

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Joseph Harrison ¹W8917 Mary Harrison f98VA
Transcribed by Will Graves 2/23/14

[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.]

County of Scott State of Kentucky

On this Day personally appeared before me the Undersigned Justice of the Peace in and for the County aforesaid Mary Harrison a resident of the County of Scott State of Kentucky aged 71 years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Provision made by the Act of Congress passed July 7, 1838 entitled an act granting Half Pay and Pensions to certain Widows. That she is the widow of Joseph Harrison who was an Ensign in the Virginia Continental line and she has been informed that he entered the service for and during the war as such and served until the Final termination and was in the Service at least 7 years but in consequence of his being taken sick just at the close of the service he was unable to obtain his Regular Discharge or Pay. She refers to the Records for evidence of his Services. She further declares that she was married to the said Joseph Harrison on the 30 Day of May 1784. That she was not married to him prior to his leaving the Regular Service but he was engaged at various times after their marriage against the Indians but the marriage took place previous to the first of January 1794 viz. at the time above stated in the County State of Kentucky the clerk's office having been consumed by fire and all the records. She prays the best evidence that can be produced may be and in her case. That her Husband the said Joseph Harrison died on 22 day of August 1813 and she has remained a widow ever since his death and refers to the Proof hereto annexed. Given from under my hand on this 15 day of August [1838]

S/ Mary Harrison

A photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script, which reads "Mary Harrison". The ink is dark and the paper appears slightly aged.

[p 6: family register

James Harrison son of Joseph & Mary was Born on Sunday 1 o'clock June 27 1790

Joel Harrison son of the above was born on Sunday 8 o'clock July the 8 1792

Hannah Footman Harrison was born January 19th 1794 on Sunday 11 o'clock at night
[there is an entry below this but it is too faint to discern]

[p 7: cont'd family register]

Joseph Harrison and Mary Gayle was married May the 30th 1784 ^{born April 23, 1767}

¹ BLWt34539-160-55

Harriet Harrison Daughter of Joseph and Mary Harrison was born April the 11th 1785 on Monday
Lovell Harrison was born November the 3rd 1783 on Friday
Mary Foster Harrison Daughter [words too faint to discern] was born September the 5th
1788

[p 10: On July 20, 1855 in Scott County Kentucky, Mary Harrison, made application for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of Joseph Harrison, a Sergeant and Lieutenant in the war of the Revolution; in this document she states that she was married to Joseph Harrison in Fayette County Kentucky in May 1784 by Lewis Craig, a preacher; that her name prior to her marriage was Mary Gale; that her husband died August 25, 1813 in Scott County Kentucky.]

[p 13]

Council Chambers July 10th 1783

I do certify that Joseph Harrison is entitled to the proportion of land allowed a Sergeant of the Virginia Line on Continental establishment for 3 years service.

Thomas Meriwether

Benjamin Harrison

No. 1351 A Warrant for 200 acres issued to Joseph Harrison July 10th, 1783

A Copy from the records of the Virginia Land office

Test S. H. Parker, Register Land Office

[p 17]

Mr. Joseph Harrison is appointed Ensign to Colonel Richard Bland's Company May 4th, 1781
S/ Alex. Dick Lt. Colo. [Alexander Dick]

A handwritten note in cursive script on aged paper. The text reads: "Mr. Joseph Harrison is appointed Ensign to Capt. Rich. Bland's Com. 4 May 4th 1781. Alex. Dick Lt. Colo." The signature "Alex. Dick" is written in a larger, more decorative hand.

[p 18]

I do Certify that Mr. Joseph Harrison Acted as Lieutenant under me in Camp near Gloucester town from the 25th September until the 22nd of October 1781 –

