

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of William Hargis: W82

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Tennessee}

White County} SS.

On this 10th day of April A.D. 1833, personally appeared before the Justices of the Court of Pleas and quarter Sessions of said County and State now sitting in the town of Sparta William Hargis, resident of White County and State of Tennessee aged seventy two years the 16th of July last past, 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 entered the service of the United States as herein after stated.

He volunteered under Captain William White in Caswell County in the State of North Carolina for Five months- The company to which declarant belonged together with a number of other Companies rendezvoused at Hillsborough in Orange County North Carolina - from Hillsborough the troops were marched by Col. Yancy to Purisburg [sic: Purysburgh SC] on Savany [sic: Savannah] river about twenty miles as he was informed above Savannah town on said stream. Here we joined Head quarters General [Benjamin] Lincoln being the Commander in Chief. The company to which this declarant belonged was here attached to the first Regiment of North Carolina troops under the command of Col. James Sanders- His Major was George Moore- His Lieutenants name not at this time recollected-. There was with the troops during this tour Genl. [Griffith] Rutherford, in addition to those already stated- The troops rendezvoused in the Month of November in the year 1778 which was a few days after he entered the service- The company to which this declarant belonged was under the command of Adjutant Samuel Johnson- marched up the Savany river about twenty five miles to what was called the two Sisters to guard the ferry across the river at that place- We remained stationed here upwards of two months when all the troops except some left as a guard were marched from Purisburg up to the two Sisters and the Black Swamp about three miles distant from each other. We remained about a month when the regiment to which his company belonged was marched to the Black Swamp the same being Head quarters- Where he remained until the 10th of April in the year 1779 when he was dismissed his five months having expired. this declarant then returned to his fathers in Caswell County North Carolina- Where he remained until the 9th of June 1780, when he volunteered again for three months under Captain Adam Sanders- The troops again rendezvoused at Hillsborough- They were marched under the command of Col. Hugh Tinnon to a point on Cooper river in sight of Charleston South Carolina. When they arrived at the above point the engagement had commenced at Charleston. This declarant together with about fifty others were under Captain Adam Sanders sent up the river in Boats for the purpose of conveying all the vessels they could which lay up the river down to Charlestown- About thirty of the fifty having taken some vessels down were enabled to reach town. But this declarant together with the balance, on their return, reached what was called the old Brickyard on the river [sic: probably near Mount Pleasant SC on a branch of the Cooper River now called the Wando River] we were compelled to leave our boats and make our escape into the woods on the East side of the river. We went then our Captain being with us to Santee river which we crossed at Duprees & Lippees ferry, as he understood one of the above individuals owning the boat & landing on one side & the other the oposite side of the river. - We then traveled up the river something like one hundred miles to Nelson's ferry [at Eutaw Springs SC] where we fell in with the troops under the command of Col Brannon [sic: possibly Col. William Brandon of the 2nd NC Spartan Regiment of militia], Col McDowel [sic: possibly Maj. Joseph McDowell of the NC Militia] - General [Richard] Caswell from North Carolina. We were then marched down down Santee River to within ten or twelve miles of Georgetown where we remained until Charlestown surrendered [12 May 1780]. We were then marched up the river again to Nelsons ferry from thence to Camden South Carolina where we met Col. Bluford [sic: Abraham Buford of Virginia on his way to aid Charleston] and the troops under his command. Col. Bluford & Genl. Caswell differing as to the direction they should march, the former marched towards Salisbury and the latter took the

direction towards Cross Creek, before they reached Cross Creek, Col. Brannon and part of the troops of which declarant was one, turned and marched towards Salisbury- this declarants time having expired he was discharged by General John Butler on the 9th of June 1780- He then once more returned to his fathers in Caswell County North Carolina. Where he again volunteered early in the year of 1781 under Captain Shadrick Hargis his eldest brother for thee [sic] Months- William Moore was his Col. We were marched to and joined General [Nathanael] Greene. We were marched to Dan River & crossed the same at Boyd's ferry [near present South Boston VA] where we remained a short time and then recrossed the river and went in pursuit of Lord Cornwallis, we came up with him at Hillsborough. Cornwallis fled before us- Genl. Green still followed sometimes retreating until Lord Cornwallis reached Guilford Court House North Carolina- Where the two armies met in March 1781 - This declarant was in the Battle of Guilford. A few days after the Battle this declarant having served out his three months was dismissed at Troublesome Ironworks on Haw river or near that stream- He again returned home to his fathers who still resided in Caswell County North Carolina where he remained until the 19th of August 1781 when he again entered the service as a volunteer under Captain Moore We met in Hillsborough and marched and overtook the troops under Genl. Butler at Lindley's Mill [where Butler had fought a battle on 13 Sep]. Genl. Butler marched us near to Wilmington North Carolina. Wilmington then being in possession of the British and tories under the command of Major Quag or quig as he was called [sic: Major James H. Craig]- We continued to march back and forth through that country until the surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Little York, when Quag evacuated Wilmington [on 18 Nov 1781]- Having served out his three months he was discharged on the 19th of November 1781 by Ephraim Washington Brigade Major by order of General Butler- He then returned to his fathers again- This terminated his services to his country- His last discharge was at the camp at McCane's[?] Bluff. He knows of no person, whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his service- He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name in not on the pension roll of any agency in any State.--

Answers to the questions propounded by the Secretary of War:

1. He was born in Fairfax County in the State of Virginia the 16th of July 1760.
2. He has a record of his age in his Bible, which is at his house about fourteen miles from this place (Sparta)-
3. He lived in Caswell County North Carolina when called into service each time. - He continued there for something like twenty years- He then moved to Rutherford County North Carolina- He then moved to Knox County Tennessee- From thence he came to White County Tennessee where he has resided twenty two years and still resides in White County Tennessee
- 4th He volunteered each term of service as stated in his declaration-
- 5th He has stated in his declaration as fully as he can recollect the officers who were with the troops where he served with the exception of Col. Maybern [sic: possibly Lt. Col. Robert Mebane]- He has also stated the general circumstances of his service as well as he can from memory -
He would here state having omitted so to do heretofore - That he was an ensign during each of his tours of duty-
- 6th He received a commission signed by governor Caswell- His commission he states is lost- He has made diligent search among his old files of papers but has been unable to find it- He received a discharge at the end of his second and fourth Tours- The discharge at the end of his second tour is dated 9th June 1780 signed by General John Butler- The discharge at the expiration of his fourth and last tour bears date the 19th of November 1781- Signed by Ephraim Washington Brigade Major by order of General Butler- both of which discharges I have here with me.
- 7th. He states the names of the following persons to whom he is known in his present neighborhood who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution viz James T. Holman Esqr. Samuel Johnson, Sims Deering Esqr. James Hudgens- Lewis Bohannan- He states that there is no minister of the Gospel in his neighborhood & that it is out of his power to produce one-

[signed] William Hargis