

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John H. Chapman S3148

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Tennessee }

Anderson County }

On this 28th day of August 1832 personally appeared in open Court before me Edward Scott one of the Circuit Judges of the Circuit Courts of law and Equity in and for the state of Tennessee in the second judicial circuit now sitting in and for the said County of Anderson John H Chapman a resident of the County of Anderson and State of Tennessee aged sixty six years who being 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 entered the service of the united states under the following Named officers and served as herein stated; he the said declarant Lived in messer [sic: Mercer] County Kentucky Territory now state, in Aprail 1787 he a Volinteer under Captain Miller. Given Name not recollected, in Colonel Col. McDowell's regiment rendezvoused at or near where Louisville now stands near the fall of the Ohio. Ordered to marched to big Kickapoo Towns on the Wawbash [sic: Wabash] River but met the Indians before he got there had no regular battle but had a skrimage. Returned home in June following Was honorable but verbally discharged at the Ohio River served three months.

And was again while living at the same place on the ninth day of September 1789 [sic: Harmar Campaign, fall 1790] was drafted and enterd the service again under the following Named officers to wit Captain Robert Armstrong in Col McMullen's Ridgement commaded by General [Josiah] Harmar. Rendezvoused at the mouth of Licking River on the ohio Marched to where Harmon was defeated in the fork of the St Joseph and the Maimies [sic: Maumee River] of the Lake was in that defeat on the [?] th day of November and was again day of the same month defeated at the Miamie Villiage. Captain Armstrong was taken from our Company and took the command of of a company of mounted Infantry was out on said tour & served three months Was honorable but verberally discharged at Cincinnattia [sic: Cincinnati] on the bent of the Ohio River

And was again while Living in the same Territory and County, drafted and enterd the United States service on about 20th day of June 1791 under the following Named officers. to wit Captain Colwell in Colonel McDowell Regiment in general Wilkinsons Brigdade Rendezvoused on the Ohio opposite to Cincinnatta, marched from there to the mouth of Eal River on the Wabash River had what they called the running fight with the Indians, defeated the Indians Returnd home in September following Was honorably but verbally discharged after having served three months at the falls of Ohio

This declarant may possibly be mistaken as to the dates but he is crtain that he served the full term of nine months he has no documentary evidence and 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 dclares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state There is no clergyman in his neighbourhood whose testimony he can procure who can testify to the report of his service Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

[signed] John H Chapman

State of Tennessee }

Anderson County }

On this 9th day of Apl 1833 Personallally appeared before me A Crozier an acting Justice of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions in and for said County John H Chapman a resident of said County and state in the said County of Anderson and state of Tennessee who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following amendment to his pension declaration which declaration was made in the Circuit Court in and for said County and

bears date August 28th 1832 and was numbered in the War Department No 5932 and sent back for amendment That He was born in Spotsylvania [sic: Spotsylvania] County Virginia on the 14th day February 1766 as he was informed by his parents He has no record of his age He does not recollect the names of any of the regular officers who were with the troops where he served nor the name nor number of any Continental or Militia Regiments nor the general circumstances of his service farther than stated in his said declaration He never did receive a written discharge from the service nor a commission in the army He is acquainted in his present neighbourhood with Alexandria Gaston Thomas Wilson Richard Marshall and Wyley Young all of whom he believes would testify that they believe him to be a man veracity and that they believe he served as a soldier of the revolution He has mentioned the periods of the war when he served in his original declaration

