

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

Pension Application of Benjamin Harris W7664

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 30 Jan 2012.

State of Virginia            } SS

County of Albemarle    }

On this 8th day of January in the year of our Lord 1834 personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace for the County of Albemarle, Benjamin Harris a resident in the said County of Albemarle and State of Virginia aged eighty years the 30 Inst, who being 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 7th June 1832. That he entered in the army of the United States in the year 1775 in a volunteer company commanded by Capt Charles Lewis and marched under him from Charlottesville Albemarle County to Scotchtown to secure the powder taken by Lord Dunmore. Capt Charles Lewis being promoted the company was then commanded by Capt Nicholas Lewis; Patrick Henry having adjusted the matter, the company was discharged having served a tour of half month as he believes. –

That he served a tour of two months under Capt John Marks of Albemarle in the year [blank] the name of Colo. not recollected, the Troops were stationed at Williamsburg while there guarded the Treasurer's house (Robert Carter Nicholas) –

That he commanded a company as Captain in the barracks in Albemarle County a tour of two months in the year 1779.–

That he as Capt. marched a company of Soldiers of the regular army from Albemarle to Chesterfield courthouse in the year [blank], where he delivered them and was dismissed, this tour of service was half a month.–

That he commanded a company as Captain in the year 1781, was at the Siege of York Virginia when Cornwallis surrendered [19 Oct 1781] – Generals Washington and LaFayette were the officers, Colo. [Holt] Richardson commanded the Regiment– The tour of service having then expired, he with his Lieut Joshua Fry volunteered to march the prisoners to Noland's ferry on the Maryland line, which service occupied one month making a tour of three, or four, months, which he does not now recollect but from the circumstances it appears to have been a 4 months tour.

That he afterwards in the year 1782, marched a company as Capt. to Dan River Va. and was recalled by Colo. Coles, which tour required half a month– He does not know that he can prove all of his services by any witness alive at this time– A part will be proved by the affidavits of Thomas Ware, Capt [pension application W6385]

He hereby relinquishes his every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state in the union.

[signed] Ben Harris

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid before me Wm. A Harris

And I the undersigned Justice as aforesaid for the County Court of Albemarle the same being a court of record, put to the aforesaid applicant the following interrogatories which with their answers will be found below–

1. Where and in what year were you born?

Ans. I was born in the County of Albemarle in the year 1754.

2. Have you any record of your age, & if so, where is it?

Ans. It was in a family Bible which was given to a sister residing in another county–

3. Where were you living when called into service– Where have you lived since the revolutionary war–

And where do you now live?

Ans. I lived in the County of Albemarle when I entered the service— and I have lived in the said County ever since—

4. How were you called into service. Were you drafted Did you volunteer, or were you a substitute and if a substitute for whom?

Ans. I volunteered twice as I have already stated, and was drafted for the other tours

5. State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served Such continental & militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service

Ans. I have already stated the substance of the answer that I can give to the foregoing question according to the best of my recollection—

6. To a soldier} Did you ever receive a discharge from the service and if so, by whom was it signed and what has become of it?

Ans. I received a discharge from Capt. Nicholas Lewis & Capt John Marks also, which are lost. —

To an officer} Did you ever receive a Commission, & if so, by whom was it signed and what has become of it

Ans. I received a commission as Capt., but I cannot recollect who signed it, or what has become of it.—

7. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your neighborhood, and who can testify as to your character for veracity.

Ans. Having acted as a Justice of the peace for the aforesaid for a great number of years & also a High Sheriff I can refer to the citizens of the said county generally, and in my neighborhood I refer to Doct'r. Charles Cocke, Colo. John Coles Colo. Isaac Coles, Mr. Tucker Coles and Capt Lewis Nicholas and lastly I refer to Gen'l. William F Gordon & William C. River Esq. as they are known at the War department

Signed and sworn to before me the day and year aforesd}

[signed] Ben Harris

Wm. A Harris

Nelson County to witt

The affidavit of Thomas Ware, Taken at his own House in the said County before me Benjamin Harris a justice of the peace for the s'd. County the Affiant being first sworn sayeth that in the year 1781 he met the Company at Charlottesville commanded by Benjamin Harris Captain and was Equip with arms at Charlottesville from thence marched to Williamburg and was there commanded by General [Robert] Lawson. Under General Lafayette, from thence to York Town in time and during the Seige General Washington came I think about the middle of the Seige [sic] after the capture of Cornwallis we marched to nolins ferry on the potomack with the Hessian prisoners and delivered them to the Maryland Troops; this tour of service was three month Tour, and further your affiant sayeth not

[signed 11 Dec 1833] Thomas Ware

I do hereby certify that Benjamin Harris of the County of Albemarle served a tour in the Militia as Captain in the year 1779 at the Barracks in the County of Albemarle, but how long I do not recollect

Given under my hand this 11 December 1833 — [signed] John Thomas [R10502]

Albemarle County Charlottesville To Wit

The Affidavit of Jesse Lewis [pension application S5680] taken in Charlottesville in the said County, before me John R Jones a justice of the peace for the said County, the affiant being first sworn sayeth that in the Spring 1781 I being one of the requisition of the eighteen months drafts was marched from Albemarle County to the place of rendezvous at Chesterfield Old CourtHouse where Baran Stuban [sic: Gen. Baron von Steuben] commanded, by Captain Benjamin Harris, at which time he was dismissed

which tour required not less than half a month and further your affiant sayeth not  
[signed 21 Jan 1834] Jesse Lewis

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace for the aforesaid County of Albemarle, Benjamin Harris who being first duly sworn, deposith and saith that by reason of old-age and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot positively swear as to the precise length of his services, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grade viz

7 months service as Captain

2½ do do do Private

and for such services declares a pension

Subscribed & sworn to before me the day & year aforesaid [signed] Ben. Harris

Wm. A. Harris

NOTE: On 2 Oct 1841 Mary Harris, 74, applied for a pension stating that she was married to Benjamin Harris by Parson William Woods in Albemarle County on 27 Oct 1785, and her husband died 25 Mar 1834. The file contains a copy of a bond signed on 3 Oct 1785 by Benjamin Harris and James Woods for the marriage of Harris to Mary Woods. A document in the file states that Mary Woods died 15 Aug 1844, and that John M. Harris was executor of her estate. The file contains a letter dated 1 May 1851 from George W. Harris of Porters Precinct in Albemarle County regarding pension still owed to Benjamin and Mary Harris. The file contains a power of attorney executed by 29 Mar 1858 by a William Harris of Cherokee County NC in relation to a probably different Benjamin Harris.