

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

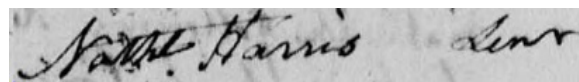
Pension Application of Nathaniel Harris S37971

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 25 Aug 2014.

Commonwealth of Kentucky, Woodford County Sct

On this 5 day of May 1834 personally appeared in open Court, before the worshipful the Justices of the County Court of Woodford now sitting (it being a Court of Record), Nathaniel Harris aged seventy four on the 26 day of August last, resident of the County of Jessamine and Commonwealth aforesaid, 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 7 June 1832: That in the year 1778 some British vessels of war appeared in the Cape of Virginia and a call for volunteers was made by the Governor of Virginia, that two Companies of volunteers from Powhatan County (the then place of residence of this declarant) assembled at Powhatan Court House, and that we went into an election of officers, that the Company to which he was attached elected William Mayo as their Captain, George Smith Lieutenant and George Stokes Smith Ensign – being thus organized we marched to Williamsburgh [sic: Williamsburg], where we remained until the first Virginia Regiment of Regulars returned from the North and joined us at Williamsburgh, after which we were marched to York Town and staid some time. the ships of war appearing at old Point Comfort, but moving through Norfolk, we were marched to that place. Genl. Hugh Nelson I think had the Command. The British at last sailed off without landing and after some time we were discharged. This term lasted three or four months – three at least. In the winter 1780 or beginning of 1781 a call was made for volunteers from Virginia to repel Lord Cornwallis who was marching thru North Carolina on the borders of Virginia. I again volunteered – a Regiment was raised in Bedford his then place of residence. Col. Charles Lynch commanded the Regiment. John Calloway [sic: John Callaway], Major. The Capt. under whom he served was Charles Gwatkins, Lieutenant, Thomas Logwood – we were marched on and joined the army under Genl. Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] on the waters of Haw River [in North Carolina] – then commenced maneuvering for some weeks, until the Battle of Guilford [sic: Battle of Guilford Courthouse, 15 Mar 1781] which Battle he was in. we lost four Captains out of Lynch's Regiment (towit, Captns Beard, Helm, Jones & Moone [David Beard, Thomas Helm, William Jones, and Jacob Moon; but see endnote], the last of whom, he brought from the ground on his back – but that man died in a few days. Lynch's Regiment was attached to Colo. Washingtons [William Washington's] Corps of Horse, Campbells [Col. William Campbell's] Regiment of Rifle men, and Colo. [Henry] Lee's Horse. after the Battle of Guilford, we marched to some old Iron Works [Troublesome Iron Works, also called Speedwell's Furnace, on Reedy Fork about 16 miles north of Guilford Courthouse] where we lay for some time, and then marched between Haw & Deep River to give Battle to the British who lay in the forks of sd. Rivers at Ramsy's Mills [sic: Ramsey's Mill, site of skirmishing on 19 March]. The British retiring, Lynch & Washingtons Regiments marched up deep River some 50 or 60 miles, where we were discharged after we found the enemy had gone to Wilmington North Carolina. on this tour he thinks he served four or five months but on account of his not being able to speak particularly from his advanced age as to the length of time – He will state that in the two tours he served six months at least. That he has no documentary evidence and that he knows of no person, whose Testimony he can procure to testify as to his service. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever 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. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Nathl. Harris" followed by a flourish.

Honble. R. M. Johnson [Richard M. Johnson, House of Representatives]

Dear Sir:/ Knowing your willingness at all times to aid an old Soldier of the Revolution I have taken the liberty of forwarding to you the amended declaration of the Rev'd. Nath'l. Harris. He is among the first ministers of the Gospel I ever heard. He is of the Methodist persuasion. No doubt you know him well – if not I will refer you to Maj'r. Barry, Mr. Clay [probably Henry Clay] &c. for his character – no man sustains a fairer character. I hope you will attend to this little matter for him. He is poor as almost all are who devote the whole of their time to the service of their God. You can enclose his Certificate to myself or Mr. Rob. Kinkead post master in this place.

Resp'y Yrs./ John McKinney Senr./ Versailles May 6, 1834.

NOTE:

Capt. David Beard was apparently not killed at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse. See for example the pension application of James Cook S12616.

Although the application transcribed above was referred to as an amended application, no other was found in the file.