

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Chambers S16078

fn21NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/11/10

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. I welcome and encourage folks to call those and any other errors to my attention.]

State of Indiana County of Jackson

On this 13th day of November in the year 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Honorable Abel Findley Judge of the Probate Court of the County of Jackson the same being a Court of Record now sitting William Chambers of Salt Creek Township in the same County of Jackson in the State of Indiana aged eighty-six years past, 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 hereinafter stated. That when he this Declarant was about twenty years of age he entered the service of the United States as a volunteer with others in the forefront of the month of October but the day of the month in the year he being unlearned and unable to read does not now precisely recollect (Except that as to the year as nearly as he can now recollect the Revolutionary War was then progressed about four years) in the County of Surry in the State of North Carolina in the Company of volunteers of North Carolina Militia for the Term of six months commanded by Captain Henry Smith Lieutenant Henry Pinkle and Ensign Carter Hedgefeth [sic, Carter Hedgepath?] under Colonel John Armstrong and Major Winston and General Rutherford where he remained with said Company in different places in Surry County a short time while preparing for service when he this Declarant marched with his Company from Salisbury in Surry County thence to a small town called Little Pine Tree (where the Army remained a few days) thence to Moncks Corner on the road towards Charlestown in South Carolina (where the British Army were then stationed) then up to the place called the Two Sisters (on Savany [sic, Savannah] River) thence (with a detachment of Militia under XXXXXX [name obliterated]) to Matthews Bluff and remained there a few days opposite to Augusta in the State of Georgia where the British were then lying until about a week when the British left Augusta and returned towards Charlestown, thence with the detachment of Militia in order to rejoin General Rutherford. That on the way and before the detachment rejoined General Rutherford he this Declarant was in an action at Briar Creek between the detachment of Militia and the British of Superior numbers and force who there attacked the Militia who after some fighting were forced to retreat from the British and crossed the River and then rejoined General Rutherford where this Declarant continued in the service with the Army until the expiration of the said term of six months for which he so volunteered to and entered the service as above

stated and after the Expiration of the Term of service he was regularly discharged therefrom. That in this action at Briar Creek many of the Militia were killed and some drowned. That this Declarant escaped by swimming the ~~Savany~~ River [indecipherable word] from the enemy in that engagement. That this detachment of Militia to which this Declarant belonged during their march as above stated was commanded during the time by Major Ashley and also in that engagement or Battle or fighting as above stated. That about one year afterwards but this Declarant cannot recollect the precise time he was drafted out of the Company of the state of North Carolina Militia commanded by Captain Johnson in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Benjamin Cleveland in the County of Wilkes in the State of North Carolina aforesaid and being so drafted this Declarant was attached to and entered the service in the Company commanded by Captain John Cleveland under Colonel Robert Cleveland and Major Hard Grove [sic, Hargrove?] For three months against a party of Tories under the command of or headed by a Colonel Fannon [sic, David Fanning] thence this Declarant marched with his said Company with the Army to Salem or called Moravian town thence to Deep River to Cross Creek where he continued in the service with the Army until the Expiration of said term of three months for which he was so drafted as above stated when this Declarant was regularly discharged. That owing to his age and being unlearned and want of intelligence he is unable to relate all the circumstances and particulars of his several terms of service nor the precise time when he entered the and left the service and was discharged there from with more certainty than as above stated. That he recollects of the names of no officers of the regular service whom he knew to be such except General George Washington of whom this Declarant was told while in the service as above stated. This Declarant is unable at this time to describe any of the Continental regiments or Companies while in the service. That he this Declarant has no documentary Evidence of his service and knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service except Nathaniel Chambers who was with him this Declarant in the service during the terms of service above stated.

That he this Declarant 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. That he this declarant was born in Lunenburg County on Meherrin me in the State of Virginia but he does not recollect in what year he was born except that he was about twenty years old when he first entered the service of the United States when the revolutionary war was progressed about four years as above stated that he has no record of his age. That he was living when he first entered the service as above stated in Surry County North Carolina as above stated and that [several words obliterated and illegible] the service when he entered at the second time in Wilkes County in the State of North Carolina as above stated to which County he had removed after he had been discharged from the service as first above stated. That since he was discharged from the second term of service above stated he lived in Wilkes County aforesaid several years but does not recollect the precise number of years thinks perhaps about ten or twelve years or more then he removed to Madison County in the State of Kentucky where he lived about eight or nine years but cannot recollect precisely the length of time that he then the removed to Salt Creek Township in Jackson County in the State of Indiana where he has ever since lived & still lives.

That he entered and was called into the service as above stated. That he does not recollect any of the names of the regular officers and regiments and Companies in the service and general circumstances of his service except or other than as above stated. That he is Declarant received a written discharge from his first term of service by Captain Henry Smith who gave the discharged to this declarant. That he this Declarant received a written discharge

from his second term of service above stated by Captain John Cleveland above named who gave this discharge to this Declarant both which discharges have since been destroyed by fire when he is this Declarant's house was burnt while he was living in Wilkes County in North Carolina a few years after he left the service.

That he can prove his service by Nathaniel Chambers as above stated.

S/ William Chambers, S his mark

I Nathaniel Chambers¹ being first duly sworn upon my oath do certify and swear that I have examined the above and foregoing Declaration of William Chambers as the same has been read to me in open court aforesaid and that I know the statements and declarations therein made by him as therein stated to be substantially true in every particular as he has stated the same in his said declaration. That he and myself are brothers and have either lived together or in the same neighborhoods of each other since I can recollect anything. That I volunteered and entered the service and served with him [several words obliterated] term of service as above stated by him and fought with him in the engagement at Briar Creek as he has above stated. That I distinctly recollect of his swimming the River in our retreat from the British in that engagement as he has stated that I attempted to swim after him but was unable to swim and returned back and hid myself in the swamp from the enemy until the next day without any clothes except my hat and shirt. I recollect no material circumstances except as he has stated.

That I was drafted in the service and served with the said William in the same Company as he has above stated at the times, places and under the same officers during the three months. That we both served together at the same times places and under the same officers of which and of home the said William has thereof stated and I know the facts to be true and substantially correct. That neither he can he nor myself can read or write and are now old and feeble of body and mind and cannot recollect every name and particularly circumstance which occurred during the service unless very familiar to us.

S/ Nathaniel Chambers, S his mark

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$30 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for nine months service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]

¹ FPA S32171