

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Richmond Harris W8891

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 21 March 2012.

State of Kentucky }
Madison Circuit } S.S.

On this 13th. day of June 1837 personally appeared in open Court, before the Madison Circuit Court, being a Court of record & now sitting Richmond Harris a resident of the County of Madison, Kentucky, aged seventy five years in May last, 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 & served as herein stated—

That in 1779 he was living in Wake County in North Carolina, that in the Fall of that year he was called upon to serve a tour of duty in the Militia in the service of the United States. — He thinks the Militia was divided into classes or divisions — He knows he fell in the 1st. division & that he was called upon to turn out in the Fall of 1779. He presumes he was drafted — The troops of Wake County assembled at the Court House in that County & marched thence to Hillsborough — He was in a Company commanded by Capt. Lewis Bledsoe — Jacob Bledsoe was Lieutenant. He thinks their names were pronounced Bletcher — The name of the Ensign he has forgotten — Major Sharp [sic: Joseph Sharpe] was the Major and Gen'l. [John] Butler was the General. The name of the Colonel is not recollected — From Hillsborough we marched to Salisbury — and were sometime near the Moravian Towns [near present Winston-Salem] — He cannot state the order of their march exactly — but thinks they went by or near the Moravian Towns in going to Salisbury — That the troops were marched about from point to point till the three months, for which we were called out had nearly expired — only lacked a few days — We were then marched to Charleston in South Carolina where we remained between two & three months more — We were encamped in Charleston — The House of some man, who had gone to England, was occupied by the Company, to, which he belonged & another company. The companies were scarce of Tents — we remained in Charleston till he thinks in March — He understood that a few days after he was discharged Charleston became completely invested by the British [late March 1780] — He was in the service on this tour six months — that long under arms or in actual service —

He states that afterwards in same year he was discharged as he thinks, he volunteered under Capt. James Hillsman — we rendezvoused or assembled at the Court House in Wake County — There not being a sufficient number in this militia company, it was finally arranged & we went under a Continental Cap't — He recollects there was an unwillingness on the part of some of the militia to go under the Continental Cap't. — Three of the Company attempted to escape, were taken by the Light Horse & were whipped — He cannot state the exact place where they were punished, but well recollects it was on this Tour. All he recollects about the name of his Cap't. is that he was called Cap't. John — sometimes Capt. Jack — He recollects being at a place called Rugeley's Mills not far from where Gates was defeated [sic: Rugeley's Mills about 6 mi N of the site of the Battle of Camden SC, 16 Aug 1780] — Was there a few days before the defeat — & was not far from that place on the night of the defeat. He with about fifty others were a guard over some British Prisoners & Tories — The same night of the Defeat we retreated with the Prisoners & were so closely pursued by the British that we were finally ordered to disregard the Prisoners & take to the woods & take care of ourselves — & we did so — I recollect very well taking refuge in a swamp. I went on home to North Carolina; shortly after I reached home I was called upon to join the new militia at Headquarters — & did so at a place called the Shallow Ford at the Adkins or Yadkin River — The Americans on one side & the British on the other — He does not at this time recollect the name of the Cap't. — I think Butler was our General — Whether a Continental officer I cannot say, but I most think he

was – The British commenced crossing the River & we were forced to retreat [8 Feb 1781] – & were pursued by the British into Virginia near to Dan River [14 Feb] – My time was out about this period & I was discharged – He served on this Tour three months –

