

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

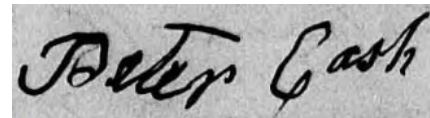
Pension Application of Sherwood (Sherrod) Harris W3984 Martha Harris NC
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 19 July 2015.

State of North Carolina } Court of Pleas & Quarter Session
County of Granville } November Term 1843

On this the first Monday [6th] of November A.D. 1843, personally appeared before the worshipful, the justices for the County of Granville, holding the Court aforesaid, Martha, or Patty Harris, a resident of North Carolina in the County of Granville aged 76 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 & pensions to certain widows": that she is the widow of Sherrod Harris who was a soldier in the regular American Army, in the war of the Revolution, commenced in 1776; that he served as a regular soldier, to the best of her knowledge & belief eight months at one time, & three months in another & was in one engagement with the enemy: She further declares that she was married to the said Sherrod Harris, in the year one thousand seven hundred & eighty seven or thereabouts and that her husband the aforesaid Sherrod died about the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred & thirty three, of what disease she cannot recollect, nor the day of his death. that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the first day of January, one thousand seven hundred & ninety four, to wit at the time above stated –
Martha herXmark Harris

State of North Carolina } November the 13 day 1843
Granville County }

Personally appeared before me E Hester one of the Justices of the peace in and for said County: Peter Cash [pension application S8142] a resident of said county aged ninty years and a pensioner who being first duly sworn according to law deposeth and sayeth that he was well acquainted with Sherrod Harris who was a soldier in war of the Revolution that he and said Harris was attached in the same Ridgment the no. he does not recollect but Wm Moore commanded as Col. [William Moore, Granville County Militia] that he a said Harris was not under the same Captain. that he beliefs said Harris serve under Captain [Richard] Harrison. further this affiant sayeth not. sworn & subscribed the day & year above written



State of N Carolina } November the 23rd 1843
Granville County }

Personally appeared before me James Beasley one of Justices of the peace in and for said County Samuel Chapell [W6671] resident of said County aged eighty seven or eight years of age and a Pensioner, who first being duly sworn according to law deposeth and sayeth that he was well acquainted with Sherod Harris in the time of the revolutionary war, and that said Sherod Harris was a Private soldier in said war, in the Regular army. He thinks he was attached to the Second regiment, and that he does not now recollect who was his officers but was inclined to think that Col. Moore did command his regiment – but is not positive as to that He farther deposeth that he thinks the said Harris served at least two years or moore in said army, farther this deponent sayeth not Sworn to and subscribed the day and year above written
Samuel hisXmark Chapell

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 of record in this Office, that a Warrant for 228 acres bounty land was issued for the services of Sherwood Harris a private in the continental line of this state in the revolutionary war, the quantity of land allowed for two and a half years services, the Warrant is No. 4794, dated 23rd Nov'r. 1797.

Given under my hand this 7th day of Dec'r. 1843/ Wm. Hill

State of N. Carolina } Nathaniel Estes this day [15 Aug 1844] came before me Abner Peace
Wake County } one of the acting Justices of the peace in and for said County. After
being duly sworn deposed and sayeth that he was well acquainted with Sherwood Harris that he was the
husband of Martha or Patty Harris that he has known them for thirty nine years he has frequently visited
their house. and has frequently heard the said Sherwood Harris speak of being in the revolution war and
he left an impression on my mind that he served almost during the war. but do not recollect what officer
he said he served under I am unable to state in my conversation with him I ask him why he had not
petition for a pension. he gave as his reason that he had frequently seen pensioners petitioning who he
thought were not entitled and that he felt rather above being. I am unable to state the date of the marriage
but I well recollect his having a son Buried at my house which I believe to be older than one of my sons
which was born in the year 1793. This the said Sherwood Harris nor his wife could neither read nor write
and was unable to keep a Register of the ages of their Children. [signed] Nat Estes

