

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Harris Hicks W4989
Transcribed by Will Graves

Temperance

fn63NC
rev'd 5/3/11

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

[fn p. 16]

State of North Carolina, Granville County: Superior Court of Law Fall Term 1832

Personally appeared in open Court this 5 day of September A.D. 1832 Benjamin Hester¹ (O) who being duly sworn according to law doth depose, Testify and declare as follows viz.

That he has long known Harris Hicks of the said County and State, who was bound apprentice to the Blacksmith's trade under Harry Melton upon the death of his father of the said Harris Hicks. That he was serving his apprenticeship when the War of the Revolution broke out and it being understood that if an apprentice enlisted in the Army his indentures were canceled Harris Hicks eloped from his said Master and Enlisted I think under Captain John Farrar I belonged to the same detachment which was marched to Peytonsburg in Halifax County, in the State of Virginia. We were here drilled & mustered for about four months and discharged on furlough as no pressing call required our further Service at that time. Harris Hicks was a Private in this detachment. We were shortly afterwards called upon and marched to the South. Harris Hicks Joined the detachment and we were marched through South Carolina where we halted about a Week within Ten Miles of Charleston S. Carolina and were marched thence to Purysburg [Purrysburg] on the Savannah River. After various duties here and the adjoining Country we were marched up that River to Golphins' Mills [sic, Galphin's Mill]. While we were stationed at Purysburg the Battle of Briar Creek took place. The year I cannot remember but we were under the Command of General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln]. The British having crossed Savannah River, we retreated before them to Dorchester in South Carolina, at Bacon's Bridge within about 20 miles of Charleston. The enemy having turned & encamped at Stono we were marched in pursuit of them and then the affair at Stono took place. The enemy have retreated toward Savannah River, we followed them as far as Dorchester where we halted. Our term of Service having nearly expired we were marched to Sheldon Hill where, upon its completion we were discharged. Harris Hicks came home with this affiant after having completed his full tour of nine months service in this Campaign in addition to the four months Tour at Peytonsburg as before stated.

This affiant testifies that he served with Harris Hicks another tour of three months duty and we were marched & stationed in Charleston S. C. Zach Hester a Cousin of this affiant who is now living also performed the same month tour. Harris Hicks and Zach Hester, having performed the full term of three months service were discharged three days before the attack was made on that city which

¹ [Benjamin Hester S6998](#)

eventuated in taking it and all our men as Prisoners & this affiant, who had enlisted for another tour after the discharge of his said comrades, among the rest.

This affiant also served another tour of three months duty with Harris Hicks. In the course of this Service our detachment was marched to and joined the American Army under General Greene [Nathanael Greene] at the Catawba [River]. We were present at the engagement in which General Davidson [William Lee Davidson] was killed, at the attack of Tarleton's light Horse upon our men in Mrs. Tarrance's Lane. From these disasters we retreated in confusion to the Yadkin [River] & thence to Halifax C. H. and Charlotte C. H., Virginia. From this place this affiant was dispatched to North Carolina for more troops, and agreeably to orders joined the forces that had collected at Granville old Court House under General Butler [John Butler]. From this place we marched after the enemy through Hillsboro to the High Rock on Haw River at which place Harris Hicks, his term of service of three months having expired, was discharged – but this affiant engaged in another tour of duty and remained in the Army.

This affiant has not seen Harris Hicks for several years, nor since he has lost the use of one side, and the power of speech as he is informed & believes. Harris Hicks must be not less than 70 years of age.

The foregoing is a recital of all of the Service of Harris six which comes within the personal knowledge of this affiant. He has no doubt that performed various other Service but is unable to State their own.

