

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

Pension Application of Benjamin Harris W5295

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 3 March 2012.

State of Georgia } The declaration of Benjamin Harriss a revolutionary soldier at September
Walton County } Called term 1832 of walton Inferior Court in order to obtain the benefit of the act
of Congress passed the 7th June 1832. — On this the third day of September
Eighteen hundred & thirty two personally appeared before the honourable Inferior Court of said County
of walton (being a Court of Record Benjamin Harriss a resident of said County of Walton & state of
Georgia aged Seventy-one years & seven 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 provision made by the Act of
Congress passed the Seventh of June Eighteen hundred & thirty two. That he was drafted in the
Continental Army of the United States in the year Seventeen hundred & eighty two or three. [See
endnote.] on the first day of August in one of the years aforesaid under Captain [Joseph] Rhodes, and
served in the regiment known & distinguished as the North carolina Regiment of Eighteen months men
under the following named Officers. Colonel Leitle [sic: Archibald Lytle] being principal in command
when the deponent intered the service. Major [Reading] Blount & Captain Rhodes. And the said Benjamin
declares that one Henry Holmes was first Lieutenant & one Mr. Clark second Lieutenant. Joseph Hirley
Orderly Seargent. Thomas Poulter Sergant. And the said Benjamin was sometime after he entered the
service appointed & acted as Sergeant & one Lindley was one of the Corporals. And the said Benjamin
declares that Captain Coleman, Capt. Hall, Capt. William Leitle [sic: William Lytle], Capt. Hadley &
Captain Rayford [possibly Robert Raiford] also belonged to the same Regiment. And the said Benjamin
further declares that he left the service about the first of July Seventeen hundred & eighty-three or four at
Hadlys point [sic: Haddrell Point] in Sight of Charleston South Carolina it being eleven months from the
time this deponent entered the service until he was discharged by Colonel Leitle. This deponent further
states that he was drafted for a tour of eighteen months. that in the first of July after peace was declared
and after the vessels had arrived to remove a part of the army, this deponent was legally & Honourably
discharged by the hands of Col Leitle, which discharge the said Benjamin cannot annex hereto the same
having been many years since handed by this deponent to Lieutenant Ivy one of the Continental officers
for the purpose of making a settlement between this deponent & the united States for Revolutionary
services which discharge was never returned to this deponent. that in the place of which a check was
given to this deponent in the united States for Ninety six dollars and some cents for the Eleven months
services which check is not in this deponents possession or custody.

And the said Benjamin further declares that at the time he was drafted & entered the Continental
Service he resided in the County of Duplin North Carolina. And that he was not engaged in any special
battles during his Continental services.

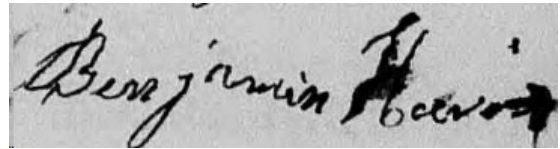
And the said Benjamin farther declares that during which term of service as a continental Soldier
he marched through the following sections of the Country. From the Court house in Duplin County
North Carolina where this deponent entered the service, he was marched to a place called the Cross
Roads in said County from thence to Willmington Newhanover [sic: Wilmington, New Hanover]
County N.C. from thence crossing Cape fear river in N.C. thence crossing Wakamaw [sic: Waccamaw]
Black Santee Cooper and Ashley rivers in South Carolina from thence to Ashley Hill The Headquarters
of the Army where Col. Leitle's Regiment (of which this deponent was a member) united with Major
General Greens [sic: Nathanael Greene's] Army. And this deponent was then under the command of
Major General Green & Brigadier General Guess [sic: Mordecai Gist]. From thence the whole Army
marched down on St. James Island near Charleston S.C. where we remained until the declaration of Peace
between his Britanic Magesty & the United States was made known to the Army, which consisted of the

North Carolina or Col Leitles Regiment. The Maryland & Pennsylvania Regiments enlisted during the war & the Artillery. where we remained after the declaration of Peace until the vessels came in to receive the Northern regiments which was the first of July Seventeen hundred & eighty three or eighty four when Col Leitles regiment was marched from St. James Island to Hadleys Point where this deponent was lawfully & Honourably discharged by Col Leitile in sight of Charleston South Carolina as aforesaid And this deponent further declares that he served five months of the time he was a member of the Continental line as Sergeant and six as a private makeing his whole term of Service Eleven months.

And the said Benjamin further declares that he was born on the twenty ninth (29) of January in the year 1761

And the said Benjamin also deposeseth & declares that he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or every annuity except the present & except the claim accompanying this for militia Services.

And he declares that his name is not on the Pension roll of any agency in any state

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Benjamin Harriss". The ink is dark and the handwriting is somewhat slanted and fluid.

