

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Memorial of Peter Harris¹ SC18

South Carolina Audited Account 3368A 12 pages

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/20/15 supplemented 4/7/22

[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 'indecipherable' or 'undeciphered' 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 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

To the Councils of South Carolina

The Memorial of Peter Harris Warrior of the Catawba nation, in the War of Independence,

I am one of the lingering embers of an almost extinguished race, Our Graves, will soon be our only habitations. I am one of the few stalks, that still remain in the field, where the Tempest of the revolution passed, I fought against the British for your sake, the British have disappeared, and you are free, yet from me the British took nothing, nor have I gained anything by their defeat. I pursued the deer for my subsistence, the deer are disappearing, & I must starve. God ordained me for the forest, and my ambition is the shade, but the strength of my arm decays, and my feet fail in the chase, the hand which fought for your liberty is now open for your relief – In my Youth, I bled in battle, that you might be independent, let not my heart in my old age, bleed, for the want of your Commiseration.

S/ Peter Harris, X his mark²

The Memorial of Peter Harris and Indian Warrior of the revolution

In favour of the Petition

N. Barber

¹ This memorial appears in the South Carolina Department of Archives and History: Series:108092; Reel: 0067; Frame: 00455; Record 7 of 14 records. The Memorial of Peter Harris was prepared circa October 1822 and also is indexed in the Audited Accounts 3368A, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, South Carolina

² An image of this memorial is contained in Michael C. Scoggins. *Relentless Fury: The Revolutionary War in the Southern Piedmont*, Rock Hill, SC: Culture & Heritage Museums, 2006, 42. In his book Scoggins notes:

As a reward for his military service, in 1794 the state of South Carolina gave Peter Harris a 200 acre bounty land grant on Fishing Creek in Chester County. In October 1822, only a year before his death, Harris petitioned the South Carolina government for a pension, stating that he was too old to care for himself and needed support from the state. The state legislature granted him a pension of \$60 per annum in December 1822.

State of Georgia

This is to certify, that Peter Harris Catawba Indian was Enlisted to serve as a private in the ___ Battalion of Minute-Men, raised for the Defense of this State, by Resolve of Assembly, passed the 3rd June, 1777; and that the said Peter Harris Catawba Indian was not, at the Time of his Enlistment an inhabitant of this State, nor had he resided in any part thereof for 12 months preceding his Enlistment. And further, That he was in Service at the time the said Battalion was reduced by a subsequent Resolve of March first, 1778.

Given under my hand, at Augusta this 25th day of March, 1784

S/ Sam'l Jack Col.³

[Note: Michael C. Soggins. *Relentless Fury: The Revolutionary War in the Southern Piedmont*, Rock Hill, SC: Culture & Heritage Museums, 2006, p 41

Peter Harris (1756-1823) was a Catawba Indian from the Catawba Village in the New Acquisition District, located near the modern town of Fort Mill in York County South Carolina. During the Revolution, the Catawba tribe supported the South Carolina and Georgia governments and fought against the British, Tories, and especially their old enemies, the Cherokees in northern Georgia and Western South Carolina. Peter Harris served as a private in a Battalion of Georgia Minutemen from 3 June 1777 until one March 1778. In February 1779 he enlisted in Captain Oliver Towels' company of the Third South Carolina Regiment and served for a period of one year. Harris was with the Third Regiment at the battle of Stono ferry, South Carolina, on 20 June 1779 and was wounded in the foot during that engagement. He was also present at the siege and attack on Savannah in September-October 1779. In July 1780, he joined General Sumter's Militia Brigade, along with some 35 or 40 of his fellow Catawba Indians, and served in that brigade for at least 82 days during 1780 and 1781.]

Supplement: 4/7/22 by Will Graves

[p 6 of SC AA]

State of South Carolina York District} The undersigned H. W. do hereby Certify that the bearer hereof Peter Haris [sic] a Catawba Indian, did (as farr as my recollection will Serve me) enlist under Colo. Thompson (of Belleville) [William Thomson] Sometime in early in the Revolution war, and did Serve truly and faithfully to the full end and term that he was enlisted for and did receive his States bounty as others who had enlisted in the Same Regiment & brigade.

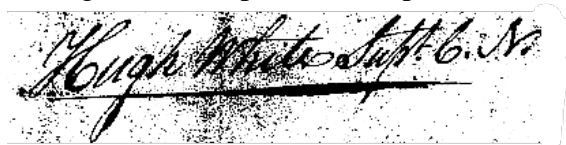
But he is now grown old and infirm & Game is So Scarce and hard to obtain, and manual labor is to [too] heavy for his ability of Body – that he begs the Patriotism of his own State to extend their Aid to an Old **WAR WORN SOLDIER**, of the

³ Georgia State service record for "Peter Harris, Catawba, Indian 25 March 1784. Telamon Cuyler collection, Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library, University of Georgia Libraries, Athens, Georgia.

Revolution. – He does not request this by way of a Charity alone but he claims it of the State of South Carolina for his former Services in behalf of that State. –

25 October 1822

S/ Hugh White Supt. C. N. [Superintendent of the Catawba Nation]



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1822

Committee on Pensions on the Petition of Peter Harris an Indian Warrior, Report in favour

[p 8]

Committee of Petitions to whom was Referred the Petition of Peter Harris, an Indian Warrior of the Catawba nation, Respectfully Report That you will Committee have taken the Same under Consideration, and Recommend to this house, that the said Peter Harris be placed on the Pension List at the Rate of Sixty Dollars per annum.
December 1822

[p 10]

To the honorable the Representatives of the State of South Carolina in Columbia now Meet.

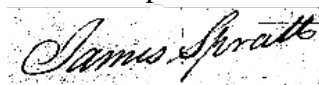
Your petitioner humbly sheweth, that Peter Harris a Catawba Indian, being an old Soldier of the revolution was by Act of the General Assembly made a pensioner in the Month of December 1822, and was entitled to the sum of Sixty Dollars Annually during the natural life of him the said Peter and was to commence on the first of March in the year of our Lord 1822. – And further your petitioner sheweth that the said Peter had billoted himself on the Charrity of your petitioner in his last sickness and death. –

Which caused your petitioner to have Fatague, trouble, & Costs, during his illness and burial, – which he the said Peter had no other means at the time of his death, but by his pension from the Generosity of his Country. –

Your petitioner prays that the Treasurer of the State (in Columbia) may be ordered to pay over to Thomas Williams Esquire a Representatives from York District all the annual pension, or as much as may be due on the Books of the Treasury to the Sixth day of December 1823, the time the said Peter's death. – And your petitioner as in duty bound to pray

Nov. 1824

S/ James Spratt



[p 12]

The Committee on Pensions to whom was referred the Petition of James Spratt, praying payment of arrears Due to Peter Harris an Indian ^{deceased.} Report that, your

Committee have had the same under Consideration, and recommend that as James Spratt is neither Executor, nor administrator of the Estate of Peter Harris his prayer be not Granted, Respectfully submitted by your Committee, December 1824

S/ Wm Pougé [?] C. of Comt.