

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Christopher Choat S3144

fn16SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

5/26/11

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. 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. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Tennessee McNairy County: on this the 24th day of June in the year of our Lord 1833 Personally appeared in Open Court before the Justices of Our Court of pleas and quarter Sessions for said County now sitting Christopher Choat a resident of McNairy County in the State of Tennessee aged Eighty-three 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 Bedford County State of Virginia on the first day of January in the year of our Lord 1750 from there he moved when very young and before the Revolutionary War to that part of Tennessee now known as East Tennessee and from there he moved to the State of South Carolina and settled in Ninety Six District, where he entered the service of the United States as a volunteer Soldier in the year 1781¹ (the month nor it day not recollected) under Captain Sterling and Colonel Clark so soon as our Regiment was organized we took up our line of march and went directly on to Broad River which is the dividing line between North and South Carolina where our Regiment joined General Sumpter [Thomas Sumter]. After our meeting with him we marched directly on towards the Congaree and on our march we met Tarltons [Banastre Tarleton's] Army at a place called Shieries Ferry [Shirer's ferry²] on Broad River. Tarleton laying on one side of the River and our Army on the other side. General Sumter ordered 100 riflemen to fire on the enemy which was done and after some consultation among the Officers our Army was ordered to march about two miles on a very high eminence from the River where we encamped that night – next morning which he believes was on Sunday General Sumter ordered that two detachments with about one hundred men each should march in search of Tarleton and if possible to ascertain his movements and the strength of his Army. Accordingly the two Detachments was solicited, One of which was put under the command of Colonel Clark the other under the command of Colonel Candler. I was one of said party and attached to Colonel Candler, who marched down Broad River until we came into the main

¹ From the events the veteran describes, he likely enrolled in 1780, not 1781.

² <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/shirersfy.htm>

Charleston road near where we first saw Tarltons Army. We there halted and myself or 4 or 5 others was ordered to go in search for Tarleton. We started and went to the main Charleston road in about one mile we met three wagons belonging to the British. We took the wagons and with what men was along with them Prisoners which he believes was seven. We took them back and gave them to Colonel Candler. We then set out on the same business as above and went the same road (the distance not recollected) when we again met for wagons with 5 or 6 men belonging to the British. We took the wagons and the men Prisoners and carried them back and delivered them to our commander Colonel Candler then the whole detachment marched to a mill on Broad River and filled our wagons with flour and struck our march for Sumpters Army which was at this time laying at a place called Black Stocks [Blackstocks] on Targue River [Tyger River]. We marched all night and about ten miles from here Sumpters Army was lying Tarleton overtook us. So soon as it was ascertained that he was in pursuit we struck a forced march and when we arrived at Blackstocks where Sumpters Army was the enemy was so close in pursuit that they fired on us and killed one man belonging to our Company. At this place we had a severe battle [November 20, 1780]³ which I was in and commanded by Colonel Candler. During this Battle General Sumter received a severe wound either in his shoulder or arm as well as he now recollects. After the Battle was over we marched to a place called Packets Iron works here we lay for some time waiting as was said for General Sumter's wound to get better. From thence we marched to a place called Pacolet – where I was discharged after having served a Tour of five months.

On the same day that I received my discharge above stated I again entered the service of the United States as a volunteer soldier under Captain Sterling and Colonel Clark who succeeded in raising a company (General Sumter here left us and as I understood went to Salisbury to have his wound cured) so soon as our Regiment was organized which was a very few days we marched in company with General Pickens Regiment to a place called Ninety Six District in South Carolina at which place the British had fortified themselves. When we arrived near the Fort we received information by some means it would be very imprudent to make an attack with what forces we had so myself and 2 or 3 others was sent with an express to Colonel Thomas who was living on Tarque River in South Carolina I delivered the Express to Colonel Thomas who set about raising Troops to go and joined Colonel Clark but before Colonel Thomas could raise his Company Colonel Clark as I afterwards understood marched to Ninety Six and attacked the British and a battle ensued and Colonel Clarke was wounded all this time I was waiting for Colonel Thomas to raise his company intending to march back to Ninety Six with him but before the Company could be raised we heard of the Defeat of Colonel Clark so I did not return back but joined what was called a scouting party. On which he served a long time watching in giving information of the Tories and British at length we marched to Ninety Six District which was some time after the Retreat of the British from that place and was there dismissed from the Army having served as well as he now recollects 9 or 10 months. I am positive I served 9 months and think it was a short time over. I have no documentary evidence and that he knows of no person now living whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services. I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or Annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the Pension roll of any State.

Question. Where and in what year were you born,

³ <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/blackstocks.htm> and

http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_blackstocks.html

Answer, I was born in Bedford County State of Virginia on the first day of January 1750

Question, Have you any Record of your age, if so where is it,

Answer, I have no Record of my age, my father had a Bible which my age was recorded in. I have seen my age set down in his Bible frequently, but do not know where it is now,

Question Where were you living when called into service where have you lived since the revolutionary war and where do you now live

Answer. I was living in Ninety Six District South Carolina when I first entered the service I was at a place called Pacolet at when I entered the Service the second time, a short time after the war I moved to Natchez on the Mississippi River and lived there about one year from there I moved to Georgia and lived there two years from there to South Carolina and lived there 2 years, then I moved to Davidson County Tennessee and lived there until the year 1823 and then moved to McNairy County Tennessee where I now live,

Question How were you called into service were you Drafted did you volunteer or were you a Substitute and if a substitute for home,

Answer, I volunteered as a Soldier in both of my Tours,

Question 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 services

Answer, I was in company with General Sumter and General Pickens but whether they were Regular Officers I am now not able to say Colonel Clark commanded a militia Regiment and there was some others but from the great distance of time I did not recollect their names, I have mentioned the General circumstances of my services in the body of my Declaration,

Question Did you ever receive a Discharge from the service and if so by whom was it given and what has become of it

Answer, I received a discharge from Colonel Clark or Captain Sterling but which one he does not now recollect, for my first services of 5 months I do not recollect whether I received a discharge from my second Tour if I did it was signed by Captain Sterling as I saw him not very long after I quit the service. I did not think my discharges would ever be of any benefit to me so I took no care of them and they are now lost or destroyed

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

Answer, Captain John Henderson and Parson Francis Beard both living in my neighborhood and in McNairy County has been acquainted with me for a long time, they can testify as to my character for veracity and their belief of my services in the neighborhood's belief of my services in the Revolution.

Sworn & subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ Wm S. Wisdom, Clerk

S/ Christopher Choat, X his mark

I John Henderson⁴ residing in the County of McNairy State of Tennessee, hereby certify that I am well acquainted with Christopher Choat who has subscribed and sworn to the above Declaration that I believe him to be eighty-three years old that he is reputed and believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a soldier of the revolution, (In the said John Henderson do further certify, that from the General description of said Choat's narrative relative to the Revolutionary war and the Battle of Blackstocks I am convinced he served as he states,

⁴ [John Henderson R4869](#)

myself being out at the same time as a Captain and in the battle of Blackstocks. I therefore concur in that opinion given under my name. S/ John Henderson

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Henderson". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid, with a prominent loop at the end of the name.

[Francis Beard, a clergyman, gave a standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$46.66 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 14 months service as a private in the South Carolina militia.]