

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Harbison W17039 Jane Harbison f59SC
Transcribed by Will Graves 7/27/10: rev'd 1/1/22

[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.]

[p 9]

State of South Carolina Chester District } On this Twenty third day of October in the year 1832 personally appeared in open court before the honorable William D. Martin one of the Judges of the Court of General Sessions and Common Pleas of said District and State, now sitting, James Harbison, a resident of Chester District and State of South Carolina, aged Seventy years who first being 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 from the year 1778 to the year 1782 as herein stated. -- I was drafted in the month of November 1778 under Captain John Nixon, who commanded a militia Company, for a tour of three months -- we marched within six miles of Charleston. Then changed our course to Purysburg on the Savannah River -- then up said River to within a few miles of Augusta, Georgia, and then returned home. Colonel John Winn was Colonel in command. In about seventeen days after my return home Captain Nixon's company volunteered their services, under our Colonel John Winn. I was one of the number -- we marched towards Augusta and encamped about five weeks on this side of the River, opposite to Augusta -- then crossed over the River and marched towards Briar Creek then down the River and joined General Lincoln's [Benjamin Lincoln's] Army -- we then recrossed Savannah River into South Carolina and marched to Bacon's Bridge -- from thence to Stono River -- at this place our company left General Lincoln's Army and returned home about the 7 of June 1779. In the early part of July 1780 I volunteered under Captain McClure [John McClure] (our Company was attached to Colonel or General Sumter's [Thomas Sumter's] command) and was at the battle of Rocky Mount,¹ in the month of July -- we were unsuccessful but in a few days afterwards we made a successful attack on the British ^{and Tories} at the Hanging Rock² -- a short time after the Battle at the Hanging Rock General Sumter was defeated at his encampment on Fishing Creek³ -- about this time I was with a scouting party, and near Camden, at Casey's old fields we captured thirty-two wagons laden with provisions and ninety six Highlanders. In the month of May or June 1781 I volunteered my services under Captain Adams [Samuel Adams] and Colonel Lacy [sic, Edward Lacey] -- our company joined the General Green's [sic, Nathanael Greene's] Army on its march to Orangeburg.

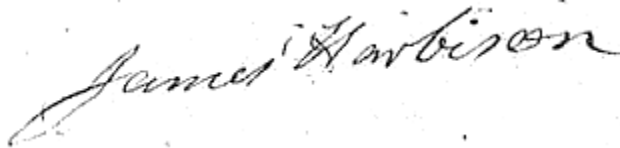
¹ July 30, 1780 https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_rocky_mount.html

² August 6, 1780 https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_hanging_rock.html

³ August 18, 1780 https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_fishing_creek.html

There General Greene reconnoitered the place and then marched a part of the forces to the High Hills of Santee -- our company with other Companies marched from Orangeburg to Biggin's Church [Biggin Church].⁴ I was with a detachment at the destroying a bridge near the church. The enemy retreated from the church in the night time -- we pursued them and a skirmish ensued at Quinby's Bridge,⁵ we captured a number of prisoners belonging to the 19th Irish Regiment -- we then pursued the main body of the enemy to Captain Shubrick's Plantation⁶ -- where we engaged the enemy -- the battle lasted about forty six minutes -- we retreated back -- leaving the enemy in possession of the field -- and crossed at Nelson's ferry and came home. In the month of December 1781 I volunteered under Captain Samuel Adams, Colonel Lacey and General Sumter we marched to Orangeburg and there remained stationed three months -- about this time General Sumter gave the command of the forces to General Henderson [William Henderson] and our company returned home in the month of March 1782. My terms of service altogether exceeded two years, as a volunteer and in the militia and I now reside in the same neighborhood and on the same plantation than I resided on at the period of the revolution. Deponent further says he never received a written discharge -- and hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State or territory except the State of South Carolina from which he receives a state pension of Sixty dollars per annum.