He farther states that some time in May 1780 he volunteered under Capt Robert Cunningham in Frederick County Virginia to go against the Tories we Rendezvoused at Winchester and was there put under the command of Genl Morgan [Zackquil Morgan, pension application W1912] he is not certain whether Morgan was Col of Genl at that time but he is certain that he had the command of the whole Regiment or Companies we marched to Hardy County on to the head waters of Potomack [sic: Potomac] River on to Lost River there we came right in sight of a large body of Tories we fired on them and killed one and the rest all fled we lay in that neighbourhood some time and reconnoitered the country in quest of Tories till some of them sent to Winchester and gave themselves up we then marched to the mouth of Lost River and lay there some time and sent scouting parties through the country after the Tories we understood the Tories had assembled on the Branch Mountain [South Branch Mountain] under the command of Genl Claypole [sic: John Claypole] a party of our men went there to spy out what was doing and returned and informed us that they were not there we then marched to Winchester and was there honourably but verbally discharged some time in August 1780 he served at this time three months He then went to Kentucky with some of his relations and in May 1782 in Messer County Kentucky he volunteered under Capt James McDowell to go against the Shawnee Indians and Rendezvoused where Harrodsburgh [sic: Harrodsburg] now stands but then it was a block house at the time last aforesaid; he was there put under the command of Col Smith his Christian name not recollected. Marched to the Chillicothe [sic: Chillicothe] town we then had a skirmish with the Indians we killed a number of them and took and burnt their town and destroyed the grain and lay there some time and then returned to Messer County and was there honourably but verbally discharged in July 1782 he served at that time two months

Again while living in said Messer County Capt William Harden sent out a verbal proclamation for volunteers; he volunteered under the said Capt Hardin about the 10th of September 1782 at which time we Rendezvoused at the falls of Ohio we then crossed the river and marched into the Indian country on to the headwaters of White River there we had a battle with the Kickapoo Indians we killed a number of them and took two prisoners a boy and a girl and got three or four men wounded we then returned home to the falls of Ohio and was there honourably but verbally discharged served at this time forty days he served in the whole over and above what is mentioned in his original declaration six months and eight days for which he claims pension at the first time spoken of in this amended declaration he lived in Berkley [sic: Berkeley] County Virginia and at the time he served the last two tours he resided in said Messer County Kentucky the reason why he did not mention these last tours in his original declaration is the following to wit he heard he was entitled to a pension if he would come to town he did so and when he came there he found Mr. Hair busily engaged writing for some other pensioners and he waited till he got through, and was then hurried through not knowing what was necessary he forgot the three last mentioned tours altogether but recollected his mistake shortly afterwards and mentioned it to several of his neighbours He has no documentary evidence of these last tours nor he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service He got no written discharge Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid before me [signed] John H Chapman

[Chapman was pensioned on 26 June 1833 at \$30 per year for nine months service.]

State of Tennessee } Personally appeared before me William Lyon an acting Justice of the Peace for
Knox County } said county John H. Chapman aged about 70 years who being sworn doth on his
oath make the following declaration in order to obtain an increase of pension under the law of the 7th of
June 1832 –

He state that at the time he made application for a pension, he did himself not very well understand the extent of the provisions of the law of 7th June 1832, nor did the attorney who drew up his declaration appear to understand it, or at least he entirely omitted to inform applicant that the law made any for those who had served as a spy against the Indians. By this means applicant failed in his former declaration to insert his term of service as an Indian Spy. Applicant states that in June 1782 he was residing in what is now Mercer County Kentucky, and early in the month he was appointed or rather employed by General Hardin, together with a certain John Hutton to act as spies for one year. he states that he and Hutton found their own horses arms and ammuniton and left White's station every two weeks and took an excursion down to the mouth of Kentucky river and from there up by a place called Drennings Lick, and Chaplin and back to Whites station, this tour they generally performed in the two weeks but sometimes it took them longer – they regularly took this excursion returned to the station to report or receive other instructions. In this service applicant continued until sometime about the first of April 1783 when he and his companion Hutton having seperated in their route with the agreement to meet at a certain place the next day, applicant arrived at the place appointed but his companion failing to come, he went in search of him and found him dead near the mouth of Benson Creek, having been shot through the heart – applicant then returned to the station procured some aid to go and bury his companion and then quit the service – applicant states that he was engaged in this service constantly for ten months, without any rest or intermission except while getting their clothes and victuals at their periodical returns to the station – applicant states that he was a volunteer in this service, having been induced by the solicitations of General Hardin and his promise that he should be paid – he states that he never received one cent for this service and he also states that no portion of this service is included in the services for which he now receives a pension – the reason of which he has already stated – he states that he served as above stated as a volunteer, then months for which he claims an additional pension – he states that there is no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his above named services.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 20th Nov. 1834 [signed] John H Chapman

