

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Fieldman Harris S8668

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 15 Aug 2014.

State of North Carolina } SS
Guilford County }

On this 19th day of November 1832 personally appeared in open Court before William Akers Benjamin Ross & Wm Perman – Justices composing the Court of pleas and quarter sessions for the said County of Guilford, now sitting, Fieldman Harris a resident of the County and State afore said aged about seventy three 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 was born and raised in the County of Amelia, State of Virginia in which County he generally resided until he was about 35 years of age. that he served as a Soldier in the revolutionary war, as hereinafter stated, but cannot ascertain precisely the different dates when he entered & left the service, having lost or mislaid his sundry discharges. But states that while a resident of the afore said County of Amelia in the State of Virginia, he entered the service of the United States the first time, as a Volunteer and served under the following named officers, Capt Richard Eggleston, Lie't Robert Winfrey, Gen. Robert Lawson, Adj. Burrell Jackson [Burwell Jackson]. The company to which he belonged rendezvoused at Genito Bridge in Amelia County under the above named Adjutant, Capt, and Lieutenant and that they marched from there to the Butterwood Springs in Dinwiddie County and joined the companies, there under the above named Gen. Lawson. From thence they marched to the Long Ordinary about 2 miles distant from Petersburg, and were often exercised in sham Battles and otherwise trained; at which place a term of two months service expired. That he was discharged at the last mentioned place by the above named Capt. Eggleston & returned home That he entered the service a second time as a Volunteer under Capt. Pleasant Roberts for the purpose of pressing [sic: impressing, i.e. requisitioning] and fattening horses for the use of the Cavalry commanded at that time by Col. White [Anthony Walton White, pension application W6477]. That the company to which he belonged rendezvoused first at Mr. James Henderson's a place then in Amelia, but he believes, is now within the limits of the County of Nottoway. That they continued to press Horses in the vicinity and feed them at the said Henderson's for two weeks, and then moved to Major Thomas Wilson's in the afore said County of Amelia; at which place he continued in like service as afore said two weeks, and then moved to Mr. Peter Thompson's at which place he continued in service as afore said two weeks. From there they moved to Joseph Ozburn's at which place he continued in like service two weeks & then moved to Branch Tanners & continued as afore said two weeks, at which place a draft took place in the company in order to obtain men to carry on the Horses to Col. White that there were a sufficient number obtained for the purpose, and the rest discharged. That he was one of that number drafted to carry the Horses to the said Col. White but was taken very sick before he reached the army under the Colonel. – That he was drafted and entered the service a third time under Capt. Eddy Booker [Edmund Booker] & Lieut. Charles Knight and was marched to Goodes Bridge on Appomattox River [sic: on Appomattox River about 20 miles upstream from Petersburg] in the said County of Amelia and joined several other companies, and marched from there under the last mentioned officers and Major Phillip Jones [Philip Jones] and Col. [Abraham] Green to Chesterfield Courthouse. And from thence to Richmond and joined the troops under the Marquis De LaFayette at which place the above named Major Jones and Col. Green were discharged, and Col. Merriweather [probably Thomas Meriwether] and Major [Thomas] Long took the command of the regiment to which he belonged. The last mentioned officers he believes were of the regulars. That from this time to the expiration of this term of service the army which he was in was extremely Harrassed by various movements under almost a constant expectation of an engagement with the enemy and once formed the line of battle on Shoco hill [sic: Shockoe Hill in Richmond] but no engagement took place. That he was with the army under De LaFayette when the British burnt Gloucester and also when they

were in possession of of Petersburg, the place was cannonaded from the opposite side of the river by the Americans, he distinctly recollects that it was reported in the American army that a British General by the name of Philips was killed [see endnote], while lying on a bed in the house of a Mrs. Bowling and that the command devolved on the noted traitor Benedict Arnold, who wrote to the Marquis to apprise him of the circumstance or as commander in the British army in place of said Philips, that the Marquis in his reply stated that he knew of no British officer by the name of Arnold and that he could not or would not recognize him (Arnold) otherwise than as a noted Traitor or an American Tory. That he was also in the service when the enemy burnt Carey's Mill and that during the last 6 or 7 weeks of this term of service he suffered great privation, the American army being in almost continual motion; recollects of crossing the river twice while the Tobacco in Richmond was burning, and crossing at Carey's Mill twice before the wheat was consumed. the infantry was one day attacked by the enemy, and the line of battle formed in his regiment but was not brought into action; He recollects to see a man pass their lines who was severely wounded in the hand or arm. That he was in the service when Col. Edmonds [Elias Edmonds's] regiment deserted him to a man & left him standing alone which took place under the following circumstances [early June 1781]. The American army was marching in the night in time of a severe storm of rain, Col. Edmonds regiment in front, the artillery and baggage waggons next and the regiment he was in next. The regiment was ordered to halt but the Soldiers knew not the cause, but finally ascertained that Col. Edmonds regiment in front had a general panic fled and left him alone, that it was reported among the soldiers that the cause of their desertion was the confused noise among the baggage waggons which took place in time of the storm which induced them to believe that an attack was made on the rear by a superior force of the british army [see endnote], but the army was not motionless long, but moved forward notwithstanding a most tremendous storm and crossed a creek about breast deep a little before day halted and were ordered to make fires, dry, and clean their arms, ready to be examined at day break. The army was put in motion about sun rise but after foring [forming?], before they marched, the regiment that had fled the preceeding night was brought through, exposed to all the railery that the soldiers pleased to bestow which they received in liberal strains many of them being without their hats having in the general panic the preceding night threw away their knapsacks & arms, 50 stands of which was picked up and brought forward by the regulars. That his term of service under this engagement which was three months expired some time before he received his discharge and that he continued in the service untill the expected relief came in and was then discharged but how long he continued after the expiration of three months does not recollect. That while in the last mentioned 3 months service, he knew General Mullenburg [sic: Peter Muhlenberg], Barron Steuben [sic: Baron von Steuben], and Major Clammond a Frenchman [probably Christian Charles De Klauman, a Dane]. That the Magazine being removed about this time from point of fork [sic: Point of Fork near present Columbia VA] to Col. Massey's[?] he saw it blow up on his return home and narrowly escaped being taken prisoner having to conceal himself several days without sustenance. – That shortly after his return home he enlisted as a private in what was then called the state Legend [sic: Legion] and went into service under the following named officers. Capt. Peter Randal [sic: Peter Randolph], Lieu. Richard Haze [Richard Hayes], Col. Mead [sic: Everett Meade] and Adj. Richardson Booker, marched to Richmond and continued in service six weeks and returned home, and after a short stay was again called out under the last mentioned officers and after various marches and movements, was at the expiration of 5 weeks discharged for that time at Goodes Bridge. Was shortly afterwards notified to be ready at a minutes warning to march against Cornwallis at Yorktown but was never called on. That he has no documentary evidence of his service, and that he knows of no person whose evidence he can procure who can testify to his services having resided (as above stated) for several years in the State of North Carolina and knows not where any of his surviving companions in service now reside.– That he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever 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. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year first above written

Fieldman hisXmark Harris

NOTES:

On 13 May 1781 a cannon ball struck Bollingbrook, the home of Mrs. Mary M. Bolling, where Gen. William Phillips lay dying of typhoid. Philips did not die from the cannon ball, however. Lafayette had reluctantly agreed to Arnold's request to cease cannonading.

For another account of the nighttime panic see the pension application of Daniel Feagan R3473.