S/ James Harbison



Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open Court October 23rd 1832
S/ J. Rosborough

[p 11]

State of South Carolina Chester District: I., George Gill⁷ aged Seventy one years do hereby certify that I was personally acquainted with the above named James Harbison in the time of the revolutionary war -- and belief he performed the services as set forth in his narrative stated on this sheet of paper.

S/ G. Gill



[James B. Stafford, a clergyman, and George Gill gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 13]

State of South Carolina Chester District: Interrogatories administered to James Harbison by the court

⁴ July 16, 1781 https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_biggin_creek_bridge.html

⁵ July 17, 1781 https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_quinbys_bridge.html See also <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/810717a.htm>

⁶ https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_shubricks_plantation.html

⁷ [George Gill S21229](#)

1st Where and in what year were you born?

Answer -- I was born in the County of Antrim, Ireland in the year 1762 and arrived at Charleston on the 24 December 1768 and immediately came to this district and now reside where I first settled with my father.

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

Answer. The only information I have of my age is derived from my parents verbally.

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Answer. I was living in Chester District when I was first drafted into the service and have continued to reside here on the same plantation ever since.

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

Answer. I was drafted; the first tour I took, under Captain Nixon, -- I volunteered, my second tour, under Captain Nixon, also: my third tour was as a volunteer under Captain McClure. My fourth tour under the same Captain my fifth tour under Captain Adams, as a volunteer, and my sixth tour, under the last mentioned Captain, also as a volunteer.

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer. I remember the names of General Lincoln, General Butler [John Butler of North Carolina], Count Pulaski -- Captain Wade Hampton recruited out of Captain Nixon's Company -- also General Greene was a Continental officer, as also General Morgan [Daniel Morgan], Colonels Washington [William Washington], Lee [Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee] and Laurens [John Laurens] -- General Wayne [Anthony Wayne] was also in this State during the middle or latter period of the Revolution Colonel Moultrie [William Moultrie] commanded the first Regiment of South Carolina Regular; and I refer to my narrative for the general circumstances of my service.

6th 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 never received a written discharge -- it was usually to discharged by companies --

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

Answer. Reverend James B. Stafford Colonel George Gill, John McCreary, Esquire, Joseph Gaston, Esquire and all my neighbors

Sworn in open court October 23rd 1832

S/ J. Rosborough, CCCS

S/ James Harbison

[p 15]

State of South Carolina Chester District: Amended declaration of James Harbison

1 = In the month of November 23rd day 1778 I was drafted under Captain John Nixon for three months -- which term I served to the end 3 months

2 = On the 10th of March 1779 I volunteered under Captain John Nixon and done duty in his company from that time to the seventh of June 1779 3 months

3 = On the first day of July 1780 I volunteered under Captain John McClure and done duty in his

company, under his command, until the first day of September 1780
4 = On the 20th May 1781 I volunteered under Captain Adams and done duty in his company under his command until the 15th of December 1781 when I returned home; and on the 20th of December 1781 I again started back to the camp, at Orangeburg, where I arrived on the 23rd December and remained there until the 20th March 1782

3 months
6 months and 25 days
3 months
9 months & 25 days
9
18 months & 25 days

total time of the regular service
besides scouting about home

South Carolina Chester District: James Harbison (a private soldier of the revolution) so that the above amended declaration is true according to the belief and recollection of this deponent who is aged and infirm.

Sworn to & signed July 17th 1833 before me

S/ J. Rosborough, JQ

S/ James Harbison

[p 49: On January 20th, 1851 in Chester District South Carolina David Jamison, a justice of the peace for said County made an affidavit in which he stated that he presided at the marriage of James Harbison to Jane Jamison in December 1823 and that Robert Jamison and Mrs. Isabella Pedan were present and witnessed the marriage. He states that James Harbison died in November 1835. His relationship, if any, to the widow is not stated.]

