

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of William Harris S8696

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 29 March 2012.

State of Virginia

At a court held for Albemarle County the 6th day of November 1832

On this 6th day of November 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Justices of the County Court of Albemarle now sitting (the same being a court of record), William Harris aged seventy eight years on the 16th day of June last, 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 was born on the 16th of June in the year 1754 in the County of New Kent Virginia, that he has lost the family register of his birth, it having been burned with his house many years since; That he removed to the County of Albemarle forty or fifty years ago – That he entered the service during the Revolution as a common soldier in the Company commanded by Capt. Jno Peyton [John Peyton] in the County of Hanover, near the line of which he lived at the time in the County of New Kent. That he enlisted in said company of regular troops early in the Revolution, the year is not recollected, but it was about the time when a little before or a little after the invasion of Virginia and Richmond under Tarlton [sic: Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton, spring and summer of 1781] (he will not be positive which) he marched to Richmond, where there was a recruiting station and thence after being stationed there about eight or nine months, guarding the public stores He marched to the Point of Fork at Columbia in the County of Fluvanna at the junction of James and Rivanna rivers. He marched under Capt Taylor and remained at Point of Fork the balance of his tour or period of enlistment viz. three years. He is inclined to think that he enlisted after the British invaded Richmond as their forces under Tarlton and Simcoe had been at Point of Fork before he was stationed there [Lt. Col. John Simcoe, 5-6 June 1781]. He was discharged at that place by Capt. Taylor, but his discharge was burnt with his house. He has no documents or other proof of his services except the statement of William Paine to which he refers – He knows of no other witness. He recollects the names of Ensign Wm Price [William Price] under whom he served, Major Langhorne (Christian name not recollected) also Colo Jno Quarles [John Quarles].-

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 & subscribed the day & year aforesaid William his Xmark Harris

Thereupon the Court propounded to the applicant the following Interrogatories

1 Where and in what year were you born

A I was born in New Kent County State of Virginia in 1754

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

A I have none

3 Where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the Revolutionary war & where do you now live

A When called into service I lived in Hanover County Virginia shortly after the Revolution I removed to Albemarle County Virginia where I now live

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

A 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 Regts as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service

A I don't now remember more than I have stated in my declaration.

6 Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given & what has become

of it

A I received a written discharge from Capt Wm Peyton which was burned with my house.

State of Virginia, Albemarle County Sct. [1 Jun 1833]

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned, a Justice of the peace for said county & state, William Harris who being duly sworn, deposeth & saith, that according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below, and in the following grades. For the years 1780 - 1781 and 1782 – or for parts of the years 1779 -1780, 1781 and 1782, making all together a period of three years as a private in the regular service. By reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory, and the loss of his discharge as explained in his declaration heretofore made, he is unable to state with precision the month or even the year when his service commenced, or when it ended. He is confident, as is also, the witness Paine who saw his discharge, that he served faithfully for three years – and that his service begun, (he thinks) some months before the invasion of Virginia by Tarlton. He is therefore unable to say whether his service begun in the fall of 1779 or winter of 1780 – but it ended just three years after his commencement – and he recollects its commencement more from the event attended to than from his memory of the date.

He served the said period of three years as a private the whole time – and for this service he claims a pension.

As it respects the name of “Col John Quarles” he is still inclined to think he served under an officer of that name. He cannot be positive as to his rank, nor indeed is he able to rely certainly on his memory as to the name “John Quarles” – though he honestly thinks he served under an officer of that name

for which service he claims a pension

NOTE: A Treasury-Department document states that the widow of William Harris received his final pension payment up to his death on 23 Dec 1840.