

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Harrell S9557

f21VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

2/21/14

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indcipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

In Nansemond County Court 13<sup>th</sup> May 1833

Virginia, County of Nansemond Sc.

On this 13<sup>th</sup> day of May 1833, personally appeared in open Court before Josiah Riddick, Hardy Cross, Edward R Hunter, & Edwin B Sumner, the Court of Nansemond County now sitting, John Harrell a resident of Nansemond County and State aforesaid aged 71 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 7<sup>th</sup> 1832, he says that he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated: that he entered as a militia man on his own account on \_\_ day of \_\_ 1777 under Captain \_\_ and was placed under Colonel Willis Reddick and marched to Portsmouth Virginia & placed under Colonel Matthews, who placed the men under proper officers, that he remained there about fifteen days and was then Substituted by Joseph Dildy not long after two Companies of young men were wanted, and so ordered out (he John Harrell in one) Captain Robert M Riddick took charge of one, and Captain Roberts the other; he (Harrell) was under Riddick; he served that tour of six months in different places, but most of the time on Nansemond River, the British fleet then lying near Crany Island [Craney Island], a small engagement took place with some of the barges on Kings point, Nansemond River, but no damage; at the end of the six months he was discharged, and not long after he was called out for the third tour of duty and served as he thinks about six weeks this time, officers not now recollected; he was here stationed in Meads Old field called Mount Pleasant, Colonel Parker was the field officer, he was then marched to Isle of Wight County where the enemy with the Negroes and some Tories were doing some injury, in and about that section of country on the James River, we were stationed in different places and finally discharged at Black Water bridge in Isle of Wight County; some short time thereafter he was called out on a fourth tour of duty for six weeks and mustered in Meads Old Field called Mount Pleasant, under Captain Michael King, A. where the men were mostly employed in cutting down some breast works, and when discharged from there he came home, and was never more called on, he thinks he served in all from nine to twelve months, he was marched and served in the Counties as stated: that he has no documentary evidence: that he knows of no one by whom he can prove this, that he has no discharge, that he recollects to have seen General Washington & General Lafayette at Williamsburg and Portsmouth (Washington at the first place where he was serving as a substitute for one William Wright) that he was born in Nansemond County; that he has always lived in Nansemond, that the record of his age which is now at home, says that he was born the 12<sup>th</sup> of August 1761; that he has stated all he knows about the matter;

further he cannot recollect (positively) 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 aforesaid.

(Signed) John Harrell

A. omitted A. there we remained and was there discharged and not long before peace came he was again called out and sent to Portsmouth under Captain Michael King.

Amended Declaration of John Harrell  
State of Virginia County of Nansemond

I, John Harrell of the aforesaid County & State, being duly sworn according to law, doth, on my oath, make the following amended declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress, passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. – That I am now seventy-two years of age (born August 12<sup>th</sup> 1761) and by reason of the loss of memory, I cannot swear positively as to the precise length of my service during the Revolutionary War; but according to the best of my recollection, I served during that War a period not less than nine months and nine days, and for such service I claim a pension – That I performed this service as a private in the militia, under the following named officers, and, as near as I can recollect, at the periods of the war here stated. – That in the year 1777 I entered the service of the United States, and was marched down to Portsmouth, Virginia, and placed under the command of Colonel Matthews, under whom I served a tour of fifteen days – that during the same year, 1777, I again entered the service, and served a tour of six months – under the command of Captain Robert M Riddick on Nansemond River and in the County of Nansemond – in the year 1778, I again entered the service under the command of Colonel Parker and served a tour of six weeks in the counties of Isle of Wight and Nansemond, Virginia – and in the year 1781, I again entered the service under the command of Captain Michael King and served a tour of six weeks in the neighborhood of Portsmouth in the County of Norfolk, Virginia. –

That my service was performed in the field, all except the first tour of 15 days in the town of Portsmouth, Virginia – that my service was performed in the Counties of Nansemond, Norfolk, Isle of Wight and in the neighborhood of Williamsburg Virginia, and that I was not engaged in any civil pursuit during the performance of the service above stated.

Sworn to and subscribed this 11<sup>th</sup> day of November 1833

S/ John Harrell

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John Harrell". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background and is somewhat stylized and slanted.

[Amos Rawls & Robert Duke gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$30.99 per and commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 9 months and 9 days in the Virginia service.]