[p 8: On March 26, 1851 in Perry County Illinois, Jane Harbison, 43, filed for a Widow's pension stating that she is the widow of James Harbison; that she married him in Chester County South Carolina 25th of December 1823; that they were married by one David Jamison, a Magistrate in and for said district; that her name prior to her marriage was Jane Jamison; that her husband died in Chester District on the third day of November 1835 and that she remains his widow. She states that she knows of no public record of her marriage and that the Bible containing a private family record of it was sold after the death of her husband by his administrator and she does not know in whose hands the same now is.


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[p 18: On April 18, 1853 in Perry County Illinois, Jane Harbison, 45, filed for a widow's pension under the 1853 act stating that she is the widow of James Harbison, a pensioner of the United States for his service in the revolution; that she married him in Chester District South Carolina December 25, 1823; that they were married by one David Jamison a Magistrate for said district; that her name prior to her marriage was Jane Jamison; that her husband died in Chester District South Carolina November 3, 1835 and that she remains his widow.]

[p 5: January 24, 1877 the widow filed for her bounty land entitlement under the 1855 act. At this time she lived in Pinckneyville Perry County Illinois.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$62.78 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831 for 10

months & 25 days service as a private in the South Carolina militia.]

South Carolina Audited Accounts⁸ relating to James Harbison pp 36
Audited Account No. 3309
Transcribed by Will Graves 1/1/22

[p 2]

[No. 308 Book L]

Mr. James Harbison his account of 144 days Militia Duty Amounting to £15.17.1 ½ Stg.

[Sterling]

Ex^d. W. G. [Examined by William Galvan]

J. M^c. A. G. [approved by] John McCall, Adjutant General]

State South Carolina Dr. [Debtor] to James Harbison in Colonel Lacey's regiment

66 Days at 10S [10 shillings old SC currency] per day under Lt. Bell ⁹	£33.0.0
13 Ditto at 20S [20 shillings old SC currency] per day ditto	13.0.0
25 Ditto at 20 Ditto	25.0.0
40 ditto at 20 Captain John McClure	<u>40.0.0</u>
	<u>£111.0.0</u>
	15 – 17 – 1 ½

[p 3]

Mr. James Harbison his Account of 40 days Militia Duty in 1780

Amounting to £5.14.3 ¼ Stg [Sterling]

Ex^d. W. G. [Examined by William Galvan]

J. M^c. A. G. [approved by] John McCall, Adjutant General]

[p 4]

Received 13 October 1784 an Indent No. 308 Book I for Twenty One pounds 11.4 ¾ Sterling in full Satisfaction for the within Accounts

By virtue of an order from James Harbison

S/ Jas. Robinson

Recd. 13 Oct. 1784 an Indent No. 308 Book I for Twenty One pounds 11.4 3/4 Sterling in full Satisfaction for the within Accounts
By virtue of an order from James Harbison
Jas. Robinson

⁸ The South Carolina Audited Accounts (AAs) are now available online at <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>. To find the AA for a specific person, click on the [Just take me to the search page](#) link, then enter the person's surname first in the "Full name" box followed by a comma and the person's Christian name. The number behind the 'pp' indicates the number of pages in the file and the 'Audited Account No.' is the actual Account Number assigned by the South Carolina Archives.

⁹ John Bell of the Fairfield Regiment of militia a Lieutenant under Captain Samuel Adams and Captain Alexander Crafford of the Turkey Creek Regiment of South Carolina militia

[p 5]

Fishing Creek February 28th 1785

Gentlemen

No. 308 I

Please to Deliver to Mr. James Robison [sic] such Indent or Indents as shall appear due to me from the State of South Carolina from the United States and this shall be your Sufficient receipt for the same from your Humble Servant

S/ Jas. Harbison



To the Commissioners of the public
Treasury of South Carolina
Acknowledged before me
S/ James McClanahan, JP

[p 6]

[No.] 301 = [Book] W

Mr. James Harbison his Account of a Horse for Militia use
Amounting to £10.10 Stg
No Receipt for the delivery of said Horse
Ex^d. W. G. [Examined by William Galvan]
J. M^c. A. G. [approved by] John McCall, Adjutant General
Pass S/ EL [Edward Lightwood]