S/ Benjamin Hester (O), X his mark

[fn p. 18]

Zachariah Hester² being duly sworn according to law, testified & declares that he knows very well Harris Hicks spoken of in the foregoing affidavit of Benjamin Hester (O) that he was a Soldier and performed various service in behalf of his country during the War of the Revolution, but he has no personal knowledge of any particular Tour of duty except the one spoken of by the said Benjamin Hester (O) in his affidavit aforesaid when the said Benjamin Hester, Harris Hicks & this affiant were marched from Granville County and were stationed in the town of Charleston South Carolina as before stated. That a very short time before the attack upon and capture of said City this affiant and Harris Hicks having performed our term of service were discharged and we came home to North Carolina together – leaving our Comrade Benjamin Hester (O) in said town, he having engaged for another tour of service.

Upon further consideration this affiant declares that he remembers another tour of Duty of three months he believes this was as a substitute for Jeremiah Frazier Senior – subscribed & sworn to in open court 5th September 1832.

S/ Zachariah Hester, X his mark

[fn p. 11]

State of North Carolina Granville County: Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions August Term A.D. 1832

William Hargrove Searcy a Resident of the County & State aforesaid came into open Court and being duly sworn, according to law and upon his oath Testifies & Declares that Harris Hicks a man about his own age or perhaps a little younger was a soldier of the Revolution and a Private in the Expedition to Raft Swamp in the summer of 1781 – and that he left him on duty when he this affiant obtain leave to quit the service & came home on account of sickness. That tour of the Soldiers from this County of which Harris Hicks was one was for 3 months on this Expedition –

Subscribed & sworn to 11th of August 1832.

² [Zachariah Hester S7002](#)



[fn p. 12]

State of North Carolina Granville County: Superior Court of Law Fall Term 1832

Personally appeared in open court this 7th day of September A.D. 1832, James Grisham Senior³ who being duly sworn according to law, doth, depose, Testify and declare as follows viz.

That he is a Citizen resident of Granville County a little more than seventy-three years of age – That he was a Soldier in the Revolutionary War – and among other service he performed a three months tour at Harrisburg in Granville County at Work in the Public Factory at that place – Harris Hicks a resident of Granville County but who is deprived of the use of speech by a visitation of Providence, performed a like tour of Duty at the same place and in the same business. The superintendent of the Establishment was Captain Batt Birdsong – upon the expiration of our Term of service the said Harris Hicks & myself were discharged and we went home.

This affiant further Testifies that he knew that said Harris Hicks performed several Tours of service in the Army and one he well remembers was as a substitute for three months service he believes for Jeremiah Frazier Senior. This affiant knows the fact that Harris Hicks took the place of said Frazier and marched off with the detachment to which he belonged but he does not know that the whole Tour was performed. This Tour was for a period anterior to that at Harrisburg. For this affiant assisted the said Harris Hicks to drive & carried from the house of the said Jeremiah Frazier Senior [several words written over and illegible] mare [?] and two cows & calves which he had received from said Frazier for taking his place as a substitute as aforesaid.

The said mare & cows & calves were carried and left with Bishop Hicks the brother of the said Harris, who is now dead.

This Affiant further Testifies that after the close of the revolutionary War he lived in the same County & within a few miles of said Harris Hicks. That said Hicks had a very soar leg, and that he was after unable on account of it to do his ordinary labor; and further that although he has no personal knowledge of the time or manner in which he received the said injury in the leg, yet he well remembers that it was the universal understanding & belief of all the neighbors of the said Harris Hicks that said injury was received & occasioned by the kick of a horse while in service in the Army.

He further declares that said Harris Hicks was at times much afflicted by the pain & soreness of his leg; and that he on one occasion he saw him at the house of old Colonel Joseph Taylor at Harrisburg near Granville Court House. That Mrs. Taylor the wife of the said Joseph Taylor was very skillful in curing such ulcers, and she was then engaged in doctoring and administering to him for the cure of his soar leg – but how long he remained there this affiant is unable to state.

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court this 7th September 1832

S/ James Gresham



[fn p. 14]

Henry Wilson a Citizen of Granville County aged sixty-eight years the 16th of November 1832 who being duly sworn according to law, in open Court testified and declares as follows viz.

