

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Benjamin Harrison W5296

Charity

fn59NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

4/14/11

[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.]

State of Georgia Randolph County: Superior Court spring (April) Term 1851

On this the 14th day of April A.D. 1851 personally appeared in Open Court Mrs. Charity Harrison of the County and State aforesaid, aged Eighty-seven years, who being duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the several "Acts of Congress" heretofore passed granting & conferring Pensions on the Widows of Revolutionary Soldiers. Affiant states that she is the widow of Benjamin Harrison, deceased, who was a Captain of a Company of Infantry belonging to the Continental Battalion of the State of North Carolina, in the War for American Independence in [document water damaged and illegible in part] – that her said husband was commissioned a Captain as aforesaid on the 19th day of May A.D. 1778, by Richard Caswell Governor of the State of North Carolina: that she does not know where or how long her said husband served, but from what she remembers to have heard him say before his death, she believes he was engaged a long time, & perhaps to the end of the Revolutionary War. The only Documentary evidence left by her said husband at the time of his death & now in her possession of his services in said War, is hereto attached as follows – the first a Commission as Captain from Governor Richard Caswell, dated 19th May 1778; 2nd an order from said Governor Caswell to her said husband as Captain to muster his company to March into service – said order bearing date 14th day of June 1778: & 3rd a Commission as Captain from Alexander Martin, Governor of North Carolina, & dated the 7th of June A.D. 1783.

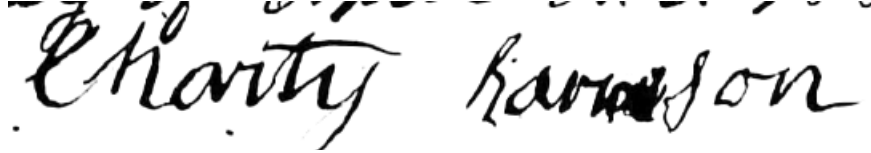
She further declares that she was married to the said Benjamin Harrison, now deceased on the 8th day of June A.D. 1785 at her father's (James Williams) in Edgecombe County North Carolina by one __ Diggs (his Christian name she does not positively remember, but thinks it was Robert) a justice of the peace; that her maiden name was Charity Williams; that she was 21 years old when she was married to the said Benjamin Harris and deceased: she further states that her said husband died on the 14th day of August A.D. 1811 = that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the 2nd of January A.D. 1800 – to

wit – at the time above stated. She further swears that she is now a widow & that she has never before made any application for a Pension.

Sworn to and subscribed before me Clerk of said court, in Open Court, on the day and year above written – Witness my hand and seal of Office this the 14th day of April A.D. 1851

S/ Duncan Jordon, Clerk

S/ Charity Harrison

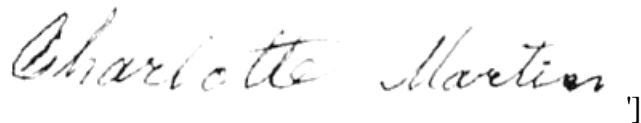
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charity Harrison". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

[fn p. 8: On October 4, 1851 in Barbour County Alabama, Charlotte Martin (wife of Robert Martin) gave testimony that she is the daughter of Captain Benjamin Harrison and his widow Charity; that the annexed lease contains a copy from the original family record of her father; that after the death of her father a family friend David Duhart came to the house and copied the original record in a small book, a dictionary; that Mr. Duhart took the original; that the annexed copy is true and correct except for the following;

1. The birth of her sister Martha Harrison was omitted altogether to be transcribed by Duhart; and

2. The death of her brother Matthew Harrison was erroneously stated by Duhart to have been on the 22nd of September 1801 when the 22nd September 1801 was the date of the death of her sister Martha, & her brother Matthew died a few months after his birth;

That the record made by Duhart extends from the top of the belief down to and Inc. Mark or line on the sheet below which are the names of slaves born to the family.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charlotte Martin". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

