

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Harnest W7682

Margaret Harnest

f7682

Transcribed by Will Graves

2/19/14

[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 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Ohio County of Champaign: SS

On this 20th day of April A.D. 1833 personally appeared in open Court, before the Court of Common Pleas for the County aforesaid, now sitting, John Harnest a resident of Mad-River Township in County of Champaign and State of Ohio aged seventy-three 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: he entered the service in the year 1777 in the month of May for the term of three months at the time he entered the service he resided in Shenandoah County Virginia – he volunteered in the company commanded by Captain Roush [John Roush] and Lieutenant Rinker [Jacob Rinker] – from Shenandoah County he marched to Philadelphia where he remained until the day previous to the battle of Germantown [October 4, 1777] and was then discharged his company being disbanded without written discharges – he was engaged in no battle under this engagement – he knows of no one who can testify positively to the performance of the above stated service – he has no documentary evidence of such service not having received any written discharge. Again in the month of July 1781 he volunteered for six months at Shenandoah County and State of Virginia, in the company commanded by Captain Comer he marched first to Little York – from thence he was sent in the capacity of Waggoner [wagoner] to James Town for the purpose of transporting the baggage of the French soldiery to Williamsburg from which place he again returned to Little York and was employed in the service as a Waggoner until the capture of Cornwallis [October 4, 1781] – he then returned to Williamsburg where he received a load of sick and invalid soldiers who he transported to Shenandoah County aforesaid he received no discharge – he recollects the names of none of the field officers except that of Colonel Dark [probably William Darke] who commanded the Regiment to which his company was attached – he cannot procure any personal positive testimony to the facts. In the year 1777 on the 25th December he entered the service for three months as a substitute for William Harris (who was drafted) he resided at that time in Shenandoah County Virginia – he marched thence to Winchester Frederick County Virginia where he remained until about the middle of March 1778 guarding the prisoners surrendered by Burgoyne at Saratoga [October 7, 1777, Battle of Bemis Heights or the Battle of Saratoga II] – he was then discharged on furlough and returned home – he never returned to the Army at Winchester during the term for which he had substituted to serve to wit six months, being incapacitated for the service by sickness, is furlough is lost or mislaid and therefore he cannot produce any documentary evidence of his service during this tour nor can he procure any

testimony to prove his actual performance of such service. This applicant was born in year 1759 (at Shenandoah County State of Virginia). He has a record of his age transmitted from his parents to him but he has not got it now – he resided at the time of his entering the service at the places stated above. Daniel Beaver a minister of the Gospel and Alexander Dunlap can testify as to his reputation of having served in the revolution and as to his veracity. 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. He resided after the revolution in the state of Virginia in the counties of Shenandoah and Rockbridge till within seven years back, since which time he has resided in the state of Ohio and Champaign County, Madriver [Mad River] Township – twice he entered the service as a volunteer and once as a substitute for William Harris. He cannot recollect the names of many of the officers with whom he served, nor any other of them besides those above stated.

He further swears that by reason of old age and sickness being [indecipherable word]¹ and for the last two years afflicted with the palsy, and other infirmities, in consequence of which his memory is almost entirely lost and his reason is much impaired, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than 11 months as a private soldier in the Revolutionary War for which service he claims a pension.

S/ John Harnest, X his mark

Sworn to and subscribed in court April 22nd, 1833

S/ John C Pearson, Clerk

[Daniel Beaver, a clergyman, and Alexander Dunlap gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 19]

State of Ohio Champaign County SS

On this 24th day of July A.D. 1833 personally appeared in open court before the judges of the court of Common Pleas of the County of Champaign aforesaid now in session, John Harnest a resident of Mad River Township in the County of Champaign and State of Ohio, the identical person who made his declaration in this court on the 20th day of April last past, for a pension under the provisions of the Act of Congress of June 7, 1832 and which declaration has been returned from the war Department to be corrected – And the said John Harnest being first duly sworn according to law doth on his said oath make the following amendment to his said former declaration (as follows). The first time he entered the service as above stated in his declaration – he volunteered for three months. He cannot recollect the name of his Colonel that he thinks his name was Rinker the father of his Lieutenant. He cannot say what time he returned home but it was soon after the battle of Germantown, he thinks he started home the day before that battle. And is positive that he served out his said term of three months.

He cannot recollect the name of any of his field or company officers in his third tour of service – except the name of Colonel Byrd who commanded the Regiment to which applicant belonged, after returning home sick on furlough as before stated he remained sick until his time of service, which was 6 months expired and by reason of his sickness he was unable to return to service.

He was born in the County of Shenandoah County in the State of Virginia in the year 1759 but in what month he cannot recollect.

¹ *ndar*

He has no record of his age – He was living in said County of Shenandoah at each time he was called into the service. And he lived in Shenandoah County till since the revolutionary war when he removed to Rockbridge County Virginia, and lived there till the year 1825 when he moved to Champaign County Ohio where he now lives & where he has lived since to this time.

He twice volunteered into the service and once he went as a substitute for one William Harris.

He cannot state the names of any officers other than as above stated in his declaration for his memory has almost entirely failed him.

He has no recollection of ever having received any written discharge from the service. As to the names of persons in his present neighborhood to whom he is known & who can testify as to his character for veracity, & their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution, he can name but few and they are mostly obscure persons like himself who are but little known out of their immediate neighborhood. His sickness for the last 2 or 3 years has confined him at home. In addition to those before named he will name Thomas Grafton – Benjamin Kite & Samuel Davis.

This applicant states that for the last 2 years and more he has been afflicted with the palsy & is still afflicted with it, to such a degree as to be almost helpless, and by reason of his sickness his memory is almost gone, which renders it impossible to recollect distinctly the events of the revolutionary war.

He further swears that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service: but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades: for 11 months I served as a private Soldier, and for such service I claim a pension.

S/ John Harnest, X his mark

[p 9: On August 24, 1847 in Champaign County of Ohio, Margaret Harness [sic], 86, a resident of Jackson Township in said County and state made application for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of John Harness who was a revolutionary soldier under Captain Hall and she believes he was in the battle of Brandywine [September 11, 1777]; that she married him February 25, 1784; that her husband died June 11 1835; and that she remains his widow. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 12: certificate given by the clerk of the Shenandoah County Virginia court stating that records in their office indicate that on February 25, 1784 there was a marriage return by John Comer for "John Harnest to Margent Law [?]"²

[p 30: On July 7, 1842 in Gallia County of Ohio, Catharine Beaver gave testimony that Peggy Lair, now Peggy Harness [sic] was lawfully married to John Harness shortly after the revolutionary war; that she was present at their marriage which was solemnized by a minister of the gospel in Shenandoah County Virginia. She signed her affidavit with her mark.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$36.66 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 11 months in the Virginia service. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]

2 *Lair's*