

Pension Application for Moses Harris

S.13295

Declaration. In order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

State of New York

Warren County SS.

On this sixteenth day of August 1832 personally appeared before me Hiram Barber one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the said County of Warren, Moses Harris a resident of the Town of Queensbury County of Warren & State of new York, aged eighty five years on the 19th day of November 1831 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 June 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated, to wit. That he enlisted in the month of October 1775 into Capt. Kinney's Company (he believes Coll Humphrey Regt) of Minuit [Minute] men, that he was out on alarms and scouting parties through the country as far up as Livingston Mannor [Manor] and other places disarming the Tories and securing the property of the whigs, for a large proportion of the time untilsept 1776 at which time he entered as a substitute in to a company of State Troops under the command of Capt Ebenezer Husted (Said to be Coll Snider Regt=) and was appointed first or orderly sergeant therein, that he immediately marched to Poughkeepsie and embarked on board a sloop & sailed to Fort Montgomery – from thence to Fort Constitution and was their [there] stationed under the command of Lieut Coll, John Bailey until discharged, which was in the month of December following.

That he immediately returned to his residence, and after remaining at home nearly one week, he again enlisted into a company of State troops under the command of Capt. William Mead, and was appointed first or Orderly Sergeant therein, and was attached to Coll Humphrey's Regiment that immediately after his enlistment he marched to Fishkill Dutchess County N.Y. from thence to Croton River and thence to White Plains Westchester County NY at which or near said last named place he was stationed during this term of service and was occasionally sent out with scouting parties to New Rochelle Modmous Ferry & Bronx River &c &c, that at one time while out under the command Coll Henry VanRenssalaer and when near Kingsbridge they had a skirmish with a party of British Cavalry killed two men, and succeeded in bringing away about twenty cows.

That his term of service for which he enlisted having expired in the latter part of April 1777 he was discharged and returned to his residence a few days before the stores were destroyed in Danbury Vermont.

That he was employed in the scout service of the United States by major Brinton Paine in the month of February 1781. That he went as far north as Kingsbury Washington County N.Y. that while their [there] he fell in company with a party of Tories and feigning himself with them in sentiment he obtained their confidence, and

was entrusted with Packages to carry from one post to another, all of which was first submitted to General Schuyler.

That he obtained information that the enemy was marching from Canada by the way of Ticonderoga & Canada Creek. The former under the command of General St. Ledger and the latter commanded by General Powel that he made a statement of their movements as near as he could ascertain, and with a package on the said subject from Canada to the Tories went to Eason Washington County N.Y. before he could find a man that he dare entrust with them he then employed Mr. John Fish to carry them to General Schuyler in Albany NY. That General Schuyler after pursuing said deponent and document contained in said Package, sent for him to devise from means to have a letter taken to the Governor of Canada, the he volunteered his service for that purpose—

That General Schuyler then wrote a letter superscribed and [?] to General Washington congratulating him with the new of the destruction of Rodney's Fleet and stating that by calling in General Starks Brigade he might have spared several more regiments for the invasion of Canada and other circumstances calculated to [?] the enemy. That he immediately returned to Kingsbury and their [there] engaged a Tory who held a commission under the Government of Great Britain to transmit the same to Canada as a prize or an intercepted letter—on the [?] of which (as he was informed by the [?] of the communications) the governor immediately countermanded his orders and directed the troops to return. The he continued in said service until the month of October following.

That the whole time for which he served was about two years and two months viz as a minuit [minute] man from October 1775 until September 1776—11 months as first sergeant in the State Troops from September 1776 (two terms of Inlistment [Enlistment] until April 1777 Seven months—And as a spy & agent from February 1781 until the October following eight months.

That at the time of his enlistment and during the Revolutionary War his residence was in the Town of Amenia, County of Dutchess and State of New York—that soon after the close of the war he removed in to the Town of Queensbury County of Washington (now Warren) State of New York, where he now resides.

That he has no documentary evidence that he formerly had a letter from General Schuyler acknowledging his services as a spy and thanking him for the same, and also a letter from the Hon. John Taylor formerly Lieut Governor of the State of New York on the same subject – that they were transmitted to Congress with a petition for a pension in the year 1826 or 7 he believes which petition has never to the knowledge of this deponent was acted on [?] the papers returned, that he knows of no testimony he can procure who can testify to his services.

He hereby relinquishes ever 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 or listing.

Interrogatories by the Judge.

(1) When and in what year were you born. Answer I was born in the Town of Goshen, County of Litchfield, State of Connecticut on the 8th day of November (old stile [style]) 1746.

(2) Have you any record of your age, if so, where is it. Answer—There was a record of my age in my father's Bible, which is supposed to be now in the possession of my sister in Indiana.

(3) Where were you living when called into the service, where have [you] lived since the Revolutionary War & where do you now live. Answer At the time that I enlisted I lived in the Town [of] Amenia County of Dutchess State of New York—and soon after the close of the war I moved into the Town of Queensbury County of Washington (now Warren) and State of New York, where I now reside.

(4) How were you called into the service. Answer I entered the service as a volunteer the first term of service the 2nd I entered as a substitute of a man by the name of [Sineburrow?].

(5) State the names of some of the Regular officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental & Militia Regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your services. Answer I can recollect Capt Kinney, Husted & Mead, Major Brinton Paine, Coll Humphrey, Bailey & Van Rensselaer & General Schuyler.

(6) Did you ever receive a discharge from the service. Answer A verbal one only no written one was ever given me.

(7) State the names of person to whom you are known in your present neighborhood, and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the revolution. Answer William Grant, Palmer Jenkins. (Signed) Moses Harris

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid before me.

Hiram Barber a Judge of Warren County Courts.

Letter in folder dated August 27, 1931, written in response to an inquiry.

You are advised that it appears from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim, S.13295, that Moses Harris was born November 8, 1746 (old Style), in Goshen, Litchfield County, Connecticut.

While residing in Amenia, Dutchess County, New York, he served with the New York Troops, as follows—from October 1775 to September 1776 as minute man in Captain Kinney's Company, Colonel Humnphrey's regiment; from September 1776 to December 1776 as orderly sergeant in Captain Ebenezer Husted's company, Colonel Snider's regiment; from a little later in 1776 to April 1777 as orderly sergeant in captain William Mead's company, Colonel Humphrey's regiment, and was under Colonel Henry VanRensselaer in a skirmish at Kingsbridge; and from February 1781, eight months as spy and secret agency under Major Brinton Paine.

He was allowed pension on his application executed August 16, 1832, at which time he was living in Queensbury, Warren County, New York.

He died November 13, 1836, in Queensbury, New York, leaving no widow, but the following children survived him—Charles; Henry, aged seventy-six years in 1854; Moses; Sarah, who married ___ Lane; Mary, who married ___Brayton.

This is the history of the only Moses Harris, who served with the New York Troops, that is found on the Revolutionary War records of this office.