Copy of letter dated Mar. 2, 1835

Sir [W. B. A. Ramsey Esq., Knoxville Tenn]: The affidavit of John H. Chapman made to obtain an increase of pension has been examined and filed with his other papers in this office. On a reexamination of his original declaration it would appear that the service for which he claimed a pension was performed in the years 1787, 89 and 1791 against the Indians in Ky. In the amended declaration made in 1833 he set forth also a tour of three months in 1780 and another as a spy in the fall of 1782. In the affidavit now exhibited he claims for one year from June 1782 and that he found his own horse &c. The service set forth in the original declaration was after the termination of the Rev. War. Such service is not provided for by the act of 7 June 1832, but the claim was improperly admitted owing to the press of business at the time. The agent at Knoxville has been directed to suspend the payment of any further pension to him. He was too young to have been enrolled to serve in a regularly organized corps either in 1780 or 1782 and were that not the case in 1782, the service was not of that character provided for by the Act under which he claimed. [See endnote.]

State of Tennessee }

Anderson County } On this 7th day of May 1838 Personally appeared in open Court before the County court of said County now sitting John H Chapman a Resident of the County of Anderson and State of Tennessee aged seventy 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 the 7th 1832

That he entered the service of the United under the following named officers and served as herein stated – Viz in the Spring of 1781 he volunteered for a three months Term of duty in the territory now the State of Kentucky in Mercer County under Captain Hail and marched immediately to Lexington and was then attached to the army commanded by General Logain [sic: Benjamin Logan] and marched from there to Chillicothe and when his term of service had nearly expired he was marched back to Mercer County in Kentucky and was discharged in that County by Capt. Hail in the year 1781

That in the fall of 1781 he volunteered for under Captain Armstrong for a three months Term of duty in said County of Mercer in Kentucky and marched to a little water course then known by the name of Elkhorn at that place he was attached to an Army under the command of General Smith and Col. McDowell from there they marched to the Wabash River to an Indian Town and at that place they had a battle with Indians but does not recollect the name of Town but they remained in the Town a few days after the battle and march back to Mercer County Kentucky and was discharged at the end of the three months by Captain Armstrong

That in March 1782 he volunteered for three months under Captain Ross in Mercer County Kentucky and marched to the falls of Ohio and was there attached to a Regiment under the command of Colonel William Harden and stayed from there immediately to the Kickapoo Town but was defeated on their way by the Indians and returned to the falls of Ohio and was discharged at that Place having served sixty days and lost his horse in the defeat

That in the year 1782 he volunteered for one year as an Indian Spy under General Harden and served as an Indian Spy in Kentucky under General Harden for a term of Ten months and then was dismissed but never received a discharge for this last Ten months service

That has no documentary evidence of his service his discharge having been lost or misplaced so that he cannot find them and that he knows of no person living whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service

he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or 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 in open the day and year above mentioned [signed] John H Chapman

Copy of letter dated May 21, 1838.

Sir [Wm. Cross Esq. Clerk Court Anderson Co., Clinton Tenn.]: The declaration of John H. Chapman has been examined He alleges to have volunteered in the spring of 1781 for 3 months under Capt. Hail and was marched to Lexington and attached to the men commanded by Gen. Logan & was then marched to Chillicothe. He also alleges to have volunteered in the fall of 1781 for three months and served under Col. McDowell and Gen Smith. Tours of service are also alleged to have been performed in 1782 under Gen Harden, the whole service having been as a militia man of Ky. The alleged service was not in 1781 and 1782 but at a much later period after the termination of the Rev. War. and such service is not provided for by the Act June 7, 1832. The claim has therefore been rejected and the declaration filed in this office.

State of Tennessee }

Anderson County }

On this fourth day of February one thousand eight hundred and Thirty nine Personally appeared in open Court before the Court of Anderson County now sitting John H Chapman a Resident of the state

of Tennessee and County of Anderson aged seventy four 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 the 7th 1832

That he entered the service of the united states under the following named officers and served as here in stated

That in the summer 1780 he volunteered for three months in the Territory {now the state} of Kentucky Mercer County under Captain Armstrong and was placed under the Command of General Logan and marched immediately to Chilacotha on an expedition against the Shawnee Indians and there had a little scrimmage with the indians and returned back to Marcer County Kentucky in October 1780 and was there discharged but never Received any discharg for this service

