

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of James Harrison W548 Mary Harrison VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 16 Aug 2014.

Virginia

County of Botetourt Sct.

At a Court held at the Courthouse for the County of Botetourt on Monday the 12th day of December 1831 personally appeared in open Court being a Court of record for the said County of Botetourt James Harrison resident in said County aged seventy six years who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the act of Congress on the 18th March 1818 and the 1st May 1820 that he the said James Harrison enlisted for the term of two years on the [blank] day of [blank] the year 1776— in the state of Virginia in the company commanded by Captain John Thorton [sic: John Thornton; company raised in Culpeper County] in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Hugh Mercer in the line of the State of Virginia on the Continental establishment that he continued to serve in the said corps untill about 1777 when he was discharged from service at the Valley Forge in the State of New Jersey [sic] that he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except the present that his name is not on the roll of any state and that the following is the reason for not making earlier application for a pension. that until old age and infirmity compelled him he was not willing to become a burden to the Country by asking that assistance which he was able to render himself — And in pursuance of the act of the 1st May 1820 I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled “an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the Land and Naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary war” passed on the 18th of March 1818 and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property or securities contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed That since the 18th of March 1818 no changes have been made in my property

Sworn to and declared on the 12th day of December before the Court} James Harrison

I James Harrison do declare that I own no property at this time my wearing apparel my Bedding and one cow a Gun and two Claims excepted altogether not worth forty Dollars James Harrison

NOTES:

On 30 May 1853 Mary Harrison, 73, of Hawkins County TN, applied for a pension stating that she married James Harrison on 12 Dec 1823, and he died in Botetourt County in September 1841.

The file contains a copy of the last will and testament of Mary Harrison dated 12 Sep 1855 with the following provisions: To daughters Elizabeth Armstrong, Sallie Miller, and Polly Parrish \$5 each; to son Burum Harrison the 96 acres bought from P. H. Buram on the south side of Holston River; to daughter Sibby Hontz \$400.

On 4 Feb 1866 Mary Harrison applied for restoration of her pension, which had been suspended during the Civil War, during which she subsisted “by the Charity of her Neighbors in giving her something to live upon.” On 17 Oct 1872 Burum Harrison of Hawkins County, born on 11 Dec 1824 to James and Mary Harrison, applied for what she would have received up to her death on 11 Feb 1868. He stated that both his parents had children by previous marriages and listed his mother’s other surviving heirs as follows: “Sibby Hontz (a feme sol.) Sally Miller (widow) both residing in the County of Hawkins State of Tennessee. Alexander Armstrong and his wife Betsy residing in the state of Illinois. And the heirs of Polly Parish wife of John deceased the said Polly being also dead whose different residences are unknown.” On 4 June 1866 Sarah Miller, Sibby Hontz, George Miller, and Edward T. Ball stated that the marriage of James and Mary Harrison was officiated by Rev. Henry Holston of Methodist Episcopal

Church, that she had one child, Burum Harrison, and he had six children, four of whom were living.

On 29 Oct 1872 Sibby Hontz (as she signed) certified the claim of Burem Harrison as executor of Mary Harrison and that she was born in Botetourt County on 18 Jan 1813 or 1814, where her father, Jacob Hontz, first husband of Mary Harrison, died in June 1817. She listed the following children of James Harrison who were present at his marriage to Mary Hontz: "Polly Gray wife of James Gray & James Damewood and Polly Damewood his wife and Polly Hontz affiants sister who is now dead." She also stated that James Harrison also had other children by his former marriage living in Virginia and Ohio. She also stated that James Harrison had lived with his children as a widower, but after the marriage he lived in the home of Mary Hontz on Craig Creek in Botetourt County. She stated that in 1831 Mary Harrison went to Hawkins County to oversee a legacy from her father, rejoined James Harrison in 1833, then returned to Hawkins County in 1834. She stated that in November 1834 they agreed that James Harrison was to visit his son, John Harrison, in Ohio, then visit Mary Harrison in Hawkins County and join her permanently if he could get his pension paid in Tennessee, but that he died in Botetourt County. She also stated that "her father whilst affiant was at the breast was gone to the War of 1812," and that her postal address was Buroms Store in Hawkins County. On the same day Sally Miller, born on 19 May 1806, made a similar statement.