

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of John Chambers S1651

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Tennessee } Ss. Court of Pleas & quarter sessions.
Carroll County. } June Term A.D. 1833.

On this 13th day of June 1833 personally appeared in open Court, before the Worshipful Court of Pleas and quarter sessions now sitting, for the County of Carroll and State of Tennessee, John Chambers, aged, as he thinks Eighty ~~one~~ years in May 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.

This Declarant states that he was born in Halifax County State of Virginia, as he believes in the month of May of the year 1752 [2 written over 1, or vice versa], as well as his memory serves him of the Record of his age made by his father in Halifax County, Virginia.

This Declarant states that, he entered the service of the United States, and served as herein stated. The Declarant states that in the year 1778 one William Watkins of Halifax County State of Virginia was drafted to go and serve a tour of 12 months in the North against the British; and that in consideration of his paying him sixty Dollars, This declarant took his place, and and served the tour. He states that his Colonel was by the name of of William Davis [sic: William Davies], his Captain by the name of Threat [sic: Thomas Thweatt], his Lieutenant named Nathaniel Terry [pension application W3054] and Ensign Pointer. He states that they rendezvoused in Halifax County Virginia, and were marched from thence to Valley Forge, where Gen'l. George Washington, (a name ever to be venerated by Americans) then held his Head quarters; whose troops they joined. the Barracks constructed of Logs. This Declarant states that they lay here until the British evacuated Philadelphia [18 Jun 1778]. Here, he states his Brigade Major was by the name of Cavill; he was acquainted with Captains Marks, Jones He also saw the Commander in Chief, frequently, the Marquis, (as he calls him) meaning La-Fayette [Lafayette] and Gen'l. Muhlenburg [sic: Peter Muhlenberg]. He states that after the evacuation of Philadelphia the troops were ordered to move and intercept the British. They accordingly crossed the River Schuylkill and from thence across the Delaware, when the arrived in the Jersey's It was decided the attack should take place against the British under Sir Henry Clinton. He having retreated to Monmouth Court house. The Americans moved on towards his position. On the 28th day of June 1778, the declarant states the hottest day he has ever been in, the firing commenced. In the course of the day the line to which this declarant belonged was ordered to take a position in the front, but afterwards by orders from Gen'l. [Charles] Lee, they were ordered to retreat two miles, by which this body was carried from the main scene of action. They accordingly retreated, and by this movement, and other unsuccessful manoeuvres, they British were enabled in that night to proceed on their way to Sandy Hook, to join their shipping. He states there was great dissatisfaction against Lee. On this day after the Battle, the Americans were performing the last services to the dead of both sides. In this Battle he thinks he was attached to Gen'l. Muhlenburg's Brigade. This declarant states that after this they were marched on to (West Point) now, then Fort Putnam, on the North River where they remained some time. In this Fort, Declarant states he saw Gen'l. [Israel] Putnam. This declarant states they were marched from here they were marched to "Bound Brook, or "Middle Brook [Middlebrook NJ];" where the American Army went into winter quarters. This declarant states that they were compelled to turn out and were engaged in cutting Timber, for the construction of their Barracks; it being then very cold weather. After completing these, This declarant states that they lay here until he was discharged from the service by his Colonel William Davis, Commanding 14th Virginia Regiment, which was either on the 17th or 18th of February 1779 at Bound Brook. He states that he then left there for his home Halifax County Virginia.

This Declarant states that in April 1779 his Uncle, Thomas Link of Halifax County Virginia was drafted to go and serve a tour of 3 months in the South, under General [Benjamin] Lincoln against the British; and that in pursuance of a Contract made between them, this Declarant offered to serve the Tour in consideration of the sum of £60. – Accordingly in the month of April 1779, they rendezvoused, at Salisbury North Carolina, under Colonel [David] Mason, his Captain was by the name of Peter Rogers, and Lieutenant James McDonald. From this place Declarant state they were marched Down in South Carolina to join Gen'l. Lincoln, who then encamped at Stono, and declarant states the British were in possession of John's Island. This Declarant states that in June sometime [20th], the attack was made on the British by the American Army under the command of General Lincoln; but not being successful in this attack, the Americans were marched back to their encampment; after Laying here for a small period of time this Declarant states he was marched back to Salisbury N.C. with a detachment under command of Major [Charles] Rose, guarding some 20 prisoners, British; when his term of service having expired, he was discharged, after he crossed the Yadkin, by his then commanding Officer, Major Rose, and returned home.

This Declarant further states that in the year 1780 [sic: 1781; see endnote] he was drafted in Halifax Cty Va to go and serve a Tour against the British then at Ninety Six in South Carolina. He states that he again rendezvoused at Salisbury in North Carolina under Major Rose whom he had formerly been under, Captain's name not now recollected, his Lieutenant by the name of William Yerby; From this place they proceeded to Ninety six South Carolina, and joined Gen'l. Sumpter [sic: Thomas Sumter; see endnote]. Here he lay at the siege of this place [22 May - 19 June 1781], until the British were reinforced by Lord Cornwallis [sic: Lord Rawdon], from Charleston; and the American Army under Gen'l. [Nathanael] Greene who had then been appointed to the command, commenced their retreat towards North Carolina and Virginia [sic]. When they arrived in North Carolina, this declarant states that his time of service being out, he was verbally discharged by his Major Rose, and then returned home. Shortly after the war closed. This Declarant states that he has been a resident for nine years past, in the State and County aforesaid. – He has now stated his different tours of service, and the circumstances connected with them, and by way of recapitulation will now state the periods of each to make out the amount of the whole Viz. His First Tour, as a substitute for William Watkins then of Halifax Cty Virginia, in the year 1778, drafted to serve 12 months to the North; performed under Colonel William Davis; Captain Threat. His second Tour, as a substitute, for his Uncle Thomas Link, of Halifax Cty Virginia, who was drafted in 1779 to serve a Tour of 3 months in South Carolina under General Lincoln, which this declarant performed under his Commanding Officer Colonel Mason, and his Captain Peter Rogers, And his third Tour, of 3 months, (when he was drafted) which he seved in South Carolina at Ninety Six, under his commanding officer Major Rose, who joined Gen'l. Sumpter, and afterwards Gen'l Greene at that place; Making in all 18 months for which he claims a pension.

He states that he has no documentary evidence, and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service. 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.

John hisXmark Chambers

Questions by the Court.

1st. Where and in what year were you born?

Ans. In Halifax County, State of Virginia, in the year to the best of his recollection 1757 [sic].

2^d. Have you any Record of your age, and if so where is it?

Ans. States there was a Record of his age in his father's family Bible, which was sold at Vendue, after his fathers death in North Carolina.

3^d. Where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the Revolutionary war, and where do you now live?

Ans. 1st in Halifax Cty Virginia after the Revolutionary War, in North Carolina, afterwards in the State of

Tennessee, and now resides in Carroll County State aforesaid.

4 How were you called into service were you drafted did you volunteer or were you a substitute; and if so for whom.

Ans. In my first, and second tours of service I was a Substitute, and a reference to my foregoing declaration will show for whom. In my third tour I was drafted.

5. 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, and the general circumstances of your service.

And. The general circumstances of my services are all embodied in my Declaration. Of Regular officers who were with the troops where I served at different periods, were, first George Washington, Gen'l and Commander in Chief, The Marquis De La Fayette, Old Gen'l. Putnam, Gen'l. Lincoln &c of continental and Militia Regiments I recollect none.

6. Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so by whom was it given, and what has become of it.

Ans. I received a discharge, in Feby 1779 signed by Colonel William Davis, Commdg. 14th Virginia Regiment.) – for my second Tour to the south I received a discharge signed by Major Rose; and these were unfortunately to my great loss consumed by fire with my House in North Carolina, Montgomery County; year not recollected.

7. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood, and who can testify to your character for veracity, and their belief of your services as a Soldier of the Revolution.

Ans I can state Mr. Jos. Smith. Steph. Johnson. and Mr. David Johnson all of this County who can testify to my character.

NOTE: The account of Chambers's third tour is thoroughly confused. The following is a correct chronology of events mentioned, all in 1781. Although Gen. Thomas Sumter attempted to intercept Lord Rawdon's relief party, Sumter was not at the Siege of Ninety Six, itself.

Feb

- 1 Greene begins retreating from Cornwallis through North Carolina
- 14 Greene enters Virginia leaving Cornwallis on south side of Dan River

May

- 22 Green begins Siege of Ninety Six

June

- 11 Greene learns of approach of Lord Rawdon's relief; orders Sumter and Marion to intercept him
- 19 Greene abandons siege of Ninety Six; retreats to High Hills of Santee in SC