

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Robin Harris: R4672

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of N. Carolina} Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions
Warren County} August Term A.D. 1832

On this the 28th day of August A.D. 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the said Court now sitting, Robin Harriss a resident of the County of Warren & state of No Carolina aged Seventy three years 73 - 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 was born in the County of Bute (now Warren Co) State of No. Carolina as appears from a record kept in his father's family (which he exhibits to the Court) on the 24th Nov. 1758. That a draft was made of the militia of said County as well as he recollects, about the 10th September 1780 when he was drafted to perform a tour of service for the term of three months - By his discharge accompanying this declaration it will be observed that he was dismissed after performing his term on 10th Dec'r. 1780. Gen'l. Allen Jones commanded the militia forces drafted in Halifax Counties about this time - Gen'l. Jones was a citizen of Halifax Col. Hart commanded the Regiment to which I belonged - he I believe was from the County of Edgecombe No. Carolina - The name of my captain was John White who was a citizen of the then County of ~~Bute~~ Vance - Col. Branch of Halifax Cty N.C. & Maj. Hill of the then County of ~~Bute~~ (now Franklin N.C.) - After being drafted he was marched to Louisburg Franklin Cty. N.C. from thence westwardly, first to Wake Court House (now Raleigh) and thence to Salisbury No.Car. From Salisbury they took up the line of march towards the South Carolina line leaving Charlotte, Mecklenburg Cty. No.Car. to the right, not being marched thro' that place as it was reputed that the small-pox was then raging there - At a place called New Providence or Six mile creek they met the regular troops under the command of Gen'l. [William] Smallwood - New Providence is between Charlotte & the Waxaw [sic: Waxhaw] settlement in S.Car. He recollects seeing at this place Col. [William] Washington & his company of horse - While stationed at this place a company was detached and sent off to take a gang of Tories under the command of one Col. Rudgely [sic: Henry Rugeley] Tory General [sic] - This company fell in with the Tories at Rudgely's Mill & by using a statagem (it was said a large pine log made to resemble a cannon) took most of them prisoners - and brought them into Camp. This affiant never saw Gen Green [sic: Greene] but was informed he was there [See note below.] - during this term of service he never was in an engagement, but shortly after the capture of the Tories was taken sick & was sent home or nearly home in a waggon prepared for the purpose - reached home on Christmas eve - 1780.

About the 20th of April 1781 he was again drafted on a Tour of duty for three months - his Captain's name was Joel Rees[?] (from the County Warren who has long since been dead) whose name appears to the accompanying discharge - among the officers he recollects Col. Linton [possibly William Linton] - Col. [illegible] from Edenton district No.C. & Col. [given name illegible] Hankins of Warren who commanded a company of horse - Cornwallis about this time was in the Roanoke [River] Country and great consternation prevailed. The Company to which affiant belonged crossed Roanoke at Black's Ferry Mecklenburg Va. & marched up the river to Taylor's Ferry destroying canoes and vessels of all kinds on the river at Taylors Ferry they crossed again to the No.Carolina side and marched down to Halifax - before we reached Halifax Cornwallis had passed & gone to Virginia - from Halifax we were marched to Tarboro - from Tarboro to Kinston in Lenoir Cty. N.C. from Kingston [sic] down Neuse River towards Newbern by the way of Cox's Ferry - then back again up Neuse to Johnson [sic: Johnston] C. H. near Smithfield - thence thro' that whole Neuse country again to Kingston - at Kingston this affiant was left in charge of the sick & ended as will appear by the accompanying certificate of Jas. Bradbury[?] dated 11th July, 1781. he was not again called into active service but was discharged July 25th 1781. This last expedition was confined to the object of suppressing the [word illegible] of the Tories who were much inspired about this time on account of the transparent progress of Cornwallis thro' the

center part of the State — during this excursion many [word illegible] were taken & destroyed —
This affiant hereby relinquishes all claims 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 whatever.
Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid. [signed] Robin Harris

NOTES:

On 6 Dec 1780 when Col. William Washington captured Rugeley's Mill by the stratagem
of a fake cannon ("Quaker Gun"), Gen. Nathanael Greene was in Charlotte NC, where he had
taken command of the southern army a few days before.

The file includes an application made in Warren County NC on 23 Nov 1846 by Tabitha
Harris, age 85, stating that she was married to Robin Harris in old Bute County on 1 Dec 1778
and that he died 20 May 1843. His daughter, Jane C. Harris, was her legal representative.