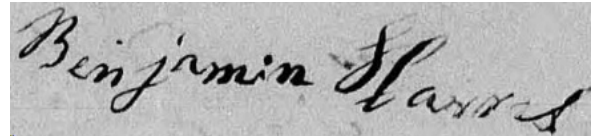
State of Georgia } The Declaration of Benjamin Harriss a revolutionary Soldier at September term
County of Walton } of called Inferior Court of Walton County – in order to obtain the benefit of the
act of Congress passed Seventh June 1832.

On this third day of September Eighteen hundred and thirty two personally appeared before the honourable Inferior Court of the said County of Walton being a Court of Record Benjamin Harriss a resident near the village of Monroe in the said County of Walton & State of George aged seventy one years and seven 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 provision made by the act of Congress passed the seventh June Eighteen hundred & thirty two. that he voluntered his service in the militia of the united states under Captain William Dickson about the last of January in the year One Thousand seven hundred eighty under the following named officers as near as recollected. Col James Kennon [sic: James Kenan] and Major Tredwell. the names of the other inferior officers is not recollected at this period of time by this deponent except Capt Albrittain & Capt. Whitehead. And the said Benjamine declares that at the time he entered or volunteered in the Militia service he resided in the County of Duplin North Carolina & that he was in no particular or close engagement during this term of service which was three months. And the said Benjamine declares that he marched from duplin County N.C. to Bluefords Bridge on Northeast river [Northeast Cape Fear River] in said state where he remained with Col. Kennons regiment stationed near said Bridge on said river to prevent the British from crossing said river. Where the fireing was kept up across the river for about six days; when the British from some cause returned back to Willmington & we remained at said Bridge about two months, & from thence we marched to a place called Rutherfords Mills [in present Pender County] where we remained for a short time from thence we were marched to Neuse River North carolina at a little village called Kingston [sic: Kinston]. and the said Benjamine further declares that he was discharged about the last of Aprile in the year One Thousand and seven hundred & eighty by Col Kennon together with the regiment on Neuse river North Carolina at a little village called Kingston makeing his term of service Three months & that he was given no formal discharge – Second Enlistment as a Militia Soldier. And the said Benjamine further deposeseth and declares that about the last of January Seventeen hundred & eighty one Col James Kennon called for a small detachment of men in order to break up the Tory Camps in Duplin County North Carolina said Tories being under the command of Middleton Mobley And this deponant further declares that at the time last aforesaid towit the last of January 1781 he again volunteered under Captain Bedreden Carraway command who was under the direction of Col James Kennon in order to break up said Tories. And the

said Benjamine further declares that he was in but one engagement which was during the night when they attacked the Tories & wounded several so that they were entirely broken up which was in Duplin County N.C. But the Tories commander said Mobley was wounded & this deponent with others pursued him until he was taken up and put in Hallifax [sic: Halifax] Jail on Roanoke river where we received him & brought him back so that he was tried & executed at Willmington N.C. and the said Benjamine further declares that he was engaged in the last detachment for three months when he was with others lawfully disbanded by Col. Kennon which Two terms of service last spoken of in the militia was for the term of Six months (6) And this deponent further declares that he has no written documentary evidence, memorandum, or discharge as a militia Soldier whereby to establish his claim. And this deponent further declares that he knows of no person by whom to prove his service & that he has no other means of doing so than the facts stated on oath.

And the said Benjamine further declares that he resided in Duplin County North Carolina when he volunteered the last time.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & the accompanying claim for services in the continental line and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any state.

A photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Benjamin Harris". The ink is dark and the background is a light, textured surface.

NOTES:

A certificate states that Harris enlisted in Capt. Rhodes's company of the 10th Regiment on 1 Aug 1782 for 18 months, and was Sergeant on 1 Aug 1783. Harris apparently served until about 1 July 1783. After the British evacuated Charleston SC on 14 Dec 1782, Gen. Nathanael Greene made it his base of operations. By the start of 1783 much of Greene's army was on James Island in case of an attack by the British from St. Augustine. On 23 April Greene learned that a preliminary treaty had been signed in Paris, and there was a grand celebration by the troops on James Island, included those recently arrived from Pennsylvania and Maryland. Boredom, impatience, and anxiety about the risk of disease as summer approached prompted many of the soldiers to start for home without waiting to be discharged. This may explain Harris's emphasizing that he was "lawfully & Honourably" discharged. On 26 June Greene received a directive from Congress to furlough all the troops, and transport ships began arriving for them in July.

On 4 Aug 1843 in Walton County GA Bethana Harris, 73, applied for a pension declaring that she had married Benjamin Harris on 23 Aug 1785 in the part of Duplin County NC that became Sampson County, and that he died in Walton County on 30 Dec 1840. The file contains the following: "this may Sartify that Beiamin Harriss and Bathenea odom is Lawfully married by me/ Given under my hand this 23 day of August 1785/ John Holley J.P." On 30 Jan 1841 Elkanah Odom of Coweta County GA stated that he was present at the marriage of Benjamin Harris and Bethany Odom.

Fold3 has this file merged within that of Benjamin Harris (S38816) who served from Massachusetts.