

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

Pension Application of James Harris W8892

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Kentucky } Declaration
Floyd County } SS }

On this 17 day of June 1833 personally appeared before the Justices of the county court of Floyd, James Harris a resident of Kentucky in the county of Floyd aged Eighty one years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1833 [sic: 1832] –

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated, to wit- that he volunteered under Colo May, Maijor Baites [probably Bates], Captain William Johns on the 2nd day of September 1777 for nine months as private in the malitia service in the County of Buckingham in the state of Virginia the troops under our Col was directed to march to Williamsburg Virginia and was there kept by orders during the winter in that place, and indeed without marching any distance from Williamsburg, or having any engagement with the enemy till all the Buckingham volenteers's time expired on the 2d day of June 1778. This applicant received his discharge, and returned to Buckingham Co Va. In the month of April (having lost the date of his entrance he cannot be positive as to the day) 1779 this applicant again entered the service, being drafted, in Buckingham County Virginia as a private, for "three months" under Colo May; the Maijor's name was Weston of this he is not positive, but his Captain was by the name of William Anderson. This applicant was marched directly to Albermarle [sic: Albemarle] barracks and staid in the barracks till his term of service expired in August 1779- received his discharge and returned home. In the month of February the 6th day thereof 1781, this applicant volenteered in Buckingham for "six months" again as a private in the malitia service in the state of Virginia to go against Gen [Benedict] Arnold in Virginia his Captain was by the name of Charles Paterson Lieutenant Charles Burkes, and Colo William Flemming [sic: William Fleming], having arrived in the neighborhood where the british was at Portsmouth Virginia, his Gen was by the name of [Baron von] Steuben, the troops had several encounters with Gen [William] Phillips and Arnold scouts, but one of some importance in the dismal swamp with the British, the Americans took several prisoneers, our troops took a position close to Portsmouth, about one mile, from there the troops marched to James River and toward Richmond, from there to Petersburg. There the Americans was defeated in attempting to keep the British out of the town [25 Apr 1781], he was now he thinks commanded by the French General Layfayette [Lafayette], and Tarleton defeated us at point fork and took several baggage waggons and some bacon from us [sic: see note below]. We continued under him till July (about harvest) and rec my discharge, and all of us returned home – this applicant was amediately drafted on the 24th day of July 1781 not withstanding he had just served six months and was compelled to go, in Buckingham Co. Virginia under Colo Jones. Captain Silas Watkins and Brigadier Gen [Robert] Lawson of the malitia, as a private for "three months" and was again commanded by Gen Steuben and Gen'l Layfayette and continued with him till the seize of Little York [28 Sep -19 Oct 1781] – he was in the battle at the seize, received his discharge a few days after Cornwallius [sic: Cornwallis] surrendered, and was however marched to Winchester barracks, and having served out his tour of "three months" he received his discharge at the same from a man by the name of Jackson he lived at the time of his first engagement in Buckingham County Virginia where he was born, and having lived there for many years after the Revolutionary War he removed to this county (Floyd) - he was personally acquainted with Gen Steuben, Gen Layfayette he has seen Gen Washington (saw him at the seize) Gen [William] Smallwood, Gen Guess [Nathaniel Gist], Gen [Thomas] Nelson, Gen [Anthony] Wayne I knew Col [Thomas] Gaskins and

Gen Mulenburg [Peter Muhlenberg] and Kosiusko [Tadeusz Kosciuszko], Gen Greene, and Col. Williams, Col May, Colo Flemming, Maijor Bates, Col Jones, Capt Anderson, and many more that has slipted this applicants recollection his discharges he does not know what has become of them – he has no documentary evidence to establish his claim unless his name is found at Richmond Virginia or Williamsburg. he was enrolled and received pay and clothing both, he refers the War department and Mr. Edwards [Commissioner of Pensions] to General Alex Lackey John Gearhart. the Revd William Sailsberry a clergyman his neighbours who can testify to the character of this applicant as a man of veracity and their belief as well as the general belief of the citizens of the neighbourhood and of the county of this applicants being a Revolutionary soldier and having served as before herein stated–

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 and year aforesaid

[signed] James Harris

Questions

Where and in what year were you born-

Ans- I was born in Buckingham County in the state of Virginia on the [blank] day of [blank] 1752

– – Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Ans- I have not got it now but once had and I do not know where it is -

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

Ans- I was living in Virginia Buckingham County and I lived many years after the war and removed to the this state, where I now live

– – How were you called into service; were you drafted did you volenteer, or were you a substitute, and if a substitute for whom-

Ans I volenteered for nine months the first time, the second time I was drafted for three months, the third time I volenteered for six months the fourth time I was drafted for three months- being twice a volunteer and twice a drafted man-

– – State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served such Continental and Malitia Regiments s you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service-