³ [James Gresham W4969](#)

That during the Revolutionary war, but the year he is unable to state he volunteered as a private in a company of Infantry from Granville County under the command of Isham Harris as Captain Joseph Johnson Lieutenant and John East [could be John Earl] as Ensign. This tour was for three months, and when our Company reached Cross Creek now Fayetteville, we were placed under the command of Colonel Stephen Moore then of Caswell County and General Caswell was commander in Chief of the whole detachment consisting of about seven hundred men –

We were kept on duty during the whole term of three months in and about our place of rendezvous and in Randolph and the adjoining Country, nor were we out of the State during this Tour as well as he can recollect.

During the whole of this tour Harris Hicks, a citizen of Granville who is afflicted by a severe dispensation of divine Providence and who is a little older than this affiant was a private in the same Company and performed his duty as such. The year of this service he cannot recollect, but he knows it was before the British Army invaded the State of North Carolina. Upon the completion of their term of service we were discharged at a place called the Cross roads in Randolph County.

Subscribed & sworn to in open Court this 7th day of September 1832

S/ Henry Wilson, X his mark

[fn p. 19]

Thomas Parham⁴ makes oath that he is well acquainted with Harris Hicks: that he is about two years younger than said Harris – That said Hicks was born and raised in Granville County and still resides therein – That said Hicks was repeatedly on duty in the American Army as a private Soldier in the Revolutionary War – That he saw him on several occasions when he returned home from tours of duty. That on one tour this affiant served as a Brother Soldier with him. The company was raised in Granville County, but whether said Hicks was a volunteer or was drafted he is unable to state – But he knows that he himself was drafted, and that his Captain was Isham Harris & his Lieutenant was ___ Moore. The tour of duty was for 3 months. We were marched to Hillsboro, where we were placed in a Regiment which was commanded by William Moore as Colonel Elijah Moore as Major. The detachment was commanded by General Butler – we were marched to the Yadkin River where we were stationed for 2 or 3 weeks then marched through Salisbury to the Waxhaws in the edge of South Carolina our duty was principally to watch and restrained the Tories in their depredations upon the Whigs – and we were called in various parts of the country round about to do duty.

During the whole of this Tour Harris Hicks was a private in the same company with me, and a messmate with me, performed duty as such and faithfully served his time out – as a valiant & dutiful soldier should do. To the best of the recollection, for he cannot speak with assurance of its certainty, this tour was in the year 1779 – we were discharged at Bell's Mill upon the completion of our tour of duty.

This affiant further certifies that he was at home when the war ended upon the capture of Cornwallis and when the said Harris Hicks returned from a Tour of duty to the Raft Swamp below Fayetteville.

He further certifies that in the Tour before mentioned to the Waxhaws, the said Harris informed him & he has no doubt of the truth of the fact for it was mentioned to him and other soldiers in the Camp that he had received a kick from the horse of one of the wagons on his leg and he was present and saw the wounds before it was bound up. That the injury was so great that said Hicks was unable to perform duty for some time, and was carried when the detachment moved from place to place in one of the wagons. How long it was before he was able to do duty, this affiant is unable to state, but he well knows that the leg of the said Harris Hicks continued to be very painful and distressing to him immediately after the close of the war and for a great many years afterwards, nor did he know until this

⁴ [Thomas Parham W5524](#)

day he has been so informed that the leg of the said Harris Hicks continued to be a distressing and painful one to him until about a year after the awful visitation of Providence in the privations of one whole side of him and of the use of speech, since which time he learns the leg has cured up.
Sworn to and subscribed in open court the day & year above stated.



[fn p. 21]

Personally appeared in open Court now sitting at Oxford this 7th September 1832 Richard Glasgow⁵ a resident of Granville County, aged about 77 years, and who has this day made & sworn to a declaration for a pension as a soldier in the room Revolution under the act of Congress of the 7th of June 1832, who being duly sworn according to law, in open Court, certifies and declares as follows viz.

