

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Harvey W249

Comfort Harvey

f56NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[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 3]

State of Indiana [Montgomery County]: SS: On this Eighteenth day of October in the year 1848 personally appeared before the Circuit Court of the County of Montgomery in said State Comfort Harvey a resident of Crawfordsville in the said County of Montgomery, aged eighty years, 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 July 7th 1838, entitled "An act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows" – That she is the widow of John Harvey who was a soldier of the War of the Revolution in the North Carolina line of the Continental or regular Army. That all the knowledge she has of his Services or the particulars thereof is information derived from him after she was married to him, and that he said John Harvey, has now been dead forty two years and upwards, and that her recollection is not now very distinct, owing to her advanced age and loss of memory, as to the particulars of the relation which said John Harvey gave of his Services – but from her best recollection she states that as she has understood from the said John Harvey in his lifetime, at the time the Revolutionary War broke out said John Harvey was apprentice to the tailoring business at Boydtown, Mecklenburg County, in the State of Virginia, and in the fall of 1776 he ran away from his master at Boydtown aforesaid, and enlisted as a private soldier into the Continental Army for the term of three years, but the month or day of the month when he enlisted, or the place where he enlisted, she cannot state. She is enabled to state the year and season of the year, from having heard said John Harvey in his lifetime often state, that he ran away from his master, and enlisted as before stated into the Continental Army, in the fall of the same year that the Declaration of Independence was made, and that he was then in the 18th year of his age. And she further states that she has heard the said John Harvey say that he served out his full term of three years for which he had enlisted, and could not than – for some reason which he cannot now state – get his discharge, but was compelled to and geared remain for a considerable time beyond his term of enlistment – but how long she cannot now state – and that he left the service on the New Year's day next after his term of servitude had expired, that he had been drinking and had a high on that day, and took it into his head to leave. After leaving the service as aforesaid he again enlisted and continued in the service until the close of the war, or until the active operations of the war had ceased. The last year of his service he was a Sergeant and served in that grade. Said John Harvey in his lifetime always claimed and stated that he served five years in the Continental Army of the Revolution – that he served the last year as a Sergeant and the remainder of the time as a private – but she cannot from any recollection she now has state when little where he enlisted into the Army after

his said first term of three years had expired, nor whether any portion of his Service was performed under one, or more than one engagement, nor the precise length of time he served after his first term of three years had expired – but supposes it must have been at least two years. She cannot state certainly the names of any of the officers under whom he served, but she has heard him speak of General Wayne [Anthony Wayne], Major Evans, Colonel Martin, Captain Armstrong and Captain Williams, and from his manner of speaking of the persons above named she supposes he may have served under them or some of them. Neither can she state from any recollection she now has the state line end of which her said husband John Harvey enlisted and served. She remembers after her marriage to him he lost his bounty land Certificate and went to Raleigh and procured another, and from this fact she in first and therefore has stated, and does state that said John Harvey belonged to and served in the North Carolina line. Said John Harvey, during the time she knew him had a lameness of the hip, which he always said was occasioned by being wounded at the battle of Stony Point [July 16, 1779]. She has also heard him say that he was in the battle of Brandywine [September 11, 1777]. The bounty land certificate above spoken [of] her said late husband sold some ten or twelve years after her marriage to him, when intoxicated, to one Samuel Strop for some trifling sum and she has often heard him complain that Strop had cheated him out of his land. She states that she has no documentary evidence in support of her claim and that the above are as full particulars that she is able to give from memory of the Services of said John Harvey or the circumstances connected there with. She further declares that she was married to the said John Harvey on the 18th day of March in the year 1784, and that her husband, the aforesaid John Harvey, died in the month of March in the year 1806, but she cannot state the day of the month on which he died, and she has not, and never had any written record either of said John Harvey's death, or her marriage to him. She remembers that she was married to said John Harvey on the 18th day of March, and that her birthday was on the twentieth day of January preceding when she was sixteen – that it was twenty-two years after she was married the same month that her said husband John Harvey died, and she was eighty years of age on the 20th day of January last – and from these facts rather than any particular memory as to dates, she arrives at the date, so far as respects the year when her marriage, and in the year when the death of her husband took place. She also remembers that she was married to him in less than two years after the war closed. She states that she was not married to him previous to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the first of January 1794, viz., at the time above stated. She further swears that she is now a widow and that she has never before made any application for a pension.

Sworn to and subscribed on the day and year above written before the said Montgomery Circuit Court in open Court

Attest: S/ James W Lynn, Clerk

S/ Comfort Harvey, X her mark

[p 6: On October 10, 1848, Ebenezer Jones, 76, gave testimony in White County Tennessee, that he is the younger brother of Comfort Harvey, widow of John Harvey; that his sister's maiden name prior to her marriage was Comfort Jones; that she married John Harvey in Augusta County Virginia in the month of March 1784; that the marriage took place in the home of their father Ebenezer Jones; the service was performed by a German clergyman named Hoover; that he was then 13 years of age and that his sister was in her 16th year; that his sister had 4 children by John Harvey; that at the time of his death John Harvey was a resident of Blount County Tennessee but was away in Green County Tennessee at the time he died by breaking his leg while wrestling in

1806; that John Harvey enjoyed a reputation in the neighborhood as a soldier of the revolution and at least part thereof as a Sergeant in the Continental line of the state of North Carolina.

Ebenezer Jones]

[p 10: Elizabeth Jones, 67, gave testimony in White County Tennessee that she is the wife of Ebenezer Jones; that her maiden name was Elizabeth Cast [could be Elizabeth East]; that she was a resident of Iredell County in the state of North Carolina when she married her husband Ebenezer Jones.]

[p 13: On August 28, 1849 in Forsyth County North Carolina, Jemima Harrison, 85, whose maiden name was Stewart gave testimony that she remembered and knew one John Harvey, a tailor by trade and his wife Comfort who lived in Surry County before it was divided and the part they lived then became Stokes County at the forks of the road leading from the Shallow Ford on the Yadkin River to Salem; that said Harvey kept a tavern; and that they moved West with their 4 children sometime after 1790.]

[p 17: On October 11, 1849 in Montgomery County Indiana, the widow filed a statement saying that she is currently a pensioner of the United States; that she intends to move to Jackson County Tennessee to continue to live with her daughter Mrs. Anna Andersen who has lived in Montgomery Indiana for upwards of 20 years but intends to move to Jackson County.]

[p 38]

State of North Carolina, Office of Secretary of State

I, William Hill, Secretary of State, in and for the State of North Carolina, do hereby certify, that it appears from the muster-rolls of the Continental line of this State, in the Revolutionary War, that John Harvey a Sergeant in Captain Brevard's [Alexander Brevard's] Company of the 10th Regiment, entered the service on the __day of __1781, for the term of 12 months and was transferred on the 20th of January 1782 to the Pennsylvania line.

Given under my hand this 2nd day of November 1848

S/ Wm Hill Secretary of State

State of North Carolina, Office of Secretary of State

I, William Hill, Secretary of State, in and for the State of North Carolina, do hereby certify, that it appears from the muster-rolls of the Continental line of this State, in the Revolutionary War, that John Harvey a private Soldier in Captain Williams's [Benjamin Williams'] Company of the 2nd Regiment, entered the service on the 17th day of September 1776, for the term of 3 years, deserted first January 1780 (it is evident from the dates, that he was charged with desertion after his term of service had expired)

Given under my hand this 2nd day of November 1848.

S/ Wm Hill, Secretary of State

[The widow was pensioned at the rate of \$100 per annum commencing March 4, 1836 for her husband service as a private & Sergeant in the North Carolina Continental line.]