services in said revolutionary war from his earlies recollection he has also heard him repeatedly speak of having been in titled to a Land Warrant for his services but that he was by some means dissentitled out of it in some way but affiant cannot now recollect the particulars as to how or by whom, affiant further states that he has repeatedly heard his grand father asked the reason why he did not apply for a pension and his reply was that his sons was so proud that they was oppose to his asking for it that he was able to live without and untill a few years ago he has always been in easy circumstances therefore seemed to care but little about a pension affiant of course could know nothing of his own knowledge of any of his grand father's services but is certain he has known the conversation as above given Sworn to and subs before me the date above given

[signed] William Harris

State of Tennessee }  
 Robertson County } On this 7<sup>th</sup> day of November 1850 personally appeard before the undersigned a Justice of the peace in and for said County Wiley [sic] Jones a resident of said County aged seventy nine years and makes oath in due form of law that he is a nephew of old Capt Samuel Jones who was a

Captain in the Revolutionary war from Franklin County North Carolina that his said uncle was called Red Eyed Sam Jones that he knew him well from his earliest recollection as affiant's father & his uncle Samuel Jones lived with in one half mile of each other in said Franklin County North Carolina and while his uncle was out in the Service in the Revolutionary war tho affiant was very young he recollects that his father took charge of his uncle Samuel Jones business and farm and attended to it until the close of the said Revolutionary War when his uncle Samuel returned home from the Service affiant's father then lived with in a few miles of Lewisburg [sic: Louisburg] in said Franklin County affiant further states that he was also well acquainted with William Harris who then lived in said county or near the county line between Franklin & Nash Counties some 12 miles from Lewisburg and affiant distinctly recollects that when his uncle Samuel Jones returned home from the Service on a visit to see his relations in Franklin County in the year 1779 seventeen hundred & seventy nine he raised a light Horse Company of Volunteers who enlisted for twelve months This Company affiant is certain was raised in the early part of the year seventeen hundred & eighty and affiant is also certain that the said William Harris was a Lieutenant in said Company but whether he was first or 2<sup>d</sup> Lieutenant affiant does not now recollect and while said Company was raising & after it was raised affiant recollects that they met at Colonel Benjamin Sewells who live some 4 miles from Lewisburg and after said company was raised and met at Sewells they marched to Lewisburg and there got their Horses Shod by a black smith by the name of Benjamin Williams Said company then marched off under the command of the said Colonel Benjamin Sewell – after this affiant seen nothing more of said Company until the next year 1781 seventeen hundred & eighty one when affiant distinctly recollects when the news reached that Lieutenant William Harris had returned home having left affiant's uncle the said captain Samuel Jones in the service in South Carolina and in a few days affiant's father went to Lewisburg to see said Harris and to here from his brother the said Capt Samuel Jones who as affiant has above stated did not return home with said company but was left in the service where he remained until the close of the war affiant then understood and distinctly recollects that when his father returned from Lewisburg he was telling the family and giving the various details of the Service as he had learnt from the said William Harris and more particularly affiant recollects in relation to the battle that was fought at the Ewtaw Springs in South Carolina which was fought just before said Harris left the Service and some short time after Lieutenant Harris returned home affiant recollects hearing that said Wm Harris father's house got burnt and affiant then understood and frequently afterwards heard Harris speak of and tell that he had got his musterroll [sic: muster roll] and commission &c burnt when his father's House was burnt that he had been directed by his Captain affiant's uncle to return the musterroll to General Clinch but which he could not then do – the above facts affiant distinctly recollects tho he was young say ten years or between ten & eleven years of age and shortly after or about this time affiant was placed by his father under the above mentioned Benjamin Williams to learn the black smith's trade and after the close of the revolutionary war when affiant's uncle returned home he recollects well of hearing his uncle the said Capt Samuel Jones tell of various events which took place while he was in the Service and more particularly in relation to the company which was raised as above spoken of from Franklin County and he always spoke in the highest terms of Lieutenant Harris said that he was as brave an officer as any man and in which affiant fully concurs from the fact that shortly after the said Lieutenant Wm Harris returned home he killed as affiant understood a tory who in his absence in the Service had mistreated Harris mother & had cut her across the hear with a sword affiant was not knowing to this but recollects well of hearing of the circumstance and is satisfied that said Harris was as brave a man as any having understood that he had previous to 1779 served tour in the regular army affiant further states that s<sup>d</sup> Harris some time after the close of the war removed from Franklin county to Sumner County Tennessee and afterward affiant removed from said Franklin County to Wilson County Tennessee which was adjoining to Sumner County he again met with the said William Harris and affiant is certain that he is the identical William Harris who was Lieutenant in said Capt Samuel Jones' Company as above mentioned that the said Harris is still living affiant removed to Wilson County Tennessee in the year 1826 and from

thare he came to this Robertson County Tennessee and is residing among his children first with one then with the other affiant would further state that as regard the service of the said Wm Harris as a private in the regular army as above interlined affiant cannot give the particulars of said service further than he has repeatedly heard the said Harris before he left north Carolina which was upwards of forty years ago speake of and tell that he served a tour of service in the regular army under General Washington in the early parte of the revolutionay and that he was marched to the North and was takin as a hoister [sic: hostler] or waiter of Genl Washington but the length of this tour affiant dose not recolect nor dose he recolect whether the said Harris ever told him how long he served this tour

Sworn to and subscribed before me the date above written [signed] Willie Jones

T. H. Gardner JP

[On 1 Nov 1850 Jesse Hunt, 81, of Wilson County gave a statement repeating many of these details and adding that his father "spent a goodeal of his time with his family at Colonel Sewels House in order to keep out of the way of the tories and about this time [1780] or afterwards affiant recolects that the noted Tory Captain Beard was taken by the Whigs & was Hanged."]

State of Tennessee }

Wilson County }

On this 24<sup>th</sup> day of April AD 1855 personally appeared before me an acting Justice of the Peace within and for the County and State aforesaid William Harris aged about 98 years, a resident of said County and State a Revolutionary Soldier who being duly sworn according to law, declares that he is the identical William Harris who was a Lieut in Capt Saml Jones Company of Cavalry in the Regiment commanded by Col Benjamin Seawell in the war with Great Britton declared by the United States on the 4th day of July 1776. That he volunteered in Franklin County in the State of North Carolina about the year 1781 or 1782 and continued in actual service in said war about 12 months. He served several other Campaigns was in the Battle at York-town, Utah Springs [sic: Eutaw Springs SC, 8 Sep 1781], Guilford Courthouse [15 March 1781] & others. He makes this declaration for the purpose of obtaining the bounty land to which he may be entitled under the Act approved March 3, 1855. He also declares that he has not received a warrant for bounty land under this or any other act of Congress nor made any other application therefore. He applied for and obtained a pension, in which the proof of his services is on file in the pension office he supposes. His pension certificate was granted under the law of the United States of the 7th June 1832 was issued on the 30th day of January 1851 by Alex'r H H Stuart Secretary of the Interior and is recorded in the Pension office in book E2 vol 7, page 92, to which testimony he refers as the only record testimony that he can now make William hisXmark Harris

[Certified by William Harris, Jr.]