

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of William Chapman S2121

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[Punctuation and capitalization partly corrected.]

State of Illinois Ss

Sangamon County

On This the Eighth Day of July in the Year of our Lord One Thousand eight Hundred and Thirty Five personally appeared before us Thomas Moffitt and Samuel Berrey, in open Court, William Chapman Sr. a Resident of Sangamon County State of Illinois aged eighty Five years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he enlisted as a volunteer in the army of the United States in the year, he thinks, 1779 [sic], at the Falls of the Ohio [near present Louisville KY] in a company composed of Kentucky Volunteers, commanded by Capt Montgomery. this Company joined at the Falls of the Ohio the Regiment commanded by Col Clarke [sic: George Rogers Clark], then on his expedition against the Indians & British, in the North Western [Illinois] Territory; After my Company had joined the Regiment of Col. Clarke as aforesaid the Regiment of Col. Clarke proceeded in Boats down the Ohio [26 Jun 1778], until they arrived at what is now called Saline Creek [Saline River] as he thinks. In this Creek the Regiment left their Boats and proceeded by land to Kaskaskias [sic: Kaskaskia]. This affiant thinks he is correct in the name of the Town to which they marched. It was however at the place where there was then a British fort and British Store kept by an agent of the British Government. The Regiment of Col. Clarke captured this Fort and the British agent or Governor and destroyed the store [Gov P F Rastel de Rocheblave, 4 Jul 1778]. A part of Clarke's Regiment remained at Kaskaskias to garrison the Fort. The Company of Capt Montgomery returned from that place to Kentucky, and I returned with them. This affiant states that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of this service, but he thinks it was three months – and as a Private.

Soon after the expiration of the service above mentioned this Affiant left Kentucky and went to what was then called New Virginia and in Montgomery County (now Wythe), where there was a call made for Soldiers to enlist for eighteen months to serve in & for the protection of the North Western Territory. In the Spring of the year 1780, as he now thinks, at the County of Montgomery, in New Virginia this affiant again enlisted for the service above mentioned. He enlisted this second time in a Company commanded by Capt Jesse Evans and in a Regiment commanded by Col. John Montgomery, Lieut. Col. Anthony Crockett [sic: Anthony Crockett]. This Regiment left new virginia in Boats down the Holston and the Ohio and up the Mississippi to Kaskaskias. Here they remained, Kaskaskias being the Headquarters of the Regiment of Col Montgomery until the eighteen months, the period of their enlistment had expired. From Kaskaskias Ranging Companies were kept out during the whole of the time to protect and scour the Country. On these expeditions this Affiant frequently went. At the expiration of the Eighteen months, this Affiant was discharged on the Mississippi somewhere, together with his company & returned home to New Virginia where his father then lived. He states that this discharged has been lost or destroyed. After this Affiant had been at home some short time from his second expedition he thinks above two months, a third call was made for volunteers to march against the British in South or North Carolina. This Affiant for a Third time enlisted as a Volunteer in Capt James Montgomery's Company. This Company did not belong to any Regiment as he thinks until it met the Army of Gen. [Nathanael] Greene at the Moravian Towns [Salem, Bethania, and Bethabara in NC]. After the Company joined the Army of Gen'l. Greene he cannot remember to what Regiment it was attached. After we joined the army of Gen'l. Greene we

marched to what was then called Haw River. There we had a Battle with the British and were decently whipped. After the Battle we retreated to Wheteson's Mills. Here the British persued us and attacked us and again defeated us. [See endnote.] From this we were ordered home – on this expedition this Affiant was absent and engaged one month. He states that he knows of no person by whom he can prove the above services, and that all his discharges have been lost or destroyed. he states that he has no Record of his age. He states that all the times when he volunteered as aforesaid he was living in New Virginia, and that at the time when he enlisted under Col. Clarke, he was on a Ranging expedition in Kentucky. After the Revolutionary war was over this Affiant moved from New Virginia to Lincoln County Kentucky, from there he moved to Smith County Tennessee, thence he moved to the State of Missouri, thence to Sangamon County Illinois where he now resides, where he has resided for the last six years. He states further that he is known in his neighborhood to James Haynam and Aaron Vandiver who can testify to his character for truth & veracity and the general character for having been a soldier of the Revolution. He would further state that from age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below, and in the following grades, To wit. In the Montgomery Company Clarke's Regiment, Three months as a Private – In Capt Jessee Evans Company in Montgomery's Regiment One year and six months as a Private – In Capt. Montgomery's Company in the army of Gen Greene one month as a Private, amounting in the whole to 22 months service as a Private

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a Pension or an annuity except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any agency in any State.

