

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Virginia documents pertaining to John Chavis VAS1907
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[The subject of the following documents may be the same person as John Chaves VAS1080 and/or John Chaves VAS1081.]

[From [Library of Virginia Legislative Petitions Digital Collection](#)/ Chesterfield County – Chavis, Randolph]

The Petition of Randolph Chavis, John Chavis and Charles Chavis, heirs of John Chavis deceased, respectfully sheweth to the General Assembly of Virginia that during the Revolutionary War, their father John Chavis, became a Soldier of the Virginia Continental line and continued in the Service of the State untill his pay amounted to £89.4.0¼ for which the government by it proper officers executed a certificate entitling the holder to draw the Interest annully. That Antony Chavis [possibly Anthony Chavers, pension application R1889½] likewise rendered Military Service untill the government became his debtor in the sum of £24 for which a certificate likewise issued, of which their father John Chavis became the holder by purchase, that after the death of the said John Chavis, his widow became an inmate of the home of Charles Watts, (of the Town of Petersburg Va) which was destroyed by fire many years since & in which these Certificates were Consumed & your petitioners deprived of their value, Your Honb. body is prayed to pass an act directing & empowering the proper officers to renew the Certificates, or to do such justice as to you may seem right & expedient & your petitioners will ever pray.

Randolph Chavis
John Chavis }
Chas Chavis } Randolph

At a court held for Mecklenburg county at the court-house on monday the 16th day of February 1818 On the motion of John Chavous, Charles Chavous and Randolph Chavous. It is ordered to be certified that it appears to the satisfaction of the court that they are the legal descendants and distributees of John Chavous dec'd.

Virginia,

At a Court held for Mecklenburg County at the Courthouse on monday the 18th day of January 1819 and in the 43rd year of the Commonwealth.

On motion of Randolph Chavous, It is ordered to be certified that it appears to the satisfaction of this court that John Chavous, Charles Chavous, and Randolph Chavous are the only children and legal heirs of Jno. Chavous decd. who died intestate.

On an examination of the books of this office it appears that on the 13th June 1782 a certificate issued in the name of John Chavis for £89.4.0¼ for military service in the Continental line; it further appears that the interest thereon was paid from time to time, the last on the 2^d April 1791 for the interest for the year 1790 after which time, a large portion of the public debt of Virginia having been assumed by the gen'l Government, this office does not afford the information, whether the certificate of Jno Chavis or the interest thereon was paid by the United States after 1790.

Jas. E. Heath Aud[itor]
Aud Off 1 Feb. 1839

Chesterfield County towit.

This is to certify that John Chavis died in my house in Mecklenburg County Virginia and at the time of his sickness he gave Mr. James Hester an Order to the Treasurer to draw the interest of his money that was due from his Certificate the said Hester rec'd. the money, and brought and delivered the money

to him in my house, and his Certificate also and there it remained until his death, and of my knowledge the said John Chavis never did assign his Certificate over to any person or persons whatever, And after the death of the said John Chavis, Charles Watts brother of Elizabeth Chavis the wife of John Chavis dec'd. came and took the Certificate from my house without any Commission whatever

Given under my hand this 30 day of August 1819 Samuel hisXmark Chavis

The above Certificate was sworn to before me a Justice of the Peace the date above mentioned by Samuel Chavis a free man of Coulor

Given under my hand this 30th Aug't. 1819

William Elliss

Lunenburg County, to wit:

I George Craig one of the Commonwealth's justices of the peace for said County do hereby certify that Thomas Evans a free man of Colour of lawfull age personally appeared before me and made oath to the following facts, to wit: That he was well acquainted with John Chavos a free man of colour, who to his knowledge was a soldier in the Revolutionary War – that sometime after the close of the war he heard the said Chavos say he had not received his pay for his services during the war – That afterwards the said Chavos died – that some time after his death, he (the said Evans) was in the Town of Petersburg, when the house of Charles Watts (a freeman of colour whose half sister the said Chavos had married, and who then lived with Watts her half brother) was burned. That he heard Charles Watts say that Chavos's papers entitling him to pay for his services in the revolutionary war were burnt in the house, and that he verily believes they were burned as Watts stated.

Given under my hand this thirtieth day of December eighteen hundred & twenty.

Geo. Craig J.P.

