

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of John Harris S37997

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 24 Jan 2012.

Prince George County; to wit:

Second Judicial Circuit of Va;

This 27th day of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred & eighteen personally appeared before me, Richard E. Parker, one of the Judges of the Judicial Court and Judge of the Second Judicial Circuit aforesaid John Harris, a free man of Colour, and in pursuance of an act of Congress, entitled "An act to provide for certain persons, engaged in the land & naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War," and in order to obtain the assistance thereby afforded to revolutionary officers & soldiers, in reduced circumstance, made oath that during the year 1777 he entered Capt. [James] Harris's company, number not recollected, in the 15th Continental regiment Va. Line then commanded, as well as he can recollect, by Col. [Gustavus Brown] Wallace, that he was taken from that regiment, & made Servant to President Monroe, who was then Major of horse & Aid de Camp to Lord Stirling [sic: Gen. William Alexander, Lord Stirling]; that he acted in these situations about thirteen months, that he then got a furlough & returned to Va. that he was again in the Army, at Chesterfield Ct. House, under Col. Davies, & was discharged therefrom by him, on the 15th day of October 1780, as appears by his discharge hereto annexed: that he has received no pension or other bounty from government; and that from his reduced circumstances in life, he stands in need of assistance from his country for support. Robert Dyson & Stephen Dyson made oath that they & each of them knows the above statement to be true, as far as it relates to John Harris' serving in the 15th Regt. & leaving it to wait on Maj'r. Monroe, and further they said not.

[A separate, worn paper, evidently the discharge referred to above]

This is to certify that John Harriss a soldier of the 2nd Virginia Regt [two words illegible; possibly "has paid"] an able bodied man to serve his time out and is to be clear from all Military duty during the time and is hereby discharged from the Army[?] of the United States. Given under my hand. Chesterf'd C. House the 15th day October 1780

[signed] William Davies, Col.

District of Virginia. Fifth Judicial Circuit. Town of Petersburg Superior Court. Sct-

On this 18th day of May 1821, personally appeared in open Court, being a Court of record for the said District & Town (established as such by an Act of the General Assembly) John Harriss a free man of Colour, aged about 69 years, resident in Dinwiddie in the immediate vicinity of the said Town, within this aforesaid District, who being first duly sworn, according to law, Doth on his Oath Declare that he served in the Revolutionary War, as follows: First in the 5th Virginia Regiment (as well as he can recollect the No.) under Colo. Faulkner by whom he was carried to Valley Forge at which place he was transferred to Capt. Harris' Company in the 15th Va. Reg't. commanded by Colo. Wallace, in which he was carried on through New Jersey, & at Newark was taken from the ranks as a servant to Major James Monroe (now President) with whom he served at the battle of Monmouth [28 June 1778], after which he was discharged having then served 13 months, that being in the spring of 1779: That in the year 1780 he was again in the service under Colo. Wm. Davies for about six months during which time he was principally employed about building the Baracks at Chesterfield Courthouse. Declaration [sic: Duration?] not recollected- Pension Certificate No. 13480- . And I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 & that I have not since that time by gift, sale, or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof, with intent thereby so as to diminish it, as to bring myself within the provisions of an Act of Congress entitled "An Act to provide for certain persons, engaged in

the land & naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War" passed on the 18th day of March 1818 & that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property or securities, contracts or debts due to me: nor have I any income other than is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed & by me subscribed. Schedule of the property of John Harriss (appraised by Wm. Vaughan the 1st day of December 1820).

2 small broken pots . worth.	\$0 .50 cts	3 [word illegible].....	\$2 .00
1 old Blanket &c.....	.50	2 old [word illegible] &	
1 old table &c..25	some old Coopers tools.	<u>.37½</u>
			\$3 .62½

A Cooper by trade but by age & infirmity unable frequently to earn a competent support. My family consists of myself & four children 3 boys & 1 girl the boys will all be able in a few years to support themselves

[The following is found among [Bounty-Land applications in the Library of Virginia](#):]

This will certify that John Harris was a soldier in gen'l. Morgan's regiment in the year 1778. that he was permitted to attend me as a servant during part of that campaign & untill march 1779 as well as I remember he had acted for three years. I acted at the time as aid to L'd. Stirling
 Richmond Nov'r. 10. 1790. Jas. Monroe

NOTES:

A size roll compiled at Cumberland Old Court House (Library of Virginia accession number 24296) includes the following:

John Harris/ age 21/ height 5' 4½"/ black hair/ hazel eyes/ yellow complexion/ residing in Dinwiddie County/ born in Prince George County/ substituted 6 June 82 for 3 years in place of Graham Rilla, draftee/ sized 4 Aug 82.

On the pension certificate is the following: "Died Mar. 11, 1838."