

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Benjamin Chapman S1798

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Tennessee }

Roane County        }                   Circuit Court at September Sessions 1832

On this 11<sup>th</sup> day of September 1832 personally appeared in open Court at a court held before the Honorable Charles F. Keith one of the Judges of said County, being a Court of record, and having a Clerk and seal, Benjamin Chapman a citizen of said County aged 72 years who having been duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions of an act of Congress, passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832 - That he was born in Baltimore County, Maryland on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of July 1760 where he continued to live until sometime in the Fal of the year 1777 when he entered into the army of the Unites States as a volunteer private - he was enrolled at Baltimore into a company commanded by Captain Nathaniel Stinchacum [possibly Nathaniel Stenchcombe] and Lieutenant Absalom Wells, for a tour of three months - his company was attached to the division under the supreme command of General Archibald Buckhannan [possibly Archibald Buchanan] and remained under his command during the three months for which applicant had entered the service - Applicant states that he does not now recollect any other of his officers he states that he was the whole of the three months for which he had entered the service, either stationed in Baltimore or in some excursion in the neighbourhood, under the immediate command of his said General, when the said three months had expired he was discharged at Baltimore, and returned home - he states that while he was stationed at Baltimore he saw several of the British vessels in the Petapsco [sic: Patapsco] river which had sailed off before he left there - and he also recollects that the British took possession of Philadelphia [26 Sep 1777] while he was stationed at Baltimore - applicant states that in the winter succeeding the above mentioned campaign, he moved to Augusta County Virginia, where he continued to live during the remainder of the Revolutionary war and afterwards until about the year 1797 - he states that sometime in the Fall of the year 1779, as he now thinks, he volunteered in Augusta County Va. and was enroled into a company under the command of Captain Thomas Smith of Staunton, Lieutenant Charles Baskins, and Ensign John Boyd, which company was attached to a Regiment under the command of Colonel William Boyers [sic: William Bowyer]. said company rendezvoused at Staunton and joined the said Regiment at or near the Rockfish gap - The said Regiment marched to Westham [8 mi upstream from old Richmond], where it remained a short time and then marched through Richmond and encamped a few miles below that place on James River, here the Regiment lay untill the three months for which applicant had entered the service had expired, when he was discharged and returned home - applicant states that early in the year 1781, he was drafted in Augusta County, to guard some British prisoners who had been brought from Pennsylvania, and his impression is that they were a portion of those who had been taken at the Capture of Burgoyne [see endnote] - applicant states that the guard, of which he was one, was under the command of Lieutenant David Buckhannan [sic: David Buchanan], and that applicant and the said company were stationed at Stanton for the term of one month to guard the said prisoners, when they were relieved by a fresh levy and applicant being discharged returned home - Applicant does not believe that this last mentioned campaign was a regular draft, but he was ordered into the said service by the Captain of his Company and went accordingly - Applicant states that in the latter part of the spring or early in the summer of the year 1781, he was again drafted in Augusta County Va. for a tour of three months and on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of June 1781 was enrolled at Colonel [Charles] Cameron's on the south river in said County, into a company commanded by Captain Patrick Buchannan [sic: Patrick Buchanan], and which company was attached to a Regiment under the command of Colonel Cameron and he thinks sometimes under the command of Colonel McCreary [John McCreery] - under these commanders the said Regiment marched across the mountain to a place called Pointy fork on James river [Point of Fork at the confluence of James and Rivanna Rivers], where the said Regiment joined a corps under the command of General George Campbell [sic: William Campbell] - soon after joining Genl. Campbell, applicant

well recollects it was on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of June, his Regiment was ordered to march forward to bring on an action with the British who lay encamped some distance ahead - on arriving at a place called the hot water springs, the said Regiment came in contact with a party of British about two miles in front of their main force - after a conflict [Battle of Hot Water Plantation] of a short time in which some were killed wounded and taken prisoner on both sides, the British retreated but were pursued until they reached the main army, when they were reinforced and the Americans in turn were compelled to retreat - applicant states that after this skirmish of the 26<sup>th</sup> the american army marched on to near Jamestown where they joined the main American Army under the command of General [Anthony] Wayne, who had a good many continentals in his division - under General Wayne the American Army on the 6<sup>th</sup> of July marched and attacked the rear of the British army as the were going on board of their shipping - upon this attack being made they formed in battle array, and after a battle [Battle of Green Springs Plantation] of a few hours in which many were killed and wounded on both sides the approach of night caused the fight to ease and the Americans left the ground and the British the next morning took their shipping - Shortly after this battle applicant and his company were transferred to the command of Captain Francis Long, and Lieutenant George Craigh [George Craig], and Ensign Samuel Long, his former Captain Buchannan being discharged - under these company officers applicant marched under the supreme command of Genl. Campbell, having left Wayne's division, to Westham near which they crossed James river, and marched to the Appomatox [sic: Appomattox] river which they crossed at Goode's bridge, and marched on below Petersburg leaving it on the left, from here we marched up passing Petersburg where we crossed the Appomatox river, and returning near to Westham where we crossed James river - from here we marched towards old Jamestown to a place called the big oats field after encamping here but one night - applicant and his company were marched to Col. Cameron's, the place where the had been enrolled, and the three months for which they had been enrolled having expired they were discharged and went home - Applicant states that he has served two tours of three months each as a volunteer, one month as a drafted man to guard prisoners, and a campaign of three months as a drafted man, as above stated - he states that he was not in service with any portion of the continental army at any time except the short time he was with those under General Wayne in the last campaign as above mentioned - he recollects the Baron Stuben [Gen. Baron von Steuben] was with Genl. Wayne, and he thinks some of the superior French officers - Applicant states that Robert Powers, John Blair & John G. Clark are persons in his neighbourhood who are acquainted with him he states that about the year 1797 he moved from Augusta County Va. to Washington County Tennessee, where he continued to live until about five years ago when he moved to Roane County Tennessee where he now lives - he states that he has a record of his age in his bible which his father left for him - he states that he never received a written discharge for his services nor has he any documentary evidence what ever of his services, nor does he know of any person whatever whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services - 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 [signed] Benjamin Chapman

Application for new Certificate  
State of Tennessee Roane County

County Court December Sessions 1836 — On this 5<sup>th</sup> day of December 1836 personally appeared in open court it being a court of Record Benjamin Chapman after first being duly sworn on his said oath declares that he is the same person who formerly belonged to the companys commanded by Captains Nanthaniel Stinchecomb - in the rigeiment commanded by Archebald Buckhannan, next Captains Thomas Smith, Patrick Buckhannon, Francis Long and in the rigeiments Commanded by Colonel William Bowyer, & Colonel Camron, in the service of the United States; that his name was placed on the pension roll of the State of Tennessee that he received a certificate of that fact under the signature and seal of the secretary of War, which certificate on or about the twenty fivfth of October at night in the County of Roane aforesaid on the paint rock creek South of Tennessee River where affiant then lived was burnt up by fire, together with applicants house and all of his household furniture  
sworn and subscribed to in open Court the day and year above written Benj'm Chapman

NOTE: British and Hessian prisoners surrendered by Burgoyne at Saratoga on 17 Oct 1777 were sent to Albemarle Barracks at the start of 1779. After Gen. Benedict Arnold invaded Virginia in Jan 1781, the Hessian prisoners were sent out of his reach to Winchester and Warm Springs. Chapman probably helped guard them during this relocation.