I do Hereby Impower the Bearer John Mills to Receive the Amount of My Account against the Public and this shall be a Sufficient Receipt from your Humble Servant

S/ James Harbison



To the Commissioners of the Treasury of the State of
South Carolina
S/ Andrew Hemphill, JP

[p 8]

No. 93

James Harbeson [sic] for 50 Days Duty as a Private Horseman in Captain Samuel Adams Company in 1781 – also for a Horse taken full Public Service appraised at £72.10/, the whole amounting to

[old South Carolina] Currency	<u>£122.10</u>
Stg.	£17.10

N: B: No certificate [text obliterated] of the above horse being taken full Public Service
Exd: “This Person has an account for Duty in [illegible text] to £21.11.4 ¾ Stg
in No. 11 for a horse currency £73.10/ or Stg £14.10

J. M^c. A. G. [approved by] John McCall, Adjutant General]

To be compared with his Account and No. 10/ [illegibly faint text]
NB – In No. 11 of the Auditor’s List In this Person had a demand of £10.10/for a Horse, which
was passed by us & sent to the Treasury in List MM –
As the time when the Duty was performed is not stated in this Account, We presume it may be
included in the Account No. 10 & therefore cannot allow this to I explained S/ JJ [?]

[p 22]

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James Harbison petition to be placed on the pension list

Pensions

G. B. Colvin
report ~~against~~ ^{in favor}

[p 23]

To the Honorable the Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives of the State of
South Carolina –

The Petition of James Harbison of
Chester District humbly Sheweth –

That your Petitioner was a friend of his Country and a Soldier in
the Revolutionary War, that although he was too young to enlist at the beginning of the contest:
yet at the age of Sixteen, he made his first trip of Service to Purrysburg in November 1778 of
about three months under Capt. John Nixon – Col. John Winn. In 1779 went out with the same
Officers and under General Williamson, at Augusta in Georgia and at Stono. When the British
army invaded the Country after the fall of Charleston he turned out a volunteer and joined
Captain McClure – the night after Hook’s defeat near Colonel Bratton’s, and continued with
General Sumter through all the difficult times – Was at the Battle of Rocky Mount, at the
Hanging Rock, at the taking of ^{the waggons and plunder [?]} at Casey’s [? very faint], near Camden, at the
time of Gates defeat, on Fishing Creek, On General Sumpter’s retreat, and in a few days
afterwards at Neely’s where Capt Steel was attacked by the Tories, when Messrs [? Misses?] ¹⁰
Barber and Anderson were killed, was at the taking of Friday’s Fort at Granby, at Biggin Church,
and at the Battle on the enemy’s way near Heddrell’s Point. And so continued until the Enemy
was expelled the Country. And has been occupied in a Military command and other services the
greater part of the time ever since.

That your Petitioner has now arrived at the age of Sixty Four years, and in reduced
circumstances, and has no way of Supporting himself, and a Small rising family, but by hard
labor, and has no one to assist him but one boy of about Eleven years of age. He therefore hopes
the Legislature will take his case into consideration and as some remuneration for his
Revolutionary Services and to enable him to spend the remainder of his days in Some kind of
comfort. Prays to be placed on the Pension list of the State – as many of the old Revolutionists
have been who fought voluntarily and defended their Country in the worst of times.

And Your Petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray

S/ James Harbison

James Harbison



South Carolina Chester District } Capt James Harbison appeared and made Oath, that the Statements in the foregoing Petition is Just and true with much more that might have been added &c

Sworn to this 23rd day of November 1823

Before me

S/ J. Rosborough, JQ

S/ James Harbison



[p 24]

We whose names are hereunto subscribed do hereby Certify that we are well acquainted with the Petitioner Captain James Harbison. Some of us in the time of an ever since the Revolutionary War and believe the facts stated in his Petition to be Just and true; that he is a man of good Moral Character, and deserves will of his Country and hoax the Legislature will take his case into consideration and grant him the relief that he prays for