In the year following [sic] in 1781 I was called out and served a third Tour in the in the Militia – I again went from the same County – I think Butler was still the General & Sharp was the Major – I was under different officers on this Tour & I cannot recollect their names. We were marched to near Wilmington in N. Carolina & remained there & in the vicinity till the news came of the surrender of Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781] – after Cornwallis surrendered, I was in one of Capt's companies, who were ordered to keep their men together as far as it was suitable in order they might obtain rations & provisions in getting Home – I do not recollect the exact place where I was discharged, but it was on the road – This was a three months Tour but I think I was discharged a few days before the three months was out – All my discharges are lost or destroyed – I was born in Bedford County in Virginia as I have always understood on the 23^d. May 1762 – I have now no record of my age. I went with my Father when quite small to Wake County North Carolina, where I was living with my Father when I entered the service of the United States as I have before stated – I removed from Wake County N. Carolina to the County of Madison, Kentucky, where I now reside, some five or six years after the close of the Revolutionary War. I have resided in the County of Madison aforesaid & County of Garrard Kentucky, ever since – I cannot now state more particularly than I have the names of officers or units of the Revolution, so far as I was engaged in it. I feel confident I always received written discharges for my Tour of duty, but they are lost or mislaid. I now know of no living witness, by whom I can prove my Services – I cannot state by whom my discharges were signed – nor have I any documentary evidence to prove my Services – My impression is the Militia were divided into classes & when I first entered the services I went according to my Turn – The second time I think I volunteered. The third time I was called out – I claim a pension from the United States for twelve months service in the Militia –

I am personally well known to Francis Goin & Colo James Dejornett who reside in the County and neighbourhood where I now reside, & who can testify as to my character for veracity & their belief of my services as a Soldier in the Revolution, also to Walker West of Garrard County (Ky) The said Harris hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a Pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the agency of any State – Richmond his Rmark Harris

State of Kentucky.

Madison County – Sct.

On this 28th day of August 1837 personally appeared in open Court, before the Madison County Court now sitting & being a Court of record, Richmond Harris, a resident of said County, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following supplementary Declaration to his Declaration heretofore made in the Madison Circuit Court, in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7 1832.

He further states that the last Tour, which he served in the Army of the United States during the Revolutionary War, as stated in his original Declaration, lacked only a few days of three months, he is confident not more than ten or twelve days. He again affirms that he is confident & positive that he served six months on the first Tour he was out before he was discharged as noted in his original Declaration. That he did so under the pressing request of his Officers & from the necessitous condition of the Country at the time – He insists that he is more especially entitled to credit for the last three month of that Tour.

He states the following reasons why he has not made application for a Pension under the act of 1832 at an earlier day – That he is entirely an unlettered man – being unable to read or write & has been always a very domestic house-staying man – that a Pension was not necessary to his support, having a competency for his support. That when he first heard about the law he understood that he would be

compelled to prove his services – that he made much enquiry about those who were in the army with him – but found none alive, who could know what he understood was necessary. He, however, about four years since procured the affidavit of a Mrs Sarah Sebastian, who had married a man, who knew him intimately in the army, but who died before the passage of the act of 1832. His wife had often heard her Husband talk about being in the army with me at Charleston & other places. The affidavit, however, was not properly taken, & she shortly after moved away to Indiana or Illinois. Under such circumstances the business lay along from month to month & year to year till he made his late application. Shortly before which he for the first time learned that positive proof of his services was not indispensable to obtaining a pension under said act. The forgoing reasons with old age and necessary attention to his affairs prevented an earlier application. He has in nothing in relation to the business been influenced by any other motive than an honest desire to obtain what he was fairly & justly entitled to. The affidavit of Mrs. Sebastian has been lost or destroyed – he was informed it was not taken properly & would be of no service.

Richard hisRmark Harris

NOTES:

In Madison County KY on 9 Dec 1853 Polly Harris, age 57, applied for a pension declaring that she married Richmond Harris 18 Oct 1836 in Garrard County KY, and that he died in Madison County KY on 4 Oct 1853. In Decatur County IN on 17 April 1855 the same Polly Harris, age 58, applied for bounty land. The file includes a copy of the bond signed on 18 Oct 1836 by Richmond Harris and James H. Letcher in Garrard County for the marriage of Harris to Polly Hogan. On 19 Dec 1868 while living in Tipton in Tipton County IN, Polly Harris applied for an increase in pension under a later pension act. This application was certified by Thomas J. Hogan and Joel Wright.