

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of William Harris S30458

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Kentucky

On the 18th day of February 1833 personally appeared in open court before the Justices of the Court of Barren County now-sitting William Harris a Resident of said County aged 78 years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of an 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. He was born on James River in Cumberland County Virginia and in May 1776 volunteered in the Virginia Militia under Captain John Bates ["in the month of May" lined through]. At the time he volunteered he lived at Buckingham Court House in Buckingham County. Under Bates he guarded Prisoners, who were taken in the lower part of Virginia, those prisoners he guarded from Buckingham to Amherst [sic: Albemarle County VA] where he was discharged & went home, having served at least one month. He recollects no other Officer but Bates. He has lost his discharge, never expecting to have any use for it.

The second time he was drafted in the spring of 1777 under the same Captain Bates & Colonel May and marched to old Williamsburgh [sic: Williamsburg] where he joined several thousand troops where he stayed as a Minute Man to march in service at a Moments Warning. He does not remember his other officers in this tour. At Williamsburgh he received a Discharge after having served at least four months. He can't tell now what has become of the discharge, it is lost, he never expecting to have use for it.

In March of the year in which Cornwallis capitulated [19 Oct 1781] he again volunteered under captain William Jones, the other company officers he does not remember. And was marched to the south. Green [sic: Gen. Nathanael Greene] was his commander. Under him he was at the battle of Guilford [Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781] where his captain was killed. After the battle of Guilford he went to Ninety Six, he was at that place under Green all the time he stayed there at which place there were some skirmishes [apparently during the Siege of Ninety-Six SC, 22 May - 19 Jun 1781]. The Enemy killed about 40 of Green's men by blowing up a redoubt [see note below]. He was discharged in South Carolina not far from Camden, between Ninety Six & Charlestown. he can't tell what has become of his discharge never expecting to have any use for it. On this tour he served at least six months. He has no documentary evidence, nor does he know of any Person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service. In answer to the interrogatories presented in the War Department he saith. He was born in Cumberland County Virginia in the year 1755 25th August. He has no record of his age. At the time of entering the service he resided in Buckingham. He afterward lived, after the War in Henry & Patrick Counties, thence [about 1830] he moved to Barren where he has lived ever since. The first time he entered the service he volunteered, the 2nd time drafted & the 3rd volunteered. In answer to the 5th he would name Genl Green, Lieutenant Washington [sic: probably Lt. Col. William Washington]. He can't remember any Continental & Militia Regiments, his memory is so impaired. He guarded prisoners from Buckingham to Ambermarle Court House [sic: Albemarle Court House, now Charlottesville VA], he remained at Williamsburgh at least four months as a minute man, he was at the Battle of Guilford, & was at 96 under Gen. Green. He regularly received discharges from the service, but they are now lost. In answer to the 7th he would name, James Murrell, Elijah Shirley, Thos Shirley, Col. William Anderson, Jos Pedigo.

Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid
William (his X mark) Harris

[The following pension applications of Lydia Harris are in the file of a different William Harris of Bourbon County KY, pension application number W8893. Her deposition bears no relation to that William Harris. From the fact that her pension certificate refers to her as the widow of Sgt. William Harris, it is apparent that the papers were misfiled soon after they were received in the pension office in Washington.]

State of Kentucky Barren County Sct

On this the nineteenth day of November 1839 personally appeared before me James Murrell one of the Commonwealth Justices of the Peace in and for the County and State aforesaid Lydia Harris a resident of said County and State aged seventy seven years on the 30th day of August 1839 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 pass'd. July 7th 1838 entitled "an act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows" That she is the widow of William Harris who was a soldier in the Army of the Revolution, she further Declares that she was married to the said William Harris on the 23rd day of March in the year 1782 in Henry County State of Virginia and that her husband the aforesaid William Harris died on the 22nd day of April 1838 in the County of Barren and state aforesaid, that her said husband was a Revolutionary Pensioner at the time of his death, that she was not married to her said husband prior to his leaving the service but the marriage took place previous to the 1st day of January 1794 Towit, on the 23rd day of March in the year 1782 as above stated.

Lydia herXmark Harris

State of Kentucky Barren County sct

On this the 25th day of November 1839 John Renfro Sr. [brother of Lydia Harris, pension application W9250] aged 79 years on the 12th day of November 1839 and Esther Renfro aged 75 years Resident Citizens of Barren County personally appeared before me and made oath to the following statements, That they have been acquainted with Lydia Harris whose Declaration is contained on the other side of this sheet for upwards of Sixty years. That they were present and witnessed the marriage of the said Lydia Harris to William Harris which took place in Henry County Virginia, the precise day of the month they cannot state but know it to have been in the Spring of the year 1782, the marriage ceremony was pronounced by Parson Nathan Hall a Baptist minister, that they have been intimately acquainted with the said William Harris & Lydia for some years previous to their marriage and up to the said William Harris's death which took place on the 22nd day of April 1838 in Barren County Ky and that the said Lydia Harris widow of the said William Harris is still living and reside in Barren County and has never married since her said husbands death. They repeat, that the said William Harris was lawfully married to the said Lydia Harris in the spring of the year 1782, that they were both present and witness'd. the marriage

John Renfro Sr.

Esther herXmark Renfro

Declaration In order to obtain the benefits of the decision of the Attorney General of 2^d September, 1842, and of the Resolution of Congress, of the 23^d January, 1845.

Whereas, the decisions of the Department, in force when Mrs Lydia Harris, obtained her pension, and the Act of the 30th of April, 1844, prohibited her from drawing a pension for the same period during which her husband was a pensioner, I now make the following statement, under oath, to obtain the benefit of the decision and resolutions above mentioned; I am the Administrator of the Estate if Lydia Harris, deceased who was the widow of William Harris, who was a soldier in the War of the Revolution; She drew a pension at the rate of Fifty-one dollars and sixty cents per annum, from the twenty-second day of April, 1838, and I now ask for myself and the other children of Lydia Harris, deceased, that a certificate may issue for the amount due from the 4th day of March, 1836, to the 22^d day of April, 1838. She made her declaration before the 30th of April, 1844 [on 1 Mar 1844], and it was filed in the Pension Office before the 23^d of January, 1845.

John R Harris

Administrator of the Estate of Lydia Harris, dec'd.

Sworn to and subscribed before me, on this 21st day of August in the year one thousand eight hundred and forty-eight, at Glasgow, Barren County, Kentucky. Jas. Bennett

State of Kentucky Barren County Sct

On this 21st day of August 1848 personally appeared before the Undersigned a Justice of the peace in and for said County duly authorized by law to administer oaths Henry Pedigo known by me to be a man of credibility who after having been duly sworn according to law doth depose and say, that he was well acquainted with Lydia Harris widow of William Harris, both deceased, that he was a near neighbour of Lydia Harris, that he waited upon her during her last

illness and he assisted at her burial and that she departed this life on the 11th day of May 1845
that at te time of her death she resided in Barren County Ky and was a pensioner of the United
States.

Henry Pedigo

NOTES:

At the Siege of Ninety-Six, it was the British rather than Americans who were in a redoubt. William Harris or the clerk who wrote the deposition may have been confused about Greene's failed plan to blow up the redoubt.

On 21 Jan 1840 Lydia Harris deposed that "her said Husband kept no family record."