

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Harvell (Harville, Harvill) R4717 Oney (Omey or Naoma)
Harvell f42VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

2/27/14

[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.]

State of North Carolina Caswell County

On this 10th day of April 1833 personally appeared in open Court before and John C Harvey, Thomas W Graves & Thomas D Johnston Justices of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions for the County of Caswell, William Harville a resident of the said County and State aforesaid aged about seventy-one 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 was drafted (as a soldier of the revolution) for the term of six months in the fall of the year __ in the County of Brunswick, State of Virginia and marched (as a private) to York town, in that State in a company of Militia commanded by Captain Henry Clayton and General Buckner Stith, the Regiment to which said company belonged was commanded by Colonel Richard Elliott, that he was in the battle of Yorktown and that he served out the full period or time of six months for which he was enlisted, which terminated shortly after the battle of Yorktown [surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown occurred on October 19, 1781], and that he was regularly discharged by a written certificate from under the hand of Captain Clayton, which discharge he has since lost or mislaid so that it cannot now be found.

He does hereby relinquish every claim whatsoever to any pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency or State.

The preceding declaration sworn to in Open court this 10th day of April 1833

S/ Paul A Harrelson, Clerk

S/ William Harville, X his mark

Questions by the Court:

Question 1st – Where and in what year were you born – Answer I was born in the County of Brunswick, Virginia, & I do not know the precise year, the record of my age having been taken away by a neighbor of mine who borrowed the prayer book containing it and who afterwards went to the Western country and took it with him. I remember of my parents telling me about the time of the battle of Yorktown, that I was then seventeen years of age.

Question 2nd. Have you any record of your age. – Answer I have none.

Question 3rd. Where were you living when called into service, where have you resided since and where do you now live. Answer I was living in the County of Brunswick in the State of Virginia when called into the service, and continued to live there until about the close of the revolutionary war about 2 or 3 years after that time I removed to the County of Caswell North Carolina and have resided there ever since.

Question 4th – how were you called into service, were you drafted, did you volunteer or were you a substitute – Answer, I was drafted.

Question 5th – State the names of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service. Answer. Henry Clayton was Captain of my company, Buckner Stith, Lieutenant, William Vaughan Ensign, and our Regiment was commanded by Colonel Richard Elliott, I remember of seeing Generals Washington, and Wayne [Anthony Wayne] at the battle of Yorktown. I also remember that while I was at Yorktown, I was engaged with others of the militia in throwing up embankments and while so engaged, a party of the enemy came upon us and commanded us to "get up out of our breastworks and surrender" but while they and a party of the regulars who were acting as our guard were skirmishing or firing at each other, we made our escape leaving our arms behind – as which fell into the hands of the enemy.

Question 6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it. Answer – I did receive a regular written discharge from service signed by my Captain Henry Clayton, which has since been lost or mislaid.

Question 7th. State the names of persons residing in your neighborhood to whom you are known and who can testify as to your character for veracity and good behavior and also the name of any persons or person who can testify as to your services as a Soldier of the revolution. Answer – I am well acquainted with John Jeffries, Thomas Jeffries, and John Kitchen, Esquire who can testify as to my character for truth and veracity, Living now at a considerable distance from the place where I entered the service there is no one living that I know of who can testify as to my services as a soldier of the revolution except my brother Peyton Harville who resides in the County of Pittsylvania State of Virginia and whose affidavit taken before a magistrate of that County accompanies this declaration.

Sworn and subscribed in open Court the 10th day of April 1833

S/ Paul A Haralson, Clerk

S/ William Harville, X his mark

[John Jeffries Senior, Thomas Jeffries and John Kitchen gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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Pittsylvania County Virginia

This day Peyton Harville of the County & State aforesaid – Personally appeared before me a Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid, and made oath that – (to the best of his knowledge) in the year of 1781 – William Harville – was drafted in the County of Brunswick State of Virginia and marched under Captain Clayton who was attached to a Regiment of Militia commanded by Colonel Richard Elliott – to Yorktown – and have good reasons to believe that the said William Harvill served a 6 months Tower [tour] of Duty – and that he was in the Battle at the Defeat of Lord Cornwallis.

Given under my hand & seal this 29th day of October 1832

S/ J. M. Williams, Jr., JP

[p 9: On March 30, 1843 in Caswell County North Carolina, Oney Harville, 80, filed for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of William Harville, a revolutionary war pensioner at the rate of \$20 per annum; that she married him January 30, 1786; that her husband died March 18, 1838 and that she remains his widow. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 12: On October 7, 1846 in Caswell County North Carolina, Elizabeth Dunnaway, 60, gave testimony that she is the daughter of William Harville who was a revolutionary war pensioner; that he died in Caswell County March 18, 1838 leaving a widow Oney whom remained unmarried until her death on January 6, 1844 leaving surviving her 3 children, Elizabeth the declarant, who intermarried with Samuel Dunnaway, Henry and Jane; that her father resided in Greenville County Virginia and she believes married there; that her mother's maiden name was Smith; that she encloses a copy of the marriage bond issued for the marriage of her parents. She signed her affidavit with her mark.]

[p 14: copy of a marriage bond issued January 20, 1786 in Greenville County Virginia to William Harwell [sic] and Drury Adams conditioned upon the marriage of William Harwell to Oney Smith, spinster. There is also a certificate of marriage is returned dated January 30, 1786 showing the marriage of William Harwell to Oney Smith returned June 2nd, 1786 by William Andrews Prothy.]

[p 17: Power of attorney dated July 2nd, 1857 signed by Jency Merit stating that she is a child and heir at law of Maoma or Omeys Harville, , widow of William Harville. She signed the document with her mark.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months in the North Carolina [sic Virginia] militia.]