That in the nine months Tour which I have described in the said declaration in which I marched to the Savannah River and was stationed at Purrysburg and after the completion of said Tour our company was discharged at a place called the Sisters [Two Sisters Ferry], that Harris Hicks was a private in the same company to which I was attached that he marched with us, performed his tour with the melody, as a good Soldier was in duty bound to do and was discharged with the balance of the Company at the Sisters upon the Completion of our term of Service.

This affiant further certifies that he performed part of another tour of 3 months service at the public factory at Harrisburg in Granville County. It was partly if not entirely under the contract & management of a man who was named Batt Birdsong. He certifies that Harris Hicks was there in service in the same factory at work as a Blacksmith, but how long he served this affiant is unable to state.

Subscribed & sworn to in open Court the day & year above.

S/ Richard Glasgow, X his mark

[fn p. 22: Agness Parham, 67, wife of Thomas Parham (Short) and a cousin of Harris Hicks, also gave a supporting affidavit as to her understanding of the services and injury of Hicks in the Revolution.]

[fn p. 23: The Reverend James Harvey Harris and the Reverend Shadrach Parrish also gave supporting affidavits as to the character and reputation of the veteran.]

[fn p. 26]

State of North Carolina Orange County: Superior Court of Law Fall term A.D. 1832

Personally appeared in open court now held for the County and State aforesaid at Hillsboro before the Honorable James Martin one of the Judges of the Superior courts of Law & Court of Equity for said State, Solomon Whitlow,⁶ aged seventy years the 22nd of April 1832, who is a citizen and resident of the County of Person and State aforesaid, who being duly sworn according to law in open court, doth on his oath, depose, testify and declare as follows viz.

That at about the age of three years his parents removed from Hanover County in the State of Virginia and settled on Tabbs Creek in the County of Granville & State of North Carolina. That his mother was the sister of Absalom Hicks who had married and settled in the neighborhood of his father and within about a mile or mile and a half of him – That said Absalom Hicks died and left 3 sons, Bishop Hicks, Absalom Hicks, and Harris Hicks – Harris Hicks was bound apprentice to Thomas

⁵ [Richard Glasgow W7536](#)

⁶ [Solomon Whitlow w8218](#)

Norman, Absalom Hicks and Harris Hicks were bound to Henry Melton to learn the art & ministry of a blacksmith. That before the completion of his apprenticeship, the said Harris Hicks contrary to the wish of his master, escaped from him and enlisted as a Soldier in the Army of the United States under John Farrar in a nine months tour of duty – This affiant has seen the affidavits of Benjamin Hester, Zachariah Hester, James Grisham Senior, Thomas Parham (Short) and Agness Parham his wife and fully concur in the statements made by them of the services of the said Harris Hicks in the revolutionary War so far as they state it in the tour before spoken of in this Certificate, – and of a three months tour at Charleston South Carolina, of a three months, to the Waxhaws in South Carolina, of another three months tour to the Catawba at the time General Davidson was killed at the Catawba, and of his discharge at the High rock on Haw River as stated by them, also as to another Tour of 3 months duty in the Public Factory at Harrisburg. This affiant was a soldier with the said Harris Hicks in the Tour to Charleston that to the Catawba just before the battle of Guilford, and that in the factory at Harrisburg, and knows of his own knowledge that the said Harris performed his duty in those tours as a faithful soldier should do – And although this affiant did not serve in the other Tours mentioned in said affidavits, yet he well remembers that said Harris Hicks, being a young active man without a wife or family or other encumbrance, he was, with but little or at least very short animation in service, almost in constant service in the Army either by draft or as a substitute – This affiant well remembers that he performed a tour of 3 months duty for Jeremiah Frazier Senior but where he was called in this service, he is unable to say but he knows that said Harris received of the said Frazier a mare and 2 cows and calves for taking his place in the Army. He also remembers that Harris Hicks performed part of another tour as a substitute for David Hicks his uncle – David Hicks was in service and desirous of going home to his family. A tour of Harris had just expired and he was prevailed upon to take his uncle's place and did so for some compensation but what this affiant cannot remember – The Term of service of Harris 6 in this Tour this affiant thinks was for 2 months. This affiant remembers the tour spoken of by Thomas Parham (Short) to the Waxhaws and thinks it was for 3 months. He is enabled to recollect of this tour, but does not remember the year it was performed, from the fact that, that upon his return home from this tour, said Harris Hicks had a very sore leg which it was said and believed by every person was occasioned by the kick of a horse while on duty in this tour. By rest and care and proper application his leg was so far cured as to enable him very shortly again to end of the Service which he did – and this affiant is confident that a tour was performed by said Harris Hicks in the light horse, which he does not recollect to have been stated in any of the affidavits he has seen. This affiant thinks that Harris Hicks went out at this time in the light horse but whether he was under Captain John Henderson and John Dickerson Lieutenant or shortly after that under Solomon Walker as Captain this affiant is unable to state with any sort of confidence – but he is confident that he did perform a tour of duty in this light Horse.

This affiant further remembers that after the close of the war upon the capture of Cornwallis, Harris Hicks returned home from a tour of duty in the South Eastern part of North Carolina against the Tories. He also remembers that his leg still continued at this time to be very sore. He remembers hearing a conversation after the close of the war between Harris Hicks & Henry Melton his old master – Melton told him if he had not run away from him and joined the Army, he would not have had such a sore leg & be obliged to undergo the pain & misery of it – and wished him to come & work with him in his shop – telling him that if he would do so, he Melton, would learn him a great deal in the trade, which he had never learned him – But Hicks declined it – This affiant well knew & was familiarly acquainted with Harris Hicks as long as he this affiant continued to live in Granville – and knows that his leg continued to be very sore and painful to him during that time – often becoming so bad as to prevent him from work. He remembers that he got old William Coke to Doctor it for him and under his care it was entirely cured up – But it very soon had like to have killed him and it broke out anew and then he felt some relief – He also remembers that Harris Hicks was under the care of Mrs. Taylor wife of Colonel Joseph Taylor Senior as stated by James Grisham in his affidavit – and he believes that he

was under the care of some others for the same purpose, but whom he cannot remember.
Sworn to & subscribed in open Court this 11th day of September A.D. 1832

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Solomon M. Pittow". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

[fn p. 31: On September 10, 1838 in Halifax County North Carolina, Temperance Hicks, 74, widow of Harris Hicks, filed for a pension under the 1838 act stating that she married Harris Hicks April 10, 1784; that her husband died in August 1836 and that she has remained his widow.]

[fn p. 33: family record]

Absalom Hicks, the sum of Harris & temperance his wife was born June 12, 1786

Jane Hicks daughter of same was born July 1st 1788

John Hicks son of same was born May 20th 1790

Elizabeth Hicks, Daughter of same was born September 1st 1794

Willis Hicks son of same was born May 4th 1797

Polly Hicks Daughter of same was born January 20th 1800

Robt [Robert] Hicks son of same was born October 17th 1802

William Hicks son of same was born August 29 1805

Payton 6 son of same was born March 7th 1808

Joseph John Hicks son of Payton & Eliza was born February 10 1832

Elithe Caroline Hicks daughter of the same was born January 9th 1834

Eliza Hicks the wife of patent Hicks was born the 16th of June 1817

Temperance Hicks the wife of Harris Hicks was born the 7th of October 1765

[facts in file: the widow died September 29, 1841 leaving the following children surviving her, Willis, John, William, Paiton [sic], Robert, Jane & Mary who intermarried with Ransom Smith

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for two-year service as a private in the North Carolina militia.