

Pension Application for William Harris

W.19696 (Widow: Cynthia) Married October 27, 1785, William died August 31, 1827.
State of New York
County of Warren SS.

Declaration. In order to obtain the benefits of the acts of Congress of 7th July 1838 & the 23rd August 42.

On this 28th day of January, one thousand eight hundred & forty three personally appeared before the undersigned First Judge of Warren County Cynthia Harris a resident of the town of Queensbury in the County of Warren aforesaid aged seventy seven years who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the provision made by the acts of Congress passed July 7th and the 23rd of August 1842 granting pension to widows of persons who served during the revolutionary war.

That she is the widow of William Harris late of the town of Queensbury deceased who was a private in the Revolutionary Army.

That from information derived from her husband the said William Harris during his lifetime & whilst they lived together as husband & wife.

He first entered the service as a private soldier by enlisting into a company under the command of Captain Brinton Payn of Nine Partners Dutchess [Dutchess] County New York on the first of April 1776.

That eh enlisted at that time for nine months and was discharged on the first of January following having served his time out for which he enlisted.

That during said service he was engaged soon after the declaration of independence in pursuing a pursuing [sic] a company of Tories who had started to join the British at New York that they pursued them several days, they came upon them as they were all seated around a spring taking some refreshments & they took them all prisoners which he stated were seventy two in number.

That he husband the said William Harris had a large Powder Horn which he kept as long as he lived which he said he took from a tories neck at that time. At the time he so enlisted as above stated he resided as the Nine Partners in Dutchess County.

That from information derived from her said husband the said William Harris she believes he entered the service again in April 1778 by enlisting into a company under Captain Adial Sherwood, he Harris, then residing in Kingsbury, Washington Co., New York, and served under Captain Sherwood at Fort Ann until the next October when they were all taken prisoners by a British force & carried to Canada where he remained a prisoner until the last of June or first of July of the next year.

That Harris with six others made their escape from prison. One of their number being lame could not keep up, was left behind & ovtaken [overtaken] and carried back. The others were out nine days when they were surprized [surprised] as they lay asleep one night by a company of Tories & Indians. Three of their number were killed dead on the spot. One made his escape unhurt Harris was left for dead, but whilst they were in pursuit of the one who made his escape Harris crawled off into

a thicket when he lay concealed all the next day & the day following he was enabled to get into the settlement on Connecticut River.

Harris had his arm and hand broke & his head was very badly burned by blows from the brunt of a gun. He had to go to Salem Washington County before he got his wounds dressed.

That her Father Samuel Stewart then lived in Hartford Washington County with whom she then resided. That after Harris had been to Salem & had his bones set, he came to her father's in Hartford when she heard him relate those circumstances at that time as she has often done in after years.

He remained at her fathers & sent for his brothers then residing in Kingsbury to come there & see him, he [?] to go to Kingsbury as it was supposed at that time there were scouts out waiting to take him if he returned to his fathers.

This was in July of the year succeeding his capture at Fort Ann under Captain Sherwood.

That the year following his return he lived in Salem Washington County & was then engaged in the service in what was termed the patrol guard whose duty was endeavouring to intercept the communications it was understood were being sent from Canada to the British at New York. How long the time he actually served this this service, she has no knowledge to enable her to say definite only what she recollects Harris telling about it, but that she has no doubt but he was so engaged through the season during six or eight months.

That in the winter or 177 he was engaged in the service six weeks as she has often heard him say but of the particulars of the service recollects no particular incidents.

She further declares that she was married to the said William Harris at her Father's in Hartford aforesaid on the 27th day of October 1785 by Adial Sherwood Esqr, that her husband the said William Harris died on the 31st day of August 1827, that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service but the marriage took place previous to the first of January seventeen hundred & ninety four viz. at the time above sated.

She further declares that she has never been married since the death of her said husband but is still a widow.

Sworn to and Subscribed, on the day & year above written before me. (Signed)
Cynthia Harris

Hiram Barber First Judge of Warren County Court.

Letter in folder dated July 20, 1937, written in response to an inquiry.

Reference is made to your letter in which you request the records of two soldiers named William Harris, of Nassau, Rennselaer [Rensselaer] County, New York, one of whom served in the same company with a soldier of surname Rundell, whose record you desire, also, both being soldiers of the Revolutionary War.

With the information furnished by you, no record could be definitely identified as that of the William Harris or ___Rundell in whom you are interested; however,

records have been found of a William Harris and a David Rundal who served in the same regiment in the Revolutionary War. Those records are furnished you, as follow, and no charge is made for the service:

WILLIAM HARRIS

W.19696

The data herein were obtained from pension claim, W.19696, based upon service of William Harris in the Revolutionary War.

The date and place of birth and names of the parents of William Harris are not shown.

While a resident of Nine Partners, Dutchess County, New York, William Harris enlisted April 1, 1776, served at various times until the close of the Revolution, amounting in all to about two years, as private in Captains Brinton Pain's, William Meadn's and Adiel Sherwood's companies, Colonels Morris Graham and DuBois' New York regiments. During his service was in several engagements with the British and Tories, was taken prisoner at Fort Anne, held for about a year when he escaped and was discharged at the close of the war. He resided during part of his service at Kingsbury, also Salem, both in Washington County, New York.

The soldier died August 29 or 31, 1827 (both dates stated) in Queensbury, Warren County, New York, where he had lived twenty-eight years.

William Harris married October 27, 1785, Cynthia who was a daughter of Samuel Stewart, at whose home they were married in Hartford, Washington County, New York, where she was living at that time.

Soldier's widow, Cynthia Harris, was allowed pension on her application executed January 28, 1843, at which time she was aged seventy-seven years and a resident of Queensbury, Warren County, New York. She was still living there in 1848.

No reference was made to children in the claim.

In 1842, Benjamin Stewart, brother of soldier's wife, Cynthia, was living in Potsdam, Saint Lawrence County, New York, age not stated. In 1843, one Benjamin Harris was living in Queensbury, Warren County, New York, and still residing there in 1844, his relationship to soldier not shown.

DAVID RUNDAL

S.14303

You are furnished herein the record of David Rundal (as soldier signed his name), the data of which were obtained from pension claim, S.41303, based upon his service in the Revolutionary War.

David Rundal was born January 24, 1757, in Greenwich, Connecticut; the names of his parents are not shown.

He enlisted sometime in the summer of 1775 in Armenia, Dutchess County, New York, served as private in captain Rufus Herrick's company, colonel James Holmes' New York regiment, was on guard at Fort Ticonderoga and brought prisoners from there to Kingston, New York, and was discharged, length of service five months twenty days. He enlisted the last of June 776, in Armenia, New York, served as private in Captain Elisha Barlow's company, which company was commanded later by

Lieutenant Ezra St. John, Colonel Morris Graham's New York regiment, was stationed near White Plains during the battle there, after that went as waiter to Major William Barker to some redoubts near Peekskill, New York, and continued to serve until the last day of December, 1776, when he was discharged.

After the war, the soldier resided six years in Red Hook, Dutchess County, New York, then in Armenia in the same county.

David Rundal was allowed pension on his application executed September 27, 1832, at which time he resided in Armenia, New York.

The soldier made no reference to wife or children.