Given under my Hand this 28th day of April 1783

S/ John P Hungerford

Captain of the Grenadiers

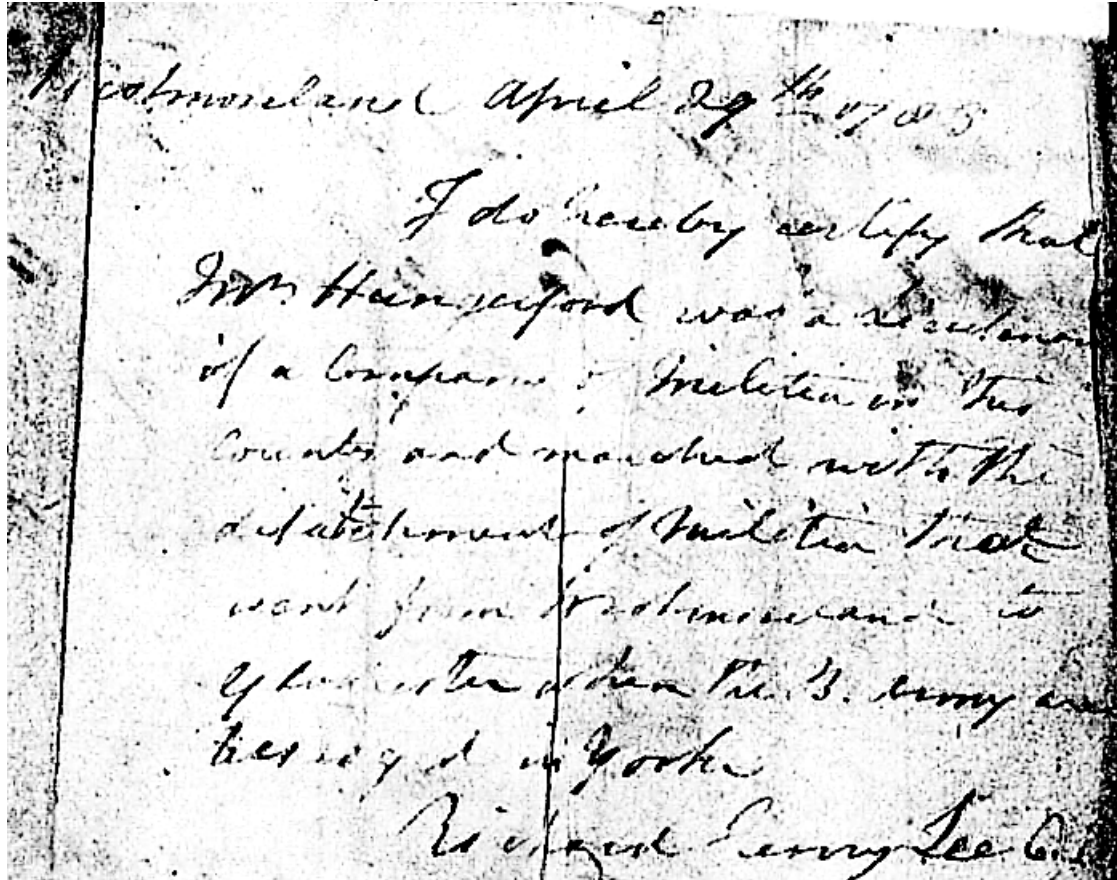
A handwritten certificate in cursive script on aged paper. The text reads: "I do certify that Mr. Joseph Harrison acted as Lieut. under me in Camp near Gloucester town from the 25th Sept. until the 22nd of October 1781. Given under my Hand this 28th day of April 1783. John P. Hungerford Capt. of the Grenadiers". The signature "John P. Hungerford" is written in a larger, more decorative hand.

[p 19]

Westmoreland April 29th, 1783

I do hereby certify that John Hungerford was a Lieutenant of a Company of Militia in this County and marched with the detachment of militia that went from Westmoreland to Gloucester when the B. Army was besieged in York

Richard Henry Lee, Col.



Westmoreland April 29th 1783

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Richard Henry Lee Col.

[p 21: On November 29, 1850 in Scott County Kentucky, John G Harrison, 41, gave testimony that he is the son of Joseph and Mary Harrison in support of her claim to be pensioned for the services of her husband as a Lieutenant. He verifies the documents copied above as being found by him.



John G. Harrison

[p 59]

An amended Declaration of Mary Harrison in order to obtain the benefit of an act of Congress of July 7, 1838 entitled an act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows

She being duly sworn according to law doth on her oath state that she is the widow of the late Joseph Harrison who was an officer on the Virginia line during the war of the Revolution as set forth in her former Declaration but she is unable at this great length of time in consequence of her loss of memory to state the names of the officers under whom he served or the battles he was in or any further particulars in relation to his services than is set forth in her former declaration.