Lunenburg County Sct.

I George Craig, being a justice of the peace for the County aforesaid, do hereby certify that Thomas Evans a freeman of colour, and in my opinion a man of strict veracity, has personally appeared before me, and made oath; that Elizabeth Chavers wife of John Chavers dec'd was the sister of Charles Watts deceased on the mothers side.

Given under my hand this seventeenth day of November 1821. Geo. Craig J.P.

Petersburg Virginia

This is to certify that I Nancy Stewart of the said Town of Petersburg and State of Virginia do certify that I lived with my Brother Charles Watts when his House got burnt down in the Town of Petersburg Va I assisted in taking what things were taken out of the House, and that Brother Charles Watts was not at home at the time his House caught on fire, but he came home before the House fell in and as soon as he came up he expressed I am ruined, that all my Papers and my familys papers are burnt, and told me among the papers that got burnt, that John Chavirs certificate was burnt at the time his certificate for his service in the Revolutionary War, and I have all reasons to believe that the said certificate was burnt when I saw his House Burn down, given under my hand this 11 Octo. 1837

Nancy Stewart herXmark

Petersburg Virg'a

I Milley Steward of the Town of Petersburg Va do hereby Certify that John Chavers died in House of Sam'l Chavers in the County of Mecklenburg Virg'a soon after the Close of the Revolutionary War and at the time he was on his death Bead he gave Capt James Hester of Mecklenburg County Va an order to draw the interest on the money for his Certificate which was allowed him by Law for his services in the Revolutionary War. And I further Certify that he did not live but a few days after Mr James Hester brought him the money I being present when the money was paid him also present at his death. Soon after the death of John Chavers who married my Sister Elizabeth Steward all of the County of mecklenburg virginia she mooved to Petersburg with her half Brother Called Charles Watts She had not

lived with him but a short time before his house was burnt I saw Brother Chas Watts soon after the burning of his House and asked him what had become of my Sister Elizabeth Chavers' certificate shewing her Claim for her husbands Services in the reviliotion and his answer was That it was burnt at the time his House got burnt in Petersburg va. And I do further say that I have all reasons to beleave that the said Certificate was burnt at the time Brother Chas. Watts' House was burnt in Petersburg va Given under my hand and seal,
Milly Steward herXmark [10 Oct 1837]

Petersburg Virginia

This is to Certify that I Lucy Thompson of the Town of Petersburg Va do certify that John Chavis died in the County of Mecklenburg and State of Virginia soon after the close of the Revolutionary war, then Brother Charles Watts heard of the death of John Chaves Come from the Town of Petersburg & state of Va. to the County of Mecklenburg State of Va. & carryed his half sister Elizabeth Chaves formerly Elizabeth Stewart to the Town of Petersburg to live with him the said Charles Watts and soon after she went to Petersburg to live with the said Watts the said Watts's House was burnt down and very shortly after the burning of the said Charles Watts's house I saw him and asked him what had become of my sister Elizabeth's Certificate that her husband had for his services in the Revolutionary war which interest was allowed him by Law, his answer to me was that it was burnt when his House was burnt in the Town of Petersburg Va. and he further states that he did not know what John Chavis's heirs would do for the want of the Certificate that was burnt. he said that he was a feard they would loose the money, and I do further state that Charles Watts died in my house in the County of Notaway [sic: Nottoway] & state of Virginia in the year 1807 and he oftentimes toald me that the said Certificate was burnt in his house when his house got burnt in the Town of Petersburg & I also state that I have every reason to believe that the said certificate was destroyed as it is above stated. given under my hand this 11 of October 1837.

Lucy Thompson herXmark

Jan'y 4th 1838 ref'd to Claims

At a Court of Quarterly Sessions continued and held for Mecklenburg County at the Courthouse thereof on the 13th June 1838

On motion of Randolph Chavous who made oath thereto and together with Charles Chavous and Robert Talley his securities entered into and acknowledged their bond in the penalty of \$1000 conditioned according to Law. certificate is granted him for obtaining Letters of administration on the estate of John Chavous decd in due form.

Jan'y 16th 1839 ref'd to Claims

1839 Mar 21st The chairman to ask to be discharged from further consideration

March 21st 1839 ref'd. to [undeciphered abbreviation]

1840 Jan 24th Rejected