That in march 1781 he Voluntered in the named County of Mercer in Kentucky under Captain Ross and was placed under the Command of Colonal Harden and marched to White River in Indiana and was defeated there by the Indians and returned back to the falls of the Ohio River and was dismissed there having served sixty days but never received any written discharg for this service

That in July or August 1781 he volunteered in Mercer County Kentucky for three months under Captain McDowel and was Placed under the Command General Smith and marched to the Tipacano [sic: Tippecanoe] Town and after stayin there some considerable time marched back to the Falls of Ohio and was dismissed there after having served three months but received no written discharge for this Tower

That in year 1782 some time in October he volunteered for one year under General Harden as an Indian spy and seved as an Indain spy in Kentucky but occasionally crossing the Oohio River till some time in may 1783 he was dismissed at Beards Town by General Harden but received no written discharge from sevice

He hereby Relinquishes avery Claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the Presant and and declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of the agency of any state

Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid [signed] John H Chapman

Copy of letter dated July 5, 1839.

Sir [Mr John H Chapman, Wilson P.O., Anderson Co Tenn]; Your declaration has been examined, you allege to have performed several tours as a militia man of Ky. against the Indians. The period of the alleged service was after 1783 and after the termination of the Rev. War. The Act June 7, 1832 does not provide for anyone whose service was after the termination of said war. The claim has therefore been rejected and the papers filed in this Office

State of Tennessee } SS.

Anderson County } On the 4th day of October 1841 Personally came in open court for the County aforesaid John H. Chapman a Resident of Anderson County aged 77 years (he states that he has no record of his age) 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 entered the service of the united state under the following named officers and served as herein stated first in the month of September 1780 his Capt. name he does not Recollect, Col McDowel & Genl Logan Rendezvoused at Lexington Kentucky then a Territory [sic: Kentucky County VA] marched on to a Town then called Chilicotha. occupied by the Shawnees Tribe of Indians and he believes some other Indians the name of the Tribe not Recollected We had a small engagment whipt and Taken some Indian Prisoners. We Returned to Lexington and were there discharged applicant believes that he did not Receive a written dischage he served this Tour three months for which time he volunteerd, he volunteerd the second time under Capt Ross & Col Harden for three months marched & Rendezvoused at the falls of the Ohio. marched from there to White River We there had a battle with the Indians and were forced to

Retreat got several of our men wounded were forced to Returned and were discharged at the falls of the Ohio Served he believes 70 days this Tour this Tour commenced april 1781. he volunteerd the third time in the month of June 1782 under Capt. whose name he does not now Recollect. Joined Col Greenup and Genl Smith for three months. We Rendezvoused near the mouth of the Kentucky River marched to the Warbash Country We were detained in this section of the Country some length of Time the Indians had measurebly left the country. We destroyd their corn and other plunder. We were remarch from there to the falls of the Ohio and there discharged Applicant served three months this Tour. he volunteerd under Genl Harden in the month of November 1782 as an Indian spy for 12 months but only served to June 1783. he was discharged by his Genl near bardstown Kentucky. the whole period of serves would amount to fifteen months & Ten days, but if his claim is bard by law after 1782 the Period of his serice would be Ten months and Ten days the whole of which he submits for consideration he Resided in the County of Mercer Kentucky when he enterd the service he moved from there to what was called West Tennessee or Mero district. from there to Knox County Tennessee near where he now Resides. he has no documentary evidence in support of his claim neither does he know of any Person whos testimony he can procure who can testify to his service he is advised that his former Declaration heretofore made and forwarded to the Pension department show that his said services were Rendered after the date 1783. applicant believes this error were committed by those Persons who undertook for him and wrote his said declaration applicant has heretofore been a Pensioner but now stricken from the Roll of Pensioners, he hereby relinquishes evry claim whatver to a Pension or anuity except the Present and declares that his name is not on the Pension Role of the agency of any state there is no clergyman in his neighbourhood John Garner and James Hall Resides in my neighbourhood and will certify as to my character for varacity and their belief of my having been a soldier of the Revolution [signed] John H Chapman

NOTE: Although the 7 June 1832 pension act specifically allows for volunteer Indian spies, in 1834 the Pension Commissioner had decided that such service was not provided for. For further discussion see my appendix to the pension application of David W. Sleeth (S6111).