

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

Pension Application of Harrison Ashworth W5648

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

On this 10<sup>th</sup> day of February, 1837, personally appeared before me William Bacon a Justice of the peace in and for the County of Charlotte and State of Virginia, Harrison Ashworth, a resident of Charlotte County, and State aforesaid, aged seventy four 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 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

He states that he was born in the County of Charlotte on the 7<sup>th</sup> of March, 1763, and has a Register of his age. That when he entered the service he was quite young; and that now in consequence of old age, bad health, and other bodily infirmities, he is scarcely able to move about at all. He farther states that his memory has failed him very much, and is quite defective; but according to his best recollection he served as follows: That in the month of April or May, 1781, at the time Col Tarlton [sic: Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton] was ravaging the lower country about Petersburg he was drafted in the Militia under Capt Jennings, for the purpose of repelling Col Tarlton & his command, who were then expected to visit this section. The company accordingly marched in the direction of Chinquipin Church [Chinquapin Church at Paineville] in Amelia; but before we reached that place, we understood that Tarlton had taken a different rout. We thus remained in a state of uncertainty for some time before we could find out the course he had taken. To our great surprise, we learnt he had taken a circuitous rout by Nottaway [sic: Nottoway], Jennings old ordinary and had actually reached P. Edward [Prince Edward] Ct. House; cutting us off entirely from the main body of our Army. We then marched directly back, expecting reinforcements every day but none came until at last the company were ordered to separate, each shifting for himself, and to meet again, as soon as their personal security would permit, to enter the service again. On this occasion, he was in the service about six weeks.

That in the month of June, 1781, he was again drafted in the Militia under Capt Jennings, for the term of three months, and marched from Charlotte to Petersburg, thence to Cabin point, thence to Newsom's[?] old field, thence to Jamestown, thence to Williamsburg, and thence to Yorktown. At Newsom's old field, Capt Jennings resigned, and Gideon Spencer made Captain of the Company. A Mr. Johnson was Lieutenant, and Richard Davenport [pension application S17914] Ensign of the Company. Some three or four days before his term of duty expired in the Militia, being pleased with the martial appearance of the Jersey line of Troops, which had just come in, he enlisted under Capt Wm. Fleming [William Fleming] of the Artillery of the Jersey line of Regulars to serve for the war. He was attached to the command of Major Dougherty [probably John Doughty], and Genl [Henry] Knox. He was engaged in the siege of York, from the commencement to the ending [28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781]; and recollects that Genl Washington, Marquis LaFayette, Gov'r [Thomas] Nelson, and many French officers (whose names he does not recollect now) were commanding officers at the time. That after the surrender of Cornwallis, (the war being considered as concluded) he was marched by Capt. Faulkner to Richmond, according to order of Genl Knox, and at Richmond about the 20<sup>th</sup> of December, 1781, was regularly discharged from service untill called for again – That he never was called for again in the service; and that some time in the year 1824 or 1825, having a good many papers in his possession, some of which were worthless, he requested his neighbour, John Buchannon, to distroy such as he thought useless, and the balance to file away. That the said discharge from the Jersey line was found among his papers; was considered by himself & Buchannon, at the time, as of no account, and worthless, and accordingly committed to the flames. That in the whole, he served longer than Eight months in the Revolutionary war, but will only claim a Pension for Eight months. That such evidence of his services as he has been enabled to obtain, he herewith sends with this his Declaration. He regrets that he cannot furnish more satisfactory. He has no documentary evidence, since the

destruction of his discharge mentioned above; nor does any clergyman reside at present in the neighbourhood at all convenient. 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 the agency of any State.

Harrison hisXmark Ashworth

Virginia – Charlotte County to wit:

I do hereby Certify that I have a distinct recollection when Capt Jennings marched a company from Charlotte in direction of Chinquipin Church and Col Tarlton getting between them and the reinforcements expected: in consequence of which, they were obliged to scamper and escape as they could. It was in the months of April & May, 1781. I feel no hesitation in saying, according to my best recollection, that Harrison Ashworth was in the Company and served as he states. I moreover Certify that Harrison Ashworth was under Captain Jennings the second time, & marched to Yorktown and served as he States. Captain Jennings resigned after marching, and Gideon Spencer was made captain of the Company –

[signed] James Mullings [pension application S10251]

Virginia. Charlotte County to wit:

I William Skelton do hereby certify that I have known Harrison Ashworth for several years, and heard Thomas Portwood (who is now dead) say, that he and Harrison Ashworth were in the service together in the Revolutionary war –

[signed] William Skelton

Virginia. Charlotte County to wit:

I do hereby Certify, that I have a distinct recollection of Harrison Ashworth, in the Revolutionary war: He came from Yorktown to Richmond in the month of December 1781, as a guard over some prisoners; and as soon as relieved from the prisoners was honorably discharged from the New Jersey line. the discharge given him, was in the nature of a furlough, upon conditions that he was to return again to the Army, whenever called for. Many to my certain knowledge were sent home in the same way. I saw the discharge and came part of the way with him on his return, and know the fact that he left the Army in good standing, and was no deserter. Whether he was called into service after that, I cannot pretend to say, but expect he never was. I am in the 89<sup>th</sup> year of my age, and was a soldier of the Revolution.

[signed] William Vaughan [S14754]

[Thomas North (S9442) also deposed that he had served the militia tour with Ashworth.]

NOTE: On 13 Aug 1838 Elizabeth Ashworth, 68, applied for a pension stating that she married Harrison Ashworth on 13 Mar 1791, and he died 9 May 1837 while his pension application was pending. In the file is the following record from Charlotte County: "Married on the 13<sup>th</sup> March 1791 by the Rev'd John Williams – Harrison Ashworth and Elizabeth Ford."