Ans Gen Layfayette, Gen Nelson, Gen Washington, Colo Williams, Gen Steuben, Gen Guess, Gen Smallwood, Gen Wayne, and Col Kosiusko, Maijor Bates, Col May. I volenteered in Buckingham for nine months and went Williamsburg and there staid till my time was up on the 2d June 1778 under Captain Anderson and Col May- I was then drafted for three months, he got a discharge from Anderson and came home–

shortly after in the first of the year 17811 again volenteered for six months under Charles Paterson as Captain- Colo Fleming was our Col, and marched down the country to Portsmouth and had a battle with the british in the dismal swamp and marched to Petersburg and Richmond and tried to keep the british from coming into Petersburg but was outnumbered. Several of our bagage waggons, and our provisions all got taken, he states he was drafted for three months more and was sent out under Colo Jones and was at the seize of York where Cornwallius was taken by General Washington-

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

Ans. I rec'd four discharges one by Capt Anderson, the other by Capt John and the other by Captain Paterson and the other at the barracks by a Mr. Jackson-

7 State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the revolution.

___Ans Gen Lacky John Gearheart John Holberten Esq. Col John H. Haywood, John Turner the Reverend William Sailsberry.

The deposition of Thomas C. Brown [pension application W9364] an aged man, aged seventy two[?] years, who made oath that he knew James Harris during the Revolutionary war, he was then in the service in the State troops as a common soldier, on the occasion he saw Harris in Camp, and the horn company laying one night with the Malitia and infantry this applicant procured James Harris afs'd to hold his horn during the night, whilst this applicant slept, that he knew some time before the siege of Little York and after, when he was discharged at Winchester Barracks, he also saw before the sige of York at Albemarle barracks, that he knows him to be the same man having known him almost ever since the Revolution. That he first saw him he thinks it might have been in 1779, that he saw him during the year 1781. and further this deponant saith not. [signed] H C Harris [signed] Thos C. Brown

State of Kentucky Sct
Floyd County

On this the 26th day of August 1739, Personally appeared Before me, James Harris [son of James and Patte Harris, born 1785] a Justice of the Peace in deed for the County of Floyd and State aforesaid Patte Harris a resident of Floyd County and State aforesaid aged Eighty four years who being first duly sworn according to law, doth make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the provisions made by an act of Congress passed July 4th 1838. That she is the widow of James Harris deceased, late a resident on the Roll of the State Agency. She further declares that she was lawfully married by publication three times at a Church unto the said James Harris in the County of Buckingham and State of Virginia on the tenth day of May Seventeen hundred and Seventy five (1775) by the Rev William Peasly a Church Minister. She further declares She knows of no recorded evidence of her marriage nor of the ages of her Children, nor does she know of any person now living that was at her wedding. She further declares that her husband the aforesaid James Harris died on the third day of October Eighteen hundred and thirty six (1836) and that she has remained a widow eversince to the present period.

Patte herXmark Harris

The deposition of Samuel Harris a resident of Floyd County and State of Kentucky taken the 26th day of August 1839 to be used as evidence in favor of the application of Mrs. Patte Harris for a pension, Deponent being forty five years old in July last Deposest and Saith that he is the Son and tenth Child of James Harris deceased and Patte Harris his surviving widow. That he knows his Father the aforesaid James Harris was a pensioner on the roll of the Kentucky Agency at the time of his death and that the said James Harris died on the third day of October Eighteen hundred and thirty Six. That his Mother the aforesaid Patty Harris has remained a widow ever since the death of her Husband the said James Harris. Deponent further Saith that his oldest Sister the Daughter of the Said James & Patte Harris is now Sixty five years old the next oldest Child Sally is now Sixty three years old, the next Oldest is Fanny is now Sixty-One years Old. The balanse of the Children of the said James & Patte Harris came on in rotation of about two years between each child untill they had Eleven Children. This the deponent has understood from his Father & Mother from his earliest recollections and the deponent has know doubt the said James Harris and Patte his now widow was lawfully married for the Deponent has never heard the legality of their marriage doubted by any persons what ever. [signed] Samuel Harris

The deposition of William Burnet [born about 1763, married to the daughter of Henry Thompson and Lucy Harris, sister of James Harris] a resident of Floyd County Ky. taken the 27 day of August 1839 to be used as evidence in favor of the application of Mrs. Patte Harris for a pension Deponent being 76 years old deposest and saith that 35 years since in the county of Patrick, Va his then residence he became acquainted with James Harris deceased late a resident of Floyd County Ky and a pensioner and his surviveing widow who is now the applicant. On the deponents first acquaintance the said James & Patte had several Children the oldest if now living the deponent would suppose to be 65 years old the rest of

the Children seemed to come in regular rotation [two words smudged] two years between the age of each child. The said [smudged] Patte Harris [smudged]. The deponents first acquaintance and has ever since bore as good a character for morality and virtue as any other person of his knowledge and he feels certain the said Spouse[?] Patte Harris was lawfully married for if they had not been he would shurely heard it spoken of as there were many persons in the neighborhood who had been acquainted with the said James and Patte from the time of their marriage. But the deponent never heard the legality of their marriage doubted by any person whatever. And further saith not.

William hisXmark Burnet

NOTES:

At the engagement at Point of Fork, at present Columbia VA, on the 5th and 6th of June 1781 Baron von Steuben was bluffed into abandoning military stores by a much smaller force under Lt. Col. John Simcoe. Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton was not present.

On 5 June 1834 Henry C. Harris stated that he had drawn the pension application of James Harris, that he then knew that James Harris could sign his own name, but that at the time of application he "had but little acquaintance with James Harris."