

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of William Harriss (Harris) R4674                      VA  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 31 Aug 2014.

State of Illinois       }     On this day Towit the 17th of August A.D. 1836, personally appeared in  
Vermilion County }     Open Court, towit the Probate Court in and for said County now sitting, William  
Harriss aged, Eighty Seven years, next June as he verily believes, who being first duly sworn, (he being a  
resident of Champaine [sic: Champaign] County Illinois) according to law, Doth on his Oath make the  
following declaration, in order to obtain the benefits 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.

On the first tour, Declarant were drafted at the White house on the Shanadoah [sic: Shenandoah]  
River, in Shanadoah County Virginia, in the month of September, as this declarant verilees in the year  
1776 or 1776 [sic], or-at-all events the year that King Cornstalk was killed, at Point Pleasant in the State  
of Virginia [10 Nov 1777], in the company of Captain Rader [Michal Radar (Michael Rader), pension  
application S7349]. Marched from thence to Winchester there joined the Companies of [Thomas] Buck  
& Nicewonger probably Henry Nisewanger], marched from thence to Old Town – thence along the Road  
that was opened by General Bradocks troops to Pittsburg [sic: Braddock’s Road to Pittsburgh, 1755]. it  
was nearly an entire Wilderness from Old Town to Pittsburg there stationed to guard against the  
depredations of the savages until a few days before Christmas and went home were discharged by  
Captain Rader, General Hann [sic: Edward Hand] commanded while at Pittsburg — Served not less than  
three months on said Tour a private in said company.

On a Second tour were drafted at Millerstown [now Woodstock] in the County Shenadoah in the State of  
Virginia in the month of September 1781 marched to Winchester or at Purkins Spring there were station  
to Guard the British Prisoners, were a private in the company of Captain Seahorn [sic: possibly John  
Sehorn] – under Colonel Brown – Served not less that three months on said tour were discharged about  
Christmas 1781 by my Captain and that he has no documentary evidence of his services, and that he  
knows of no person now living who he can prove his Revolutionary services by /Adam Reccabaugh and  
John Reccabaugh they being both dead, at this time — and that he hereby relinquishes every claim to a  
pension whatever except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of any state.

William hisXmark Harriss

Interogatories Prescribed by the War Department

Quest 1<sup>st</sup>. Born in Culpeper County Virginia as declarant believes in the year 1750. Quest 2<sup>nd</sup> no record  
[of his age]

3<sup>rd</sup> Quest: In Shanadoah County Virginia lived in the State of Ohio Galia [sic: Gallia] County, in the the  
State of Indiana about two years, now lives in Champaign County Illinois,

4 Quest: were drafted

5 Questions General Hann Col Gibson [probably John Gibson], Capt [Mathew] Arbuckle,  
Captains Rader Buck & Nicewonger, and Captain Col. Brown [were present during his service], 6<sup>th</sup> I  
Rec’d. a discharge the one on the first tour were signed by Capt Rader; the 2 one were signed by Captain  
Seahorn All of which were burned with my house in Galea County Ohio

7<sup>th</sup> Joseph Thomas & Jacob Thomas [two from his neighborhood who could testify to his character for  
veracity and their belief in his Revolutionary services]

NOTE: William Harris’s claim was rejected for the following reason: “The militia of Va were not called  
out to serve at fort Pitt for the time alleged nor were they required to serve three months from Sept 1781,  
in guarding prisoners at Winchester. The act of 7 June 1832 provides for none who did not perform six  
months actual service in a military capacity.” However, the three-months duration of William Harris’s  
first tour is borne out by the following declarations, which were accepted by the Pension Office: James

Carter R1743, Michal Radar (Michael Rader) S7349, David Catlett R1808, Walter Cunningham S9263, and Boltzer Trout (pension application S7749). The Pension Office also credited William Hall (S16142) with three months service as a drafted militiaman guarding prisoners at Winchester in the fall of 1781.