

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Henry Harrison W748

Charlotte Harrison

f31VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

2/23/14

[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. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. 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 skills fail 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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

In Nansemond County Court 11<sup>th</sup> March 1833

State of Virginia, County of Nansemond Sc.

On this 11<sup>th</sup> day of March 1833 personally appeared in open Court before Josiah Riddick, Burwell Riddick, William H Godwin and Isaac Lee, the Court of Nansemond County, now sitting, Henry Harrison a resident of the County of Nansemond and State of Virginia, aged seventy-five (75) 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, 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated – that he entered the service of the United States in the year 1778 or 1779 as a militia man under Captain William Moore, Major \_\_ and Colonel Willis Riddick – that he served six weeks and was then discharged – That he was stationed during the time at and about Suffolk, County of Nansemond, & State of Virginia; during which time the Town of Suffolk was burnt, and that the militia company which he was then in had to retreat being much inferior in number to that of the enemy's – that he entered the service for six weeks again under the same officers, and served during the whole time as a private (no engagements) – that he again entered as a private for another six weeks service under Captain Jesse Battle, Major Josiah Riddick, and Colonel Josiah Parker, and served during the six weeks, and was then discharged – that he served several six weeks tours under the same officers; and that there was no regular engagements during the aforesaid time of service, only now and then skirmishes; and that these six weeks in all make he now thinks more than twelve months; and that while not on duty as a drafted militia in the six weeks or minute service, he was frequently called out upon alarms being given the whole country then being infested with the enemy, and Tories – that he then entered the service again, not as a private, but as a Lieutenant under Captain Henry Holland, Major \_\_ and Colonel John S Wills – That he does not now recollect the exact time he served under Colonel Wills, but he thinks it was in all more than six months (no engagements but some little skirmishes) – That he was then ordered to Portsmouth, County of Norfolk, Virginia under General Charles Harrison – that he served in Portsmouth several tours of six weeks under Captain Henry Holland (field officers not recollected positively but thinks it was Major \_\_ and Colonel Kinchen Godwin) he was then discharged, and came home (no regular engagement, but a good deal of skirmishing) – That he was then appointed Commissary or Provision-master to execute the laws in relation thereto – that he was in the Army of the Revolution as a Private and Lieutenant from three to four years, the whole time not now exactly recollected – That while acting as Commissary, he was taken as a prisoner by Major \_\_ of the Dragoons under the command of Colonel Tarlton

[Banastre Tarleton] or Colonel \_\_\_ – That he was then carried as a prisoner by them to Suffolk, then the Rendezvous for the enemy – That he was kept there by the enemy until they were about to march away – that he was then discharged, and returned home and acted as Commissary until the close of the war; and upon the surrender of Cornwallis [October 19, 1781] at Little York, he was in service as Commissary under Colonel Wills, and stationed in the County of Surry – that he has no documentary evidence, and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his service; his discharge and commission being lost or mislaid. 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.

Q. Where, and in what year were you born.

A. In Nansemond County, Virginia, in 1756.

Q. Have you any record of your age, and if so, where is it.

A. I have, and it is at home.

Q. Where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the Revolutionary War, and where do you now live.

A. In Nansemond County, Virginia.

Q. How were you called into service, were you drafted, did you volunteer or were you a substitute; and if a substitute for whom.

A. As stated in the body of the declaration.

Q. State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops, where you served, such Continental and Militia Regiments as you can recollect, and the general circumstances of your service.

A. They are answered in the body of the declaration.

Q. Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so by whom was it given, and what has become of it.

A. I did it is now lost some of the officers named in the foregoing paper gave them to me; I cannot now exactly recollect who they were.

Q. Did you ever receive a commission, and if so, by whom was it signed and what has become of it.

A. I did; it is lost; I do not recollect who signed it.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

(Signed)

S/ Henry Harrison

[the above document is certified as a true copy taken from the Nansemond County court records March 14, 1833 and attested by John T Kilby, Clerk]

[p 28]

Amended Declaration of Henry Harrison

State of Virginia County of Nansemond

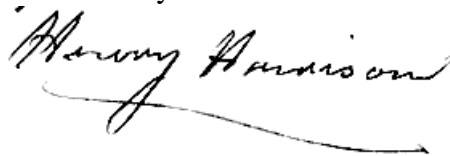
I, Henry Harrison of the aforesaid County and State, being duly sworn according to law, doth on my oath make the following Amended declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup>, 1832. – That by reason of old age (born in 1756) and the consequent loss of memory, I cannot swear positively as to the precise length of my service during the Revolutionary War, nor can I, at this day, recollect the name of every officer under whom I served in that war, nor the particular periods of the war that I served under each officer; for I was in the service under different officers the greater part of the time from the

fall of 1778 to the fall of 1781, when Cornwallis was taken at Little York – but according to the best of my recollection at this time, I certainly did serve, during the Revolutionary War, as a private in the militia, a period not less than nine months and twenty-four days, and for which service I claim a pension.

That I performed this service in the year 1778, '79, '80 and '81 in the following named Officers; That I first entered the service of the United States in the fall of 1778, as a private in the Militia, under the command of Captain William Moore, and Colonel Willis Riddick, and served a tour of six weeks; that in the early part of the year 1779, I again entered the service under the same officers and served another tour of six weeks – that in the summer of the same year (1779) I again entered the service under Captain Jesse Battle and Colonel Josiah Parker and served another tour of six weeks – that in the latter part of the same year (1779) I again entered the service under Captain William Baker and served a tour of six weeks, and in the spring of 1780 I again entered the service under the same Captain and served another tour of six weeks – Colonels Kinchin Godwin and John S Wills were the field officers who commanded during these two tours of my engagement – and that during the same year (1780) I again entered the service under Captain Henry Holland and served two tours of six weeks each under the officer before I was discharged; Colonel John S Wills was the field officer who commanded during these last two terms of my service, except for a short time the company to which I belonged was placed under General Charles Harrison. – The remainder of my revolutionary services, up to the surrender of Cornwallis at Little York, were performed as stated in my original declaration, and made in Open court, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 1833 and sent here with, and for which service I claim nothing.

That I was called into service by competent authority – that my service was performed in the field (except a short time at Portsmouth) in the Counties of Norfolk, Nansemond, Southampton, Isle of Wight, and Surry, Virginia, and that I was not engaged in any civil pursuit during the performance of this service. – I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. Sworn to and subscribed the 12<sup>th</sup> day of May 1834

S/Henry Harrison

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Henry Harrison". The signature is written in dark ink and has a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

[Hugh H Kelly and Richard D Webb gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 9: On March 12, 1853 in Nansemond County Virginia, Charlotte Harrison, aged \_\_ years, made application for a widow's pension under the 1853 act stating that she is the widow of the late Henry Harrison of said County a revolutionary war pensioner at the rate of \$80<sup>1</sup> per annum; that she married him October 3, 1816 in Nansemond County Virginia; that they were married by John Harrell a minister of the Baptist Church; that her husband died July 3, 1837 and that she remains his widow. She signed her application with her mark.]

[Facts in file: the widow's name prior to her marriage was Charlotte Jones; she died August 30, 1853, place not shown; there is no reference to children in the documents in this file.]

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<sup>1</sup> There is no evidence in this file that the veteran or his widow was ever pensioned at a rate higher than \$40 per annum.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$40 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private in the Virginia militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]