

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of William Hartless: S5498

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia Amherst County to wit,

On this 17th day of September 1832 personally appeared in open Court, before the Justices of the County Court of Amherst now sitting William Hartless a resident of the County of Amherst in the State of Virginia aged 78 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 June the 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States as a militia man in the State of Virginia sometime in the year 1779 and marched under Capt Philip Thurmond to the Barracks in Albemarle County where he served a tour of duty of one month. he was then discharged and returned home and in the year 1781 he went as a drafted Militia Man under the command of Captain James Dillard from Amherst County to North Carolina where he joined Genl Greens [sic: Nathanael Greene's] Army after the battle at Guilford [Guilford Courthouse, 15 Mar 1781] and remained in the Army for three months, at the end of which he was discharged and again returned home, and in the same year he marched from the County of Amherst a drafted Militia Man under the command of Capt Christian to little York and was there engaged in the capture of Cornwallis's Army [19 Oct 1781]. After the surrender of the British Army he was sent on with the Prisoners to Winchester in Virginia and was there discharged and returned home. in this last service he was engaged three months and during the War he performed the three tours above mentioned amounting in all to seven months. that he resided in the County of Amherst when he first joined the Army and has lived there ever since, and that in every instance he went as a drafted Militia Man. that the only engagement in which he was engaged was that of the seige of York. that at the Barracks in Albemarle he recollects Colo [Francis] Taylor and Capt. Thurmond. In North Carolina he recollects Gen'l Green Colo [Charles] Lynch and Colo [William] Washington, and at the seige of York he recollects Gen'l. Washington , Gen'l Lafayette, Gen'l Wane [sic: Anthony Wayne] and Capt. Steward; that he has no documentary evidences proving his service, and exhibits with his declaration the best testimonials he can procure being the certificates of a few soldiers with whom he served. 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.

William hisXmark Hartless

And the Court proceeded to propound the several interrogatories prescribed by the War department, the answers to which are given and hereto attached.

To the first question- He says that he was born in the County of Caroline in the State Va and moved to the County of Amherst when he was about 23 years and has lived there ever since, he was born in the year 1754-

To the 2^d Question- He says he has no record of his age.

To the 3rd Quest. He answers that he lived in the County of Amherst when called into the service has lived there ever since

To the 4th Quest- That he was in each case, he was a drafted Militia man.

To the 5th Quest. He answers that he recollects seeing Colo Taylor at the Barracks in Albemarle County and Capt Thurmond under whom he served. In North Carolina he saw Gen'l Green, Colo. Washington and Colo Lynch and at the seige of York he saw Gen'l Washington Gen'l Lafayette Gen'l Wane and Capt Stewart. he is not at this time able to recall to his mind any other officers.

To the 6th Quest. He answers that he received written discharges give by his Capt, but those discharges are lost.

To the 7th Quest. He answers and refers to William Cashwell, Henry Cashwell, Philip Smith and Benjamin Higginbotham.

NOTE: The 1820 federal census for Amherst County VA lists Will Hartless as a "Free Colored Person."