

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of William Harris S6956

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 8 Sep 2011.

At a Court of Monthly Session held for Nelson County at the Courthouse on the 22nd day of October 1832.

State of Virginia }
County of Nelson } SS.

On this 22nd day of October in the year 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the Court of Nelson County now sitting William Harris a resident of the County of Nelson in the State of Virginia, aged eighty four 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 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. He entered the service some time in the month of September in the year as well as he recollects 1776 and served four months as a volunteer under the command of Col'n'l Joseph Cabell, Captain Nicholas Cabell [pension application R1577] and Lieutenant Nathan Crawford he was first marched to Richmond and from thence to Williamsburg where he was discharged. he was not in any battle during that tour. That he was drafted some time in the month of April 1777 and served a tour of three months under the command of a Colon'l Lindsey [sic: Reuben Lindsay], Captain Christian [possibly John Christian] and Lieutenant James Higginbotham, was stationed at the Mobbin Hills [sic: Malvern Hill 15 mi SE of Richmond] where he was discharged, was in no battle during that tour. He was again drafted some time in the year 1780 and served a tour of three months under the command of a Col'n'l Richerson [sic: Holt Richardson], Captain James Pamplin, Lieutenant Joseph Staples and Ensign Thomas Smith he was stationed near the same Morbin Hills and was there discharged. he was drafted a third time and served a fourth tour of three months under the command of Capt. John Loving and Lieutenant Abraham Seay in the year 1781 and was discharged at Yorktown shortly after the seige. he was present at the siege, but the Corpse to which he was attached was not actually engaged. he received regular and honorable discharges at the end of each tower, but has lost them. he resided during the time aforesaid in the then County of Amherst, now Nelson, where he has ever since and still resides. he marched direct from the said County to Richmond during each tour and from thence to the place where he was discharged. he recollects the number of only one regiment to which he was attached and that was the second Regiment of Virginia Militia. He has no particular acquaintance with any of the Officers of the regular army, but frequently saw Generals Washington, Lafayette, [Anthony] Wayne and [Daniel] Morgan. he saw Lord Cornwallis surrender his sword after the surrender of Yorktown [sic: see endnote]. That he has no documentary evidence and knows of no person who can testify to the whole service herein stated, but that a certain Joseph Matthews [S7179] can testify to his services of one tour.

He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name in not on the pension roll of the agency of any State. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

William Harris

The following Interrogatories were propounded by the Court to the said William Harris the applicant to which the answers thereto annexed were given.

1 Where and in what year were you born?

Answer. I was born in the County of Goochland in Virginia on the 13th day of July 1748.

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

Answer. I have an old Bible which is at home

3 Where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the revolutionary

war, and where do you now live?

Answer. I lived in the County of Amherst which is now the County of Nelson and have lived there ever since.

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

Answer. The first tour I volunteered. the three last I was drafted.

5 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 service?

Answer. General Washington, General Lafayette, General Morgan and General Wayne were in command of the troops where I served. I have no recollection of the number of any regiment except the 2nd Regiment of Virginia Militia. There are no particular circumstances that I recollect attending my service except my being within hearing of the firing when General Wayne made an unsuccessful attack upon the British army near James River, with great disparity of force.

6 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 received a discharge at the end of each tour, first from Captain Nicholas Cabell 2d from Captain Christian. 3d from Captain James Pamplin & 4th from Captain John Loving all of which I have lost.

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

Answer. William Allen & Joseph Matthews and many others.

State of Virginia & }

County of Nelson } towit:

On this the fourth day of October one thousand eight hundred & thirty two Nathan Crawford personally appeared before me James Woods Jr a Justice of the Peace for the aforesaid County and after being first duly sworn sayes that himself and William Harris marched together from the County of Amherst in the State of Virginia in the time of the revolutionary war and went below Richmond to the Town of Williamsburg where they served a short tower of duty as volunteers two companies of Militia having been regularly ordered out from the said County of Amherst the place which companies we filled and farther this affiant saith not. Sworn and subscribed to the day and year above affixed.

Nathan Crawford

NOTE: Cornwallis, being indisposed, was not present at the surrender at Yorktown on 19 Oct 1781. He delegated the task to his second-in-command, Gen. Charles O'Hara.