She has been informed by him and others that he resided in Westmoreland County State of Virginia at the time he entered the Services and that he was taken sick near the close of the war and never obtained the money and land that was due to him and immigrated to Kentucky and was married to her at the time stated in her declaration after which time he entered the service under Colonel Robert Johnson (the father of the vice president of the United States) and was out on various campaigns under him against the Indians. She prays that the record may be carefully examined for evidence of the services of her husband the said Joseph Harrison and a pension granted to her. She has been informed by him and others that there was a large amount due to him for his services in the war of the Revolution and believe it to be the truth and that it is now due to her children. Given from under my hand the 16th day of October 1838.

S/ Mary Harrison, X her Mark

[p 52: On February 18, 1845, in Fayette County Kentucky, Joseph Ficklin, post master at Lexington gave testimony in support of the widow's application; in his affidavit he states that his father and mother and their 5 children left Virginia full Kentucky in the year 1781 when the affiant was 6 years old; that his father took up residence at Bryant's station 5 miles from Lexington; among the families that removed from Spotsylvania County Virginia at the same time as his father's removal was one Matthew Gale a near neighbor in Virginia who remained a near neighbor in Kentucky; that a gentleman visited Bryant station in the trash uniform by the name of Joseph Harrison; said Joseph Harrison was often in company with Mary Gayle at the affiant's father's house; that Mary Gayle was then about the age of the affiant's eldest sister; that Joseph Harrison married Mary Gayle; that Joseph Harrison engaged in teaching school at which the affiant was a student in 1786; that Joseph Harrison and his family remained a near neighbor to the affiant's family until 1797; that the affiant has often heard the veteran speak of his service in the revolution and of his being at various places under various officers including Washington, Lord Stirling, Woodford, Mercer & Monroe

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[p 93: At June term 1856 in Scott County Kentucky, evidence was presented that Mary Harrison a pensioner of the United States at the rate of \$127.50 per annum died in Scott County October 15, 1855 survived by the following children: to wit: Kitty Harrison, Milly Harrison, John G Harrison, Thompson M Harrison, and Frances Anne Carrington.]

[Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of \$127.50 per annum commencing March 4th, 1836, for her husband service as a Lieutenant & Sergeant in the Virginia Continental line.]

[From [rejected pension records in the Library of Virginia](#)]

[Power of attorney executed by John G. Harrison, Cassandra C Harrison, Milly P Harrison, Thompson M Harrison, Kitty Harrison, and Frances Ann Knox, December 14, 1836 in Scott County Kentucky appointing their attorney to pursue their claim for bounty land due their father for his service as an Ensign in the revolutionary war.

John G Harrison
Catharine G Harrison
Molly P Harrison
Thompson M Harrison
Mary Harrison
Frances Ann Knox

The Memorial of Frances Ann Knox, Jane Harrison, J G Harrison, T M Harrison, C Harrison, Catharine Harrison, Samuel T Allen and Hannah Allen of Scott County Kentucky and Harmon McIntire and Harriet McIntire of Shelby County Kentucky and William Ficklin, Mary Ficklin and H G Harrison of Calloway County Missouri

Your memorialist humbly represent to your Excellency the Governor of Virginia that they are the heirs at law of the late Joseph Harrison of Scott County Kentucky and that they have been informed and believe that he entered in the service as a regular soldier on the Continental line at the commencement of the Revolutionary war and that he was afterwards commissioned as an Ensign and served until the close of the war and was entitled to land Bounty from the State of Virginia, and presume his name and services will appear on the records before your memorialist was born they are unable to give any information except what they heard from their father the aforesaid Joseph Harrison and pray that such bounty land may be granted to them as may appear due from the records.

[one or more signatures cut off at the bottom of this page]

Frances Ann Knox
Thompson M Harrison
James Harrison
Catharine G Harrison
Molly P Harrison
William Ficklin and Mary his wife
Matthew G Harrison and Alley his wife
Haman McIntire & Harriet his wife