

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Wooten Harris W23186

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 31 March 2012.

State of Illinois Montgomery County Set

Court of County Commissioners/ Special September term 1832

On this seventeenth day of September in the 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Commissioners thereof, now sitting, Wooten Harris a resident of Hurricane Township in the County of Montgomery and State of Illinois, aged 73 years and 6 months. 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 entered the service of the United States under the following names officers and served as hereinafter stated. towit. He entered the service in Captain Elliotts Company of Militia in Brunswick County Virginia in the year 1777, and continued in that company for six weeks in Colo. Harrisons Regiment. during this time he marched through James Town [sic: Jamestown] Smithfield to Portsmouth and was there discharged. He entered the service again under Capt. William Peterson under the same Colo and continued in that company also six weeks in the same Regt. during this tour he marched through South Key [sic: South Quay] in Suffolk, thence to Portsmouth where he was again discharged. He entered the service in the Regular Army in the year 1778 or 9 under Capt. Wm Hall [William Hall] a recruiting officer and was attached to the Company of Capt. Moore in the Regt. of Colo Davie and continued in that company and Regt for the space of eighteen months following, at which time to wit. in the Spring of 1780 he was discharged from the service. he was acquainted with Gen'l Thomas Sumpter [sic: Thomas Sumter], Colo. [William] Washington, Colo. [Henry] Lee. During this time he marched through Hillsboro [sic: Hillsborough] N. Carolina, Salisbury, Camden [SC], Eutaw Springs & Hanging rock. He again entered the service as a substitute in the fall of the year 1780 or thereabout in Capt. Thomas Thraylkill's Company in the Regt. of either Colo. Ridley or Holcomb. He does not remember who he was a substitute for in this tour of service. He was acquainted with Gen'l [Nathanael] Greene of the Regular Army during this service. He served eight months as a substitute in this service and was discharged at Pittsylvania Old Courthouse in Virginia in the spring of 1781. He served under Gen'l [Horatio] Gates and Gen'l Greene during this service and marched through part of Virginia and part of North Carolina and into South Carolina. He again entered the service in the spring of 1781 or 2 in Capt Lawrence House's Company in Colo [St. George] Tucker's Regiment under the command of Gen'l La Fayette [sic: Lafayette] or Baron Steuben. He served six weeks and was then discharged. He marched through Virginia this service. The said Wooten Harris was a resident of Brunswick County Virginia during the whole of the revolutionary war. He went out first drafted, then as a volunteer, then eighteen months as a regular then 8 months as a substitute, then six weeks as a volunteer again– He was in no battle during the whole time. He served with Colo. [Daniel] Morgan's Regiment, Colo Washington's Regiment the commander of which he was acquainted with together with Gen'l Greene, Gen'l La Fayette the Baron Steuben &c. He has no discharges or documentary evidence and knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service. He received discharges for the eighteen month service and 8 months service. But they are lost or destroyed – I hereby relinquish every claim to a pension or an annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State. (Interrogatories propounded by the Court to the said Wooten Harris) to wit
Question. Where and in what year were you born?

Answer. In Brunswick County in Virginia in the year 1759 in the month of March.

Quest. have you any record of your age and where is it?

Ans. I have none.

Quest. Where were you living when you were called into the service, where have you lived since the revolutionary war and where do you now live?

Ans. I lived in Brunswick County Virginia when I entered the service. From there I removed to the State of North Carolina about the year 1787. I lived there about thirty years, and then I removed to Tennessee where I lived ten years or upwards. From Tennessee I removed to this County to wit Montgomery County in the State of Illinois where I have lived four or five years, and where I now live –

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

Ans. I was drafted for six weeks. I volunteered for six weeks. I then enlisted for eighteen months. I was then a substitute for eight months, but for whom I do not recollect. I then served six weeks as a volunteer again–

State the names of some of the Regular Officers who were with the troops where you served, such as Continental and Militia Regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service?

Answer. I have already stated I knew Colo Morgan, Colo Washington, Gen'l Greene, Gen'l La Fayette, Baron Steuben and Colo Tucker. I recollect Morgan's Regt of Riflemen, Lee's Squadron of horse, Washington's Regt of horse, Davie's Regt of Infantry with which I served. During nearly the whole of this time of my service the Country was in great distress on account of the inroads of the British. Once Colo Tarleton penetrated within twelve miles of my residence in Virginia

Quest. Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it–

Ans. I received a discharge from Colo Davie for the 18 months tour of service and sent it by my brother in law to Virginia to try to draw my wages (after I removed to North Carolina) I do not recollect of ever seeing it again. I also received a discharge for the 8 months service from Colo Lucas: I think my wife burnt it; for the other Tours I never received any discharge.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid Wooten his Xmark Harris

State of Illinois Fayette County SS

On this 7th day of November 1843 before the Probate Justice of the peace for the County aforesaid personally appeared Frances Harris a resident of said County of Fayette aged seventy eight years, nearly, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed on the 7th of July 1838 entitled an act granting half pay and pensions to certain Widows, &c that she is the Widow of Wooten Harris who was a soldier in the Revolutionary War in the state of Virginia two years or more as a regular and in the militia for which services he was allowed a pension at the rate of \$80 per annum and was placed on the Pension List Roll of the Illinois agency. She further declares that she was married to the said Wooten Harris on the 6th day of January 1784 and that her husband the aforesaid Wooten Harris died on the 11th day of February 1840. She was not married to him previous to his leaving the service but their marriage took place previous to the first day of January seventeen hundred and ninety four (viz) at the time above stated. She has no evidence of the marriage but has a register of the births of her Children which is here exhibited by which it appears that her first son Starling was born Nov'r 21 1784 which to the best of her knowledge is in the hand writing of her Brother Benjamin Adams and was written at the time or shortly after the births of the Children there recorded Frances her Xmark Harris

[Certified by her son, William B. Harriss (as he signed). Barshaba Harris, 68, stated that she became acquainted with Wooten and Frances Harris in 1788.]

NOTE: The family record is transcribed as follows:

Starling Harriss was born November the 21th 1784

Patty Harriss was born October the 16th 1786

Elisabeth Harriss was born November the 14th 1788

Joel Harriss was born March the 3rd 1791

Frances Harriss was born June 14th 1793

Benjamin Harriss was born November the 30th 1795

Polly Harriss was born April the 11th 1803

~~November 26th William Harries was born November the 26 1798~~

[two lines struck out and illegible]

[the next three entries upside down]

~~William Harras was born in June the 11th in the year 1791~~

~~Silas Harras was born December the 15th in the year 1792~~

~~frances adams was born january [possibly february] the 28th [rest unclear]~~

~~Frances Walker was born June the 30th 1785~~

~~David[?] Walker was born August the 2nd 1787~~

William Harriss was Born August 26th 1798

Caty Harriss was Born ye 6th Day of November 1800