[fn p. 10: family record:

Benjamin Harrison son of Thomas Harrison & Mary his wife was born October 25 1765 [3rd digit written over and could be 5 or some other number] and married to Celea Lawhorn 16 December 1779

Samuel Harrison son of Benjamin Harrison & Celea his wife was born January 17th 1782

Mary Harrison daughter of the above was born April 11th 1784

Celea Harrison my first wife departed this life August 8, 1784

Charity Williams Daughter of James Williams & Elizabeth his wife was born February 14th 1764 & was married to Benjamin Harrison June 8th 1785

Elizabeth Harrison Daughter of Benjamin Harrison & Charity his wife was born April 17th 1786

James Harrison son of the above was born April 5th 1787

Matthew Harrison son of the above was born July 15th 1789 & departed this life September 22nd 1802

Sally Harrison Daughter of the above was born March 17th 1791

Coley [Catey?] Harrison Daughter of the above was born September 2nd 1793

Charlotte Harrison Daughter of the above was born September 7th 1795

Dorcas Harrison Daughter of the above was born October 29th 1802

Henry the son of Elen was born December the [illegible]

treacy the daughter of Elen was born August 25 1832

Sophia the daughter of Elen was born 23 October 1834

[fn p. 18]

State of North Carolina

Richard Caswell Esqr. [Esquire] Gov^r [Governor] and Commander in Chief of the said State –

To Captain Benjamin Harrison, Commanding Officer of the Detachment of Volunteers and draughts from the Dobbs Regiment of Militia

You are to Muster your men immediately and hold them in readiness to March to Morrow [tomorrow] morning – You are to return me an Account [of] the Tents which are Completed, the number of [word partially obscured]ts and Axes you have received as also the number of Firelocks and from whom –

You are to return me immediately a List of the Men belonging to your Company and distinguished therein who are present, who are Absent, whether such as are absent are so on Furlough or otherwise. You are to examine every Man & note what clothing he has received, such as have not received the whole you are to return me an Account [word partially obscured, probably "with"] what are wanting and from what Company such Men respectively were raised –

You are to forbid expressly every person from selling to the Soldiers any rum or Spirits without your leave in Writing and inform those who transgress this order that they will be most Severely punished I mean both buyer & Seller, and I recommend to you in the most express 9 or Not to give any order for purchasing liquor at least for twenty-four ^{Hours} that the men may get in there proper Senses before their March.

These orders I expect you will Immediately Obey the Reasons which will induce you to it are Obvious and the mentioning the more particularly too disagreeable.

Given at Kingston under my hand and Seal of the State the 14th day of June Anno Dom. 1776.

S/ Rd Caswell

State of North Carolina



Richard Caswell Esq: Gov^r
and Commander in Chief of the
said State.

To Captain Benjamin Larrain, Com-
manding Officer of the Detachment of the
Troops from the 2d^d Regiment of Militia

You are to Muster your men immediately
to hold them in readiness to March to Morrow
morning — You are to return me an account
of the Tents which are Completed, the Number of
Tents and Axes you have received as also the
Number of Sawlocks and from whom?

You are to return me immediately
a List of the Men belonging to your Company and
Distinguish therein who are present, who are absent
of the Town such as are absent are so on Furlough or
otherwise) You are to examine every Man &
know what Clothing he has received, such as have not
received the whole You are to return me an account
of what are wanting and from what Company
such Men respectively were raised —

You ^{are} to forbid expressly every person
from selling to the Soldiers any rum or Spirits
without your leave in Writing and inform them
who transgress this order that they will be most
severely punished I mean both buyer & seller &c.

[fn p. 32: captain's commission dated June 7th 1783 issued to Benjamin Harrison by Alex Martin, in the Wayne Regiment whereof Wm McKinne is Colonel.]

[The veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of \$480 per annum commencing March 4th, 1848, for the services of her husband as a Captain in the service of the state of North Carolina.]