

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Jonathan Harris W4979

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 15 March 2012.

State of Tennessee } SS.

White County } On this 16th day of August A.D. 1833 personally appeared before me Joseph Herd an acting Justice of the peace for said County and State Jonathan Harris a resident of the County of White and State aforesaid aged Eighty two years 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 thhe following named officers and served as herein stated. – He was drafted for three months under Captain Samuel Reid by Lieutenants name not recollected – He then resided in Roan [sic: Rowan]County in the State of North Carolina. He is unable from his age and consequent loss of memory to state the period when he entered the service as above. David Calwell [sic: David Caldwell] was his Colonel. He marched from Roan County and joined General Greens [sic: Nathanael Greene’s] Army– Gen’l. Green he supposes it was sent General [Andrew] Pickins and Col. [Henry] Lee with about five or six hundred men in pursuit of Gen’l Tarlton [sic: Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton] of which number declarant was one. In pursuing Gen’l. Tarlton we came upon four or five hundred tories under Gen’l. Piles [sic: Col. John Pyle] near the residence of one Col. Oniel’s where we had a severe engagement with the tories and defeated them and took a number of those who escaped death during the engagement prisoners [Pyle’s Defeat, also known as Pyle’s Massacre, 25 Feb 1781]– At the time of the above battle Gen’l. Tarlton was at Col. Oniel’s and made his escape by flying – Gen’l. Tarlton then went to Hillsborough where the whole of the enemy were under Lord Cornwallis– This declarant’s three months having expired he was dismissed and returned home to his family– Here he remained a short time, when he again entered the service by volunteering under Col. Colwell, the object was to go against the tories. He was marched to the Shallow ford of the Yadkin river where we had a severe engagement with the tories [14 Oct 1780]. He recollects that a captain by the name of [Henry] Francis was killed in the engagement. We defeated the tories–. After the above battle was fought he went in pursuit Col. Bryant a tory [possibly Col. Samuel Bryan] we pursued him to L. Pedee [sic: Little Pee Dee River] but he was so far ahead of us that we were unable to overtake him– This declarant believes he served in all more than six months, but he cannot recollect precisely how long– He feels confident that he served as long in all as six months, and claims a pension for that period– He states that owing to his age and infirmity and the great loss of memory he is unable to say more than the foregoing in relation to the services performed by him to his country– He was discharged by Col. Colwell and returned home again to his family – He has no documentary evidence nor does he know of any person, whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state –

1. He was born in Hopewell County in the East Jerseys – in the year 1751 as well as he now recollects–
2. He has no record of his age –
3. He was living in Rowan County each time when called into service as already stated –
4. He was drafted the first tour the 2nd He volunteered –
5. He has stated the names of all the principal officers he reccollects together with the general circumstances of his service as well as his memory will permit –
6. He does not recollect that he got a written discharge from either of his tours if he did they are lost –
7. He states the names of the following persons to whom he is known in his present neighborhood and who can testify as to his character for veracity & their belief of his services as a soldier of the

revolution (viz. Rev Peter Buram– Rev. Abel Hutson Major Lewis Philips & Samuel Moore Esq' r–.
Sworn to & subscribed the day & year above mentioned Jonathan hisXmark Harris

NOTE: In White County TN on 14 April 1838, Margaret Harris, age 86, applied for a pension stating that in Feb 1772 in Lancaster County PA she married Jonathan Harris who died 28 June 1834. She was said to be living 13 to 14 miles from Sparta. In the same county on 24 Feb 1852 their daughter, Mary Chisam, 69, stated that Margaret Harris died 24 Aug 1849, leaving her as the only child and heir. The file includes the will of Jonathan Harris listing his wife, John and Polly Chisom, and "all my Grand children" as heirs. Polly Chisom stated that she was born on 23 Feb 1782 according to a family record in a Bible printed in 1767. On 16 May 1855 Overton Chisam (as he signed), age 44, son of Mary Chisam, certified that the family record showed that Margaret Harris died on 24 Aug 1843. It was certified by a merchant that on that date William Chisum bought ten cents worth of nails, which may have been for the coffin.