

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Chumbley S32169

f22VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

2/26/09 rev'd 11/6/14

[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. The word 'illegible' or 'indcipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. 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 skills fail 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 material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Indiana County of Daviess

On this 15th day of May 1833, personally appeared in open court, before the Daviess Probate Court now sitting, John Chumbley a resident of Reeve Township in the County and State aforesaid aged seventy-two 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 entered the service of the United States, under the following named officers, and served as herein stated, (viz.:

This declarant was born in Amelia County Virginia and resided there till about ten years after the revolutionary war. In 1778 about the first of September, he was drafted in a company raised in that County, the officers of which were Capt. Richard Oglesby, Lieut. Marshall Booker, and Ensign Presley Greter [Presley Jeter]. He marched in this company directly, passed Petersburg and Blands Mills, about 70 miles to Cabin Point (Virginia) where he joined several other companies of militia under the command of Major Joseph Scott; the whole company what was called Scott's Brigade. Cabin Point was situate near James River. It was headquarters to the brigade, which was placed there to prevent the enemy from landing, and from ascending the River to Petersburg, which was effectually done. He was drafted for three months, and he remained at Cabin Point till that term expired, under the Capt. & Major aforesaid, where he received a written discharge from his said Capt., and returned directly home to Amelia County (Virginia). During this tour he was in no engagement. The written discharge he has long since lost.

In July 1779, he was again drafted for three months in said County of Amelia (Virginia). The officers of the Company to which he belonged were Capt. William Crosscarrick, Lieut. Francis Anderson, & Ensign Richard Towers. The company rendezvoused and marched directly to Chesterfield Courthouse (Virginia) where they joined five other companies under Major James Jenkins, which together with the Company to which deponent belonged, formed Jenkins' Brigade. At Chesterfield Court house considerable quantities of ammunition and provision were stored; and the principal object of the Brigade being placed there, was to guard them. Ten miles off, on James River, was Osborn's warehouse sometimes called "the glebe," where part of the Brigade was alternately placed for a few days at a time, to prevent the enemy from passing up the River to Richmond. At Chesterfield Court house, and Osborne's warehouse, declarant remained, till his term of service was expired, when he received from his Capt. aforesaid a written discharge which is lost. He had no engagement during this term of service, in which he

served three months, and then returned immediately home.

After which, in February 1781 he was again drafted in the said County of Amelia, and was attached to a company commanded by Capt. Robert Hutson [Robert Hudson], Lieut. James Dupuy, & Ensign John Purnell, and was marched directly to a place called The Red house on Staunton the River, which was a military store; and where the company was supplied with arms, ammunition, and provisions. Thence he marched in said Company 20 miles to one Hugh Dobbins's in North Carolina, a noted place of rendezvous, where they joined four other companies which together with his own formed a Brigade called Lawson's Brigade, the whole under the command of General Robert Lawson, Col. ___ Randolph [Beverly Randolph] & Major ___ Cunningham [William Cunningham]. Under these officers he marched in said Brigade to Haw River where the whole joined the Army of General Green [Nathanael Greene]. The time he joined the Greene's Army was, he thinks, about four weeks before the battle of Guilford Court house [March 15, 1781]. With Greene's Army he remained till after that battle. During which time we were performing divers movements, and maneuvers to avoid a general engagement with Cornwallis. At length, on the 15th March, when General Greene thought himself sufficiently reinforced by the arrival of Col. Campbell's [William Campbell's] Virginia regulars, General Caswell's [County] Carolina militia [under the command of Col. William Moore], and various other troops, he prepared for battle on the Salisbury road near Guilford court house. In the front of the Army, and in the Salisbury road as it passed between two corn fields, was placed Capt. Singleton [Anthony Singleton] with two six pounders. Next, these and just behind a fence of those fields, were placed the North Carolina militia. About 200 or 300 yards, in the rear of these were stationed the Virginia militia in a line at right angles with the road on the right of which line was this declarant in General Lawson's brigade, commanded by him (Lawson) Major St. George Tucker was also on this wing. The first gave way and retreated on the appearance of the enemy, who, after a severe fire from our fanking [flanking ?] parties in advance of the second line, advanced directly upon the Virginian Militia which were mostly placed under the covert of an under growth of [word obscured by a fold in the paper¹]. This line withstood the enemy for some time under a severe fire, and the Virginia Militia certainly did great execution in this encounter, but were finally routed completely; and the right wing to which this declarant was attached, gave way first, and perhaps did not act so gallantly, nor fight so obstinately as the left. After the retreat of Lawson's Brigade, they remained in the woods near the scene of action till the battle ended but was not actively engaged. When the retreat of Greene's Army became general, declarant in Lawson's Brigade, moved off with the rest. The Army halted 2 or 3 miles from the battleground to take refreshment, and collect stragglers, which being done, they proceeded, through muddy roads, a dark night, and cold driving rain 8 or 10 miles to the Iron works [Troublesome Iron Works] on what was called troublesome Creek. Deponent well recollects that the horror [?]² of that night were equally appalling to him with the thunder of the recent battle. He remained a few days in Greene's Army at the Iron works, till the retreat of the enemy commenced, and Greene began to pursue. He recollects, that they overtook the enemy at the bridge at Ramsay's mills [Ramsey's Mills] by means of a forced march, but they escaped, without injury. He distinctly recollects the bridge the enemy had thrown across Deep River at said Mills. At this place large rocks, rise in several places, in the River, and the enemy had taken the trucks

¹ Both the Footnote.com and HeritageQuest.com versions are likewise affected.

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of the largest trees and placed them along on these rocks so as to form a bridge. He recollects, he was astonished to conjecture how human strength could have placed so large trees in that position across the River. The Army remained a few days at said Mills, and the time of service for which this declarant was drafted, being expired, he was, together with the whole brigade to which he belonged, discharged. From Ramsay's Mills, the Brigade returned to the red house aforesaid, where they gave up their arms, and where this declarant received a written discharge from his said Lieut. James Dupuy, Capt. Hutson having been taken sick soon after the battle of Guilford, and left the company, and said Lieut. having by consequence taken command. This written discharge is also lost. Declarant proceeded directly home to Amelia County Virginia from The Red House. In this tour he was drafted for six weeks, and served that length of time.

About the first of June 1782, he was again drafted in the same County of Amelia, in a company commanded by Capt. Philip Williams & Lieut. Alexander Roberts (no Ensign). The design of raising this company was to guard and attend to about 200 horses the property of the United States. With said company, he aided in taking care of said horses for about 7 weeks, partly at James Henderson's store, and partly at Ball's Mills, in Amelia (now of Nottoway) County, on Nottoway River. After keeping said horses there for about seven weeks, they took the horses over the mountains, to Staunton barracks, where the company remained about 10 days, and delivered the horses