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 a book of settlements of the accounts of the Officers and soldiers of the continental line of this state in the revolutionary war, that Sherwood Harris a private Soldier in said line was allowed for his services by a Board of Commissioners which sat at Warrenton in 1786, the sum of sixty five pounds and two pence (£65.0.2) Given under my hand this 20th day of August 1844. Wm. Hill Secretary of State

State of No Carolina } This Day personally appears before [sic]
Granville County }

Stephen Bridges of the County & State aforesaid and after having ben duly Sworn deposed and sayeth that he is well acquainted with Martha or Patty Harris that she is the widow of Sherwood Harris Dec'd that from record of the birth of my Sister Fanny Cavender now in my Possion in a bible which I believe to be correct I am enabled to state that the marriage of Sherwood & Martha or Patty Harris occurd more than fifty seven years back. that he has lived near said Sherwood & Patty from child hood Frequently visited the house of said Sherwood & often heard him speak of being in the Revolutionary War have heard him speak of being with my Father & one of my Brothers from what he told me I was led to believe he was out nearly During the ware that he served a part of his time under Col [John] Dickerson of Granvill the said Sherwood or Wife could neither Read or Write & further this deponant saith not Sworn to & subscribed before me Abraham Lawrence one of acting Justices in & for the County aforesaid this 27 of August 1844 [signed] Stephen Bridges

State of N Carolina } George Peteford [George Pettiford W9223] a Resident of said County
Granvill County } came before me Clement Wilkins one of the acting Justices of the Peace
of said County and after being Duly Sworn Deposed and sayeth that he was well acquainted with
Sherwood Harris in the Revolutionary War that he saw the said Sherwood Harris in the survis some time
before the Battle Gilford [Battle of Guilford Courthouse, 15 Mar 1781] in the State of N Carolina that he
the said Peteford went on to the South and does not Recollect seeing him any more untill after the Ware
when they Both settled them selves in Granvill County and have Remained there Eversince untill the
Death of said Sherwood Harris who died in said County Further the deponent sayith not
George hisXmark Petiford Sept 4 1844

NOTES:

A letter from the Pension Office dated 9 July 1844 reads in part as follows: "Mrs Harris asserts a claim for 8 months service at one time, and three months at another, in 1776, without designating the company, regiment, or Line, in which the service was performed, or giving the names of the officers under whom her husband served. The Militia service in North Carolina was performed in short tours, rarely exceeding a month at any one time. If Sherwood Harris the husband of claimant performed as much as 8 months service in one tour in N. Carolina at one time, it will be necessary to shew under what authority the enlistment was made, and to produce the certificate of the Secretary of that State shewing the length of each tour actually performed, and the amount of pay received. The Sherwood who received 228 acres of Land for two and half years service in the Continental Line from the State of North Carolina could not have been her husband such service being entirely inconsistent with that set forth in her own declaration."

On 12 Sep 1844 Martha Harris was issued a certificate for a pension of \$80 per year for her husband's service of two years in the "N. C. Line."

On 27 Aug 1844 Fanny Cavander (elsewhere Frances Cavner) stated that according to the Bible register mentioned above by her brother, Stephen Bridges, she was born in 1765, that she was about 25 when she married, and that she had been present some three years before her own marriage when Sherwood and Patty Harris were married by John Pope, a Justice of the Peace for Granville County.

In the 1810 federal census for Granville County Sherwood Harris is listed as the head of a household of 10 "Other (i.e. not white) Free Persons." In the 1850 federal census Patsy Harris is enumerated as age 80 and Mulatto.

On 29 Nov 1851 Martha Harris alleged that her agent, J. H. Kirkham, had illegally withheld her pension certificate and not delivered her pension for 18 months.

On 2 April 1855 Martha Harris, 80, applied for bounty land, stating that she was still a widow.