

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of James Harris: S31726

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Georgia} On this twenty seventh day of October in the year of our Lord eighteen
County of Jasper} hundred and thirty four appeared personally before the Superior Court of
the County of Jasper, James Harris aged seventy six years, who being first duly sworn according
to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the
provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he enlisted in the army of the
United States in the month of August in the year seventeen hundred and seventy six, under
Captain Gabriel Long; Philip Slaughter 1st Lieutenant, John Harrison 2d Lieutenant - at that time
Dunmore County [renamed Shenandoah in 1778] - State of Virginia, for the term of three years -
in the Virginia Continental line. he resided at the time of his enlistment in Dunmore County -
Virginia - That the company of soldiers marched under the above named officers through the
States of Maryland & Pennsylvania to the City of Philadelphia, where Congress was then sitting -
and where Capt. Long received his commission as a regular officer, and then the company was
marched across the Delaware and joined the forces under General Washington - and said
company was then attached to the Virginia Regulars under command of General [Hugh] Mercer -
and they (his company) marched over the Delaware River under Gen'l. Washington to Trenton in
the morning of the twenty sixth day of December seventeen hundred & seventy six - where he
was present & engaged in the battle at that place - and continued with the army of General
Washington until the battle of Princeton [3 Jan 1777] in which he was also engaged - after which
his company went into winter quarters with the army of Gen'l. Washington at Morristown - at
this place the Virginia Troops were under the command of General Stevens — He recollects
[General William Alexander,] Lord Stirling - Gen'l. [Israel] Putnam - General [John] Sullivan - Here
while in Morristown he had the small-pox - which pervaded among this troops - at Morristown -
his company - was placed under the command of Col. [Daniel] Morgan as riflemen and marched
toward Brunswick where Gen'l. [William] Howe with the British forces was stationed - but
changed their route & marched up the North River as far as Albany - from Stony point they
sailed in Sloops up to Albany and there joined the army of General [Horatio] Gates - and was
under him at the Battle of Saratoga and saw the troops under General [John] Burgoyne lay down
their arms [17 Oct 1777]. After the taking of Burgoyne, Col. Morgan returned down the Hudson
& rejoined Gen'l. Washington at Chester Hill - Fisherators[?] mill and continued with the chief
army and was at the Battle of Monmouth on the eighteenth [sic: 28th] of June seventeen
hundred & seventy eight - and was afterward marched from Monmouth under his old officers to
Schoharie [New York] a station up the North River at which place they were left under the
command of General Schoharie and while at this place his term of enlistment expired & he with
four and twenty others received passes to return to Gen'l. Washington's army. Stationed at the
Groves[?] in New Jersey were the Virginia Troops - he thinks - under General [William] Woodford
who gave him a discharge from the service - and returned home to Dunmore County - Virginia
— Here he remained a few months and in the fall or winter of seventeen hundred & seventy nine
[sic: see note below] he went as a substitute into the militia service for a three months tour
under Capt George Rinker - Lieutenant Jacob Rinker - and marched to Hillsboro [sic:
Hillsborough] North Carolina and was here placed under command of General [Nathanael]
Greene and marched to South Carolina - Cheraw hills & was here attached to Col. [William]
Washington's troops but was at no battles in the south — returned home after having served
five months instead of three months. This last mentioned service was performed as a substitute
for George Prince[?] of Dunmore County — he then returned home & was there drafted in the
summer of the year seventeen hundred & eighty one as a militiaman under command of Capt.
Martin All - Leut. George Branham - and was made a sergeant & marched to join the army of
Gen'l. Washington at little Fork [sic: Little York, or Yorktown] where he remained in service three
weeks and was present at the surrender of Lord Cornwallis' army and marched as a guard under
Major Jones - officer of the Guard - conducting prisoners to Nolans Ferry on the Potomac River
[sic: Noland's Ferry in Loudoun County VA] where he received a written Discharge - (He states

that both of his discharges are lost.) He recollects to have seen & conversed in German with Gen'l. LaFayette at York Town.

He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or an annuity, except the present - and he declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any Agency in any State -
Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid James hisXmark Harris

NOTES: Gen. Nathanael Greene did not take command of the army in the South until December of 1780, so Harris's second tour must have begun a year later than he stated.