

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Isaac Chapman R1869

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 29 Jan 2014.

State of Virginia }
County of Giles } SS.

On this 23^d day of November 1835 personally appeared before the Justices of the County Court of Giles being a Court of Record Isaac Chapman a resident of the county of Giles, and state aforesaid aged seventy One years on the 19th day of April last, 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 – viz –

That in March in 1776 he together with others repaired to Munseys fort in the County of Montgomery (now Giles) for the purpose of their protection against the incursion of the Indians at which place he remained until December following engaged in the protection of the defenceless women & children, and ranging the Country in pursuit of the Indians and guarding against their attacks and warlike operations. He was then discharged. He was engaged nine months in the performance of this tour of duty The only officer attached to the fort was John Chapman Ensign in the Company Commanded by Thomas Burk Capt. and John Lucas [pension application W5468] Lieutenant–

His second tour of service commenced in the year 1777 in the month of April he again repaired to the above mentioned Fort performing the duties specified in his foregoing tour of service – until the month of December following when he was discharged. He was engaged nine months in the performance of the duties of this tour. The only commanding officer at the Fort was John Chapman Ensign in Capt Burks Company

His third tour of service commenced in 1778. In the month of April he again repaired to the above mentioned Fort for the purpose aforesaid and whilst in the performance of said duties a company of volunteers under the Command of Capt. Brice Martin and Lieutenant John Swanson arrived & took command of the said fort. The said applicant remained at the said fort until the 1st of July following & was then discharged. He was there stationed three months. John Chapman acted as Ensign.

His fourth tour of service was in 1779. In the month of April he repaired to Snidows Fort in the County aforesaid [near present Pembroke in Giles County] & performed the service [illegible word] in his first and second tour of service until the month of October following when he was discharged. He was engaged in the performance of this tour of duty Five months. The commanding officers were Christian Snidow [pension application S17112] Lieutenant & John Chapman Ensign –

His fifth tour of service commenced in 1780. In the month of march he repaired to the last mentioned fort, at which place he performed the duties and services as aforesaid until the 13th day of June when he was discharged. He was engaged in the performance of this tour of duty three months. The commander [one or two illegible words] was Lieutenant Christian Snidow – Ensign John Chapman

His sixth tour of service commenced in July 1781. He volunteered & served under Captn George Pearis at Pearis's fort [near present Pearisburg] in the County aforesaid & there performed the services mentioned as aforesaid until the month of October following when he was discharged. He was engaged in the performance of this tour 3 months. His commanding officer was Capt'n. George Pearis –

If he rec'd any written discharges, which he does not now distinctly recollect – he has long since lost them –

He hereby relinquishes every Claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the Pension roll of an Agency or in any state whatever –

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid

A rectangular stamp containing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Isaac Chapman".

NOTES:

John Chapman, James French, Uriah Perdue, and Christian Snidow made supporting statements.

The following letter is in the claim of Jacob Snidow R9903, probably by the Commissioner of Pensions, James L. Edwards.

Department of War/ Pension Office/ Jan'y 14 1836

Sir [Robert Craig, House of Representatives]/ I have rec'd the declarations of Jno. Lybrook [John Lybrook R6540], Jacob Snidow and Isaac Chapman and have placed them on file. On the subject of these claims I beg leave to observe that declarations in the cases of Lybrook & Snidow have been previously filed in this office, and these claims were suspended awaiting a report from Mr Singleton. The claims of the two latter were received by the Department as bad ones, and by a comparison at this time between their first and second declarations, this opinion is from the discrepancies that appear fully justified. The claim of Mr Chapman appears to be of the same character; all claiming for service in Western Va. as Indian Spys. These are therefore disallowed I have the honor to be

The Mr. Singleton referred to above was the US Attorney, Washington G. Singleton, who investigated numerous pension applications in western Virginia. As a result of this investigation Singleton and Edwards decided that service against Indians on the frontier would not be considered military service, even though all the officers he claimed to have served under were lawfully commissioned officer of the Montgomery County Militia. As discussed in my appendix to the pension application of David W. Sleeth (S6111), this decision appears contrary to the letter of the 1832 Pension Act and Edwards's own regulations for administering it.