William hisXmark Chapman

State of Illinois } S.S. On this 11th day of July Eighteen hundred & thirty six personally
County of Sangamon } appeared in open court before the Circuit court in & for the county &
state aforesaid now sitting William Chapman a Resident of the county and state aforesaid aged about
Eighty Six or Seven years, 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
was born in what was then called Old Virginia, as well as he is now able to Recollect in or about the year
1750. Has no Record of his age & cannot read or write. When very young (I suppose not more than 3 or 4
years old) my father removed to New Virginia to Montgomery county & which I now understand is
called Wythe county, where we resided until the war of the Revolution commenced. That he Entered the
Service of the United States under the following named officers & served as herein stated. That during the
latter part of the war as he thinks (the year he cannot state) while on a visit with others to Harrodsburgh
[sic: Harrodsburg] Kentucky for the purpose of hunting, hunting lands, &c he enlisted as a volunteer in
the army of the United States at the falls of the Ohio in a company composed of Kentucky volunteers
commanded by Captain John Montgomery. This company belonged to the Regiment commanded by Col.
Clarke, then on an Expedition against the Indians & British in the North Western Territory. after this the
Regiment proceeded in boats down the Ohio River to what is now called Saline creek as he thinks. In this
creek the Regiment left their boats & proceeded by land to Kaskaskia as he thinks it was known at the
place where there was then a british fort & British Store kept by an agent of the British Government by the
name of Rose Black. The Fort & agent were captured by Col. Clark & the store destroyed. A part of the
Regiment remained at Kaskaskia to garrison the Fort. The company of Capt. Montgomery returned from
that place to Kentucky & I returned with them having been with them during all of said Expedition, &
was then discharged but received no written discharge. That the fort was captured during the heat of
Summer & some few prisoners were taken. That he cannot state positively as to the length of this term of
service, but believes it to have been about three months. After the expiration of this service he returned to
New Virginia where there was a call made for soldiers for one year to [illegible word] for the protection
of the North Western Territory. In the Spring of 1780 (as he thinks) at the county of Montgomery before

mentioned he enlisted for the service above mentioned for the term of twelve months in a company commanded by Capt. Jesse Evans, Anthony Crocket Lieutenant, in the Regiment commanded by Col. John Montgomery. This Regiment soon left New Virginia in boats down the Holston & Ohio Rivers & up the Mississippi River to Kaskaskia, the place formerly taken by Col. Clark. here they remained, it being the head quarters of Col. Montgomerys Regt. From this place ranging companies were kept out during the whole of the time to protect & scour the country, & on these expeditions this applicant frequently went, had no battles or engagements with the British or Indians. At the expiration of the twelve months he with Capt Evans Company were discharged on the Mississippi some where above Kaskaskia & returned with his company to his residence in New Virginia. He rec'd. a written discharge for twelve months service from Col. Montgomery, which has been lost or destroyed. After he had been home a short time from his second expedition, he thinks about two months, a third call was made for volunteers to march against the British in North or South Carolina & he entered the service as a volunteer in Capt. James Montgomerys company. This company did not belong to any Regiment as he thinks until it met the army of Genl. Greene at the Moravian Towns, but he cannot recollect to what Regiment his company was attached. After we joined the army we marched to what was called Haw River, where we had a Battle with the British & were whipped – we retreated then to Whitsons Mills & were pursued by the British, who attacked us & again defeated us. From this we were ordered home. On this expedition he was absent & engaged one month. That he has no documentary evidence to his knowledge by whom he can prove the above services, nor does he know of any person living by whom he can prove the same or any part. After the war was over he removed to Lincoln county Kentucky, from thence to the State of Tennessee in Smith county, from thence to the State of Missouri & from thence to Sangamon county Illinois where he now resides & has for the last six years. He states that from age & he consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively to his length of service but thinks the above statement to be correct & in the following grades to wit, In Montgomerys Company & Clarkes Regt. 3 months as a Private, In Capt Evans Company & Montgomerys Regt. twelve months as a Private – in Montgomerys Company in Greens Army one month as a Private amounting in the whole to 16 months. That all the pay he pay he has ever received for his services aforesaid was a grant of land of 108 acres which he received as he understood in consideration of his services in Col. Clarkes Expedition which land was called Clarkes grant on the North side of the Ohio River. He states that in his application heretofore made a mistake was made in stating that he enlisted the second time for 18 months, that it should have been 12 months. That from the time he enlisted until he reached home 18 months months had elapsed & should have been so stated & that he supposed it was so stated until his application was returned. That he made an application for a Pension under the act of June 7th 1832 sometime in 1833 & left the papers with T. M. Nale Esquire who was to forward the same to the War Department, but as he has never yet heard from it, he presumes that it was never sent. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state

William hisXmark Chapman

NOTES:

Chapman appears to have mistaken a single engagement at Haw River with two different engagements. On 6 March 1781 at Wetzel's Mill on Haw River the British defeated the rear guard of Greene's army.

On 9 Feb 1837 Chapman applied to have his pension transferred to Tennessee, having moved to Cannon County "to Live Among his Children for it was so Sickly in Illinois that he was not satisfied to Remain there." This application was witnessed by William Chapman, Jr. A Treasury-Department document states that the administrator of Chapman's estate received the final pension payment up to the date of his death, 24 June 1840.