

[Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters](#)

Pension Application of James Cheshier R1910

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 15 Sep 2015.

State of Illinois Fayette County SS

On this 25th day of December 1843 personally appeared before the Probate Justice of the peace for the County aforesaid James Cheshier a resident of said County of Fayette aged ninety four years and upwards, 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 7 1832. that he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated (ziz) he resided in the time of the Revolutionary War in Prince William County State of Virginia and he served five lawful tours of three months each the particular dates of which he is unable to state. the first tour was shortly after the Battle of Bunker hill [17 Jun 1775] the first militia that was called into service from that part of Virginia. the militiamen were classed and he belonged to class No one he was called out and served under Capt. William Farrow. They were marched to Leesburg where they were stationed after which he was drafted and served four other tours one of which was under the said William Farrow – one under Capt Luke Cannon [pension application S46373] – one under Capt John Hedges and one under Capt Samuel Love – one of his Lieutenants was named Robert Hedges [W11327] – another by the name of Overhall [probably Overall]

he served under Col Lee and under Genl Harry Lee [sic: probably Lt. Col. Henry Lee and Gen. Charles Lee] one tour the troops to which he belonged were called the northern troops – and they were attached to genl Greens [sic: Nathanael Greene's] army and was marched into South Carolina to a place called long lland [see endnote]

he was in the following battles. at Brandywine [11 Sep 1777], at the Cowpens [17 Jan 1781], at old Williamsburg [possibly Battle of Spencer's Ordinary (Hot Water Plantation) 6 mi NW of Williamsburg VA, 26 Jun 1781], and at Gates defeat [defeat of Gen. Horatio Gates at Battle of Camden SC, 16 Aug 1780]

he was in service at the time CornWallis was taken [19 Oct 1781] on his march to that place. the time he was marched into South Carolina he was at the hanging rock but not untill the battle was over [Battle of Hanging Rock, 6 Aug 1780]. he was kept in service this tour several weeks after his regular tour had expired. he had got his discharge and was on his way home at the time of the Battle at Guilford Courthouse [sic: 15 Mar 1781]. and the fifth day after he got home he was drafted to go the tour to Little york where CornWallis was taken. at the expiration of each tour he got a discharge and a certificate from his officers, which he preserved untill about thirty six years ago on Christmas eve his house was burnt at which time they were destroyed

he has no documentary evidence by which to prove his service nor does he know of any person living whose testimony he can procure to prove his service

one other short tour he thinks proper to mention. the British had set fire to and burnt Brunts buildings at the mouth of Quantico [sic: Col. William Brent's, 16 Jul 1776] – the militia were called out in mass. they drew arms at Dumfrise [sic: Dumfries] and were in service a few days and were discharged (or dismissed without a discharge untill further orders)

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 the agency of any state

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid James hisXmark Cheshier

question

Where and in what year were you born

answer – In Prince William County Va in 1749

question – Have you any record of your age

answer not any, from information of my parents I was born

question Where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you live now

answer In Prince William County Virginia – Since then in Halifax and Henry Counties Va and now in Fayette County Ill

question How were you called into service – were you drafted – did you volunteer or were you a substitute answer I was drafted

question State the names of some of the Regular officers who were with the troops where you served – such continental and militia Regiments as you can recollect answer I recollect Genl Lee, Genl Green, Genl Layfayette [sic: Marquis de Lafayette] and Genl Washington – Col Lee – Col [Daniel] Morgan

question – Did you receive a discharge and by whom was it given

answer I received discharges for every tour signed by my Captains, which were destroyed by fire 36 years ago when my house was burnt

question State the names of persons in your present neighbourhood to whom you are known – who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution

answer Messrs Rutherford Shelton, Isham Lansford and Harison Hazlit

question This law allowing pensions was passed eleven years ago. what are your reasons for not making application sooner

answer Two or three reasons. I had removed from the place where I was known. had got all my papers burnt and I did not know how to prove my services. I thought I could live without it as long as I was able to work – a man by the name of Williams once offered to get me a pension for half but I thought his proposal not a fair one

Carmi Illinois 9th January 1844

Sir [James L. Edwards, Commissioner of Pensions] I send you herewith the declaration of James Cheshier, who claims under the act of the 7 June 1832 – being uneducated he cannot recollect dates as required by the regulations I can only say for him that he is a member of the Baptist Church – seems to be consciencious – and I cannot doubt but he served in the Revolutionary War sufficient to entitle him to a pension

When you can give his case your attention – let me hear from you

Respectfully your obt sert/ Daniel Hey

NOTE: None of the engagements mentioned by Cheshier were near Long Island on the coast of South Carolina, now called Isle of Palms, nor was Gen. Greene there. Note also the inconsistency in dates after his tour to Hanging Rock SC. Citing the latter discrepancies, the Pension Office rejected Cheshier's application.