

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Reuben Harrison W7689 Mary Harrison f85VA
Transcribed by Will Graves 2/24/14

[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.]

[p 7]

State of Virginia County of Rockingham: SS

On this 22nd day of May 1833 personally appeared in open Court, before the Justices of the County Court of Rockingham County now sitting, Reuben Harrison a resident of Rockingham County and State of Virginia, aged 75 or 76 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 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated.

The first tour he served was in what is called Tygarts Valley [Tygart or Tygart's Valley] under Captain Robert Cravens [Robert Craven] of the Rockingham militia, for the protection of the inhabitants against the Indians he entered as a volunteer, and served three months as a private, and got no written discharge; but owing to a great failure of memory he is unable to say in what year this service was rendered. They had no general engagement with the Indians.

His next term of service was under Colonel Hamilton [probably Gawen Hamilton] then a Captain of the Rockingham militia. He volunteered to serve a tour as a soldier, but his team was taken into the service about the same time, and he was permitted to drive it. He served three months this time, principally in the lower part of Virginia, roundabout Norfolk. The British troops had possession of that place, and had erected a fort near it, and he understood the object of the detachment to which he belonged to be to cut off supplies of provisions for that fort. Captains Coger [Michael Coger], Baxter [George Baxter] and Riddle [probably George Ruddle] of the Rockingham militia with their Companies, belonged to the same detachment. They were under the command of General Muhlenberg [Peter Muhlenberg] who he frequently saw. They had no general engagement, but had some skirmishing with the enemy. He was discharged near the Fort in the vicinity of Norfolk, but he is unable from loss of memory, to state the time. He got no written discharge.

His next service was a tour of twenty days, as a volunteer, although the company with which he served were drafted as militiamen generally. They marched from Rockingham to the neighborhood of James Town, and he was in hearing of the engagement [perhaps a reference to the engagement at Jamestown Ford, July 6, 1781] with the enemy near that place: the company to which he belonged were mounted, and hastened to the battle ground, but it had ended when they arrived. General Wayne [Anthony Wayne] had command of the forces to which he belonged and Colonel Harrison [Benjamin Harrison], a near relation of his, of the Rockingham

militia, commanded the militia companies from this County. But he is unable to recollect who was the Captain under whom this term was served.

This applicant was born in this County, which was then a part of Augusta, and has resided in this County to the present time. He has no record of his age, the family Bible in which he is age was recorded, having fallen into the hands of some other member of the family, – but he believes his age to be about 75 or 76, he is positive it is not less than 75. He has no documentary evidence of his services, having never received a written discharge. He never received a commission, and all his services were rendered as a waggoner [wagoneer] or private. For his character for veracity, and the belief of his services he refers to Dr. Cravens, the Reverend William Bryan, & Capt. David Rolstone.

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.
Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/Reuben Harrison



[William Bryan, a clergyman, and Joseph Cravens gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 12: On June 14, 1843 in Rockingham County Virginia, Mary Harrison, 71 years of age on July 3rd, 1843, applied for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of Reuben Harrison a revolutionary war pensioner; that he died August 15, 1840 at which time he drew a pension of \$22.22 per annum; that she married him April 27, 1791.



Her application was attested by Peachey Harrison, relationship, if any, not stated



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[pp 13-14: copy of a marriage bond dated April 26, 1791 issued in Rockingham County Virginia to Reuben Harrison and Robert Harrison of said County conditioned upon the marriage of Reuben Harrison to Mary Mathews of said County.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$22.22 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 6 and two thirds months service as a private in the Virginia militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]