November 1826

Jo McCreary
Torrance B. Woodburn
J Rosborough
Jno Morrel
E. Lyles
John Dunnovant

[p 27: heavily edited for spelling]

South Carolina Chester District } I do hereby Certify unto all it May Concern that I was well acquainted with James Harbison since when he was a youth and that he Joined the Army in the month of November 78 and was at Purrysburg and Remained three months Nearly on that trip and was afterwards in 79 at Augusta under General Williamson was in Georgia then at Stono and was six months lacking a few days on the two trips he also joined General Sumpter at the first opportunity and was Generally in Camp till the peace was Made I knew him to be in several Battles and other scrimmages in the latter part of the war and I know him to be a man of small property and is growing old and Not able to Make Much by hard work which was the only way he has to Make a livelihood his family is left him and he has None to work but a small son which is Not yet able to Do for himself.

Given under my hand and seal
this 6th day of August 1826

S/ John Maffet JP

S/ William McGarity,¹¹ M his mark

[p 27: heavily edited for spelling]

South Carolina Chester District } I do hereby Certify unto all whom it May Concern that I was

¹¹ [William McGarity R6713](#)

well acquainted with James Harbison Senior when he first Joined the Army which I think was in the latter part of 78 on a trip to Purrysburg and Around to Golfins [Fort Galphin] at Silver Bluff and shortly after getting home he was taken out to Augusta then into Georgia then Down to Stono and was out Nearly six months in the two trips it was also with him when he joined General Sumpter and was with him until I was made a prisoner and I will believe he remained for the Most part in Camp till the War was Ended I was with him at the Battle of Rocky Mount at the Hanging Rock at kereys old fields [Casey's Old Fields?] By Camden and at Sumpter's Defeat where I was taken prisoner. I likewise know him to be a hard working man and believe he has no other way of Earning his Bread and is Nearly left alone By his family.

Given under my hand and seal

this 6th day of August 1826

S/ John Maffet, JP

S/ John Brown Senior¹²



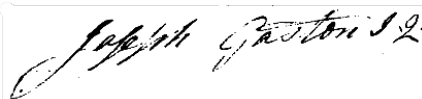
[p 29]

Chester District South Carolina

I Joseph Gaston¹³ one of the Justices of the Peace for this district do certify that I have been intimately acquainted with Capt. James Harbison ever since the time of the Revolutionary war and also during the latter part thereof when the distress of this State were at the greatest height by the enemy, and that he was then and continued to be a faithful friend to and suffering for his country. That I was with him in the battle of Hanging Rock and believe at some others and am also fully convinced that he was in the greater part of the battles with the British after that time in this State to the end of the war.

Given under my hand this 11th of November 1826

S/ Joseph Gaston, J. Q.



[p 31]

South Carolina Chester District} George Weir¹⁴ personally came before me the subscribing Justice and being duly sworn saith that he was well acquainted with Captain James Harbison in the Revolutionary war that he served with him a tour under General Sumpter was with him at the battle of fishing Creek where Sumter was surprised that this deponent was at the battle at the hanging Rock & that he believes that said Harbison was there & that he has known him since the year 1775 that he believes he was a firm friend to his country ever since he knew him & that he believes he was out a great deal in the service of his country that this deponent was not with him that he is a man of good character & is now old & poor. Sworn to before me this 25th day of November 1826

S/ John Cherry, J. Q.

S/ George Weir

¹² [John Brown S17848](#)

¹³ [Joseph Gaston W23089](#)

¹⁴ [George Weir S9528](#)

Geo. Hair

[p 33]

The Committee on pensions to whom was referred the petition of James Harbison praying to be placed on the pension list:

Respectfully Report,

That they have considered the same and recommend to this house that the prayer of the petitioner be granted and that he the said James Harbison be allowed a pension. December 1826

S/ John McComb, Chairman

[pp 34-36: Vouchers reflecting the payment of an annual pension to the veteran of \$60 by the state of South Carolina.]