

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Lewis Chaudoin S20892

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia

Goochland county to wit

On this 21st day of August 1832 personally appeared in open court, before the Court of Goochland County now sitting Lewis Chaudoin a resident of Goochland aged 78 who being 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. He states upon oath that he was born in the County of Chesterfield State of Virginia on the 25th day of March in the year 1754 as he learnt and ascertained from his father, he also saw his Register in a Book kept by his father of the birth of all his children, he further states that whilst Patrick Henry was Governor of Virg'a [6 Jul 1776 - 1 Jun 1779] the year he does not now recollect, he volunteered in the militia to serve a tour of duty, then living in the County of Powhatan, in a company commanded either by Capt Thomas Harris or Capt Peter Pollock does not distinctly recollect which, that the Lieutenant of the company was George Smith, and George S. Smith was Ensign, that this affiant marched with the company to old Williamsburg and was there stationed some time where this affiant acted as one of the Sentinels at the Governors house from thence the company marched to York & was stationed there some time, this affiant being one of them, from thence this affiant marched with the company to Hampton where they remained but a short time when, they returned by the way of York to Williamsburg, where this affiant together with the company officers & all were discharged, but no written discharge was obtained. This Affiant has no distinct recollection how long he remained in service on this tour of duty, but thinks it was about two months, perhaps something more.

He further states that after the above tour of duty, how long he cant now recollect, he served as a substitute for one Peter Sublett from the County of Powhatan in a company the capt & subalterns not recollected, but commanded by Colo. Robert Goode, & Francis Goode as Major. he states that he marched in that Company from Powhatan to Manchester [across James River from Richmond], from thence to Ware bottom church in Chesterfield & back to Westham ferry [on James River above Richmond] where this affiant was stationed at a spring called Rattle Snake Spring in Chesterfield county, for sometime the company was divided into several parties to guard Westham ferry, Manakin town ferry and Jude's ferry [on James River above Richmond]. This affiant is inclined to think he served on this tour as a Substitute at least two months more, & was discharged at the Judes ferry to the best of his recollection by whom he does not recollect, & obtained no written discharge. He further states that this service was performed some time before Gates Defeat in the South [Gen. Horatio Gates's defeat at the Battle of Camden SC, 16 Aug 1780]. He further states that he went afterwards to Chesterfield Courthouse, and there undertook as a substitute for one Jacob Flournoy to perform a six months tour of duty in the militia and joined a company of militia as the substitute aforesaid commanded by Capt Geo. Booker and James Hill Lieut & Gen'l. [Edward] Stevens commanded as Brigadier or Major General; that the company marched from Chesterfield Court house through Petersburg, Dinwiddie, Mecklenburg, crossed Roanoke river at Taylors ferry [south of Boydton], from Taylors ferry the company marched to Hillsborough in North carolina, where there was a rendezvous of several companies, & this affiant with his company was stationed at that place some time where the Companies were attached to several different Regiments. the company to which this affiant belonged was attached to a Regiment commanded by Colo. [Ralph] Faulkner and Major [Nathaniel Garsden] Morris, also Col Holt Richardson commanded another Regiment & [William] Mosby acted as Major. This affiant further states that the companies all marched to Deep River where they were stationed some time he being with them, form thence they crossed Pee dee river, and formed a junction with the army commanded by General Gates immediately after which this affiant was detached with other in a company about 50 in no. called the Light infantry, commanded by Colo. [Charles] Porterfield, Geo. Pegram Captain, & Francis Eppes Lieut. [sic: Peter Eppes, pension application S8424] & which company was detached for the purpose of

bringing on the action at Campden and which duty was accordingly performed by the company [see note below]. this affiant fired twice at the enemy in bringing on the Engagement. Colo. Porterfield was wounded upon the first fire from the enemy, & orders were given to retreat. this affiant together with many others after the Battle at Campden retreated to Hillsborough. from thence this aff't came to the County of Mecklenburg & from thence this affiant was sent back to Taylors ferry where he obtained a Furlough for ten days & returned home, at the expiration of which time this aff't returned to Taylors ferry & from thence went back to Hillsborough where he joined his company. From Hillsborough this aff't. with his company was marched to a place called New Garden [in present Greensboro] in N. Carolina, & there was stationed abt three weeks, after which time this affiant together with many others were sent back to Chesterfield C. House in Virginia to be tried for desertion & was regularly & duly acquitted of the charge.

He further states that he served in the above tour of duty six months & was regularly discharged. He further states that afterwards at Powhatan Court house he again substituted himself for one Charles F[?] in a company of militia commanded by Rob. Hughes, David Hughes Lieut & marched from thence through Cumberland county & crossed the Appomattox at Nash's Bridge, from thence through Amelia & Halifax & from the latter place they marched to the Iron works in North Carolina [on Troublesome Creek in present Rockingham County]. from the Iron works this aff't together with his company joined General Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] at Guildford C House a short time before the Battle and was present at the action [Battle of Guilford Courthouse, 15 Mar 1781]. After the Battle the army retreated back to the Iron works with this aff't from the Iron works the American army pursued the British army untill they crossed Deep river near its junction with Haw River [at Ramsey's Mill]. After which this aff't. together with his company was regularly & duly discharged, but no written discharge obtained by any one after which this Affiant returned home. this last service did not exceed six or eight weeks & he thinks about six weeks. This Affiant has no documentary evidence of his service nor can he produce any person now living who was with him, but can prove his general character by several of his neighbors.

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
[signed and sealed] Lewis Chaudoin

State of Virginia } SS
Goochland County }

On this 20th day of May 1833 before the subscriber a Justice of the peace in and for the county aforesaid personally appeared Lewis Chaudoin a resident of the said county and being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following amended Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7 1833.

That in his first tour at Williamsburg as set forth in his former declaration he served one and a half months as a private of infantry. That in his second tour under Col Goode as set forth in his former Declaration he served three months as private in the infantry. That in his third tour in the battle of Cambden as before related he served six months as a private in the infantry. And in his fourth and last tour to the battle of Guildford Court House that he served one month and a half also as private in the infantry ~

He answers to Question 1st [he was born] in Chesterfield Virginia 25th March 1756

To Question 2^d I have no record of my age, but have seen a family register in my father's possession —

To Question 3^d When called into service I lived in Powhatan and Chesterfield. I have since lived in the former county and in Goochland —

To Question 4th I once volunteered and then substituted myself first for Peter Subtlett then for Jacob Fluornoy and then for Charles Fawcett.

To Question 5th That his former declaration contains all he recollects in answer to this Question.

To Question 6th I never received but one written discharge and that was given by the clerk of the Court Martial.

To Question 7th Arch'd Bry[?] - Col. Gray & Dr. [last name illegible; neighbors who can testify to

applicant's veracity and reputation as a soldier].

[signed] Lewis Chaudoin

NOTE: The initial action at Camden in which Col. Porterfield was mortally wounded was not deliberate but happened when the armies of Gates and Cornwallis encountered each other by chance at about 2 AM. Many soldiers who fled at the Battle of Camden or failed to rendezvous at Hillsborough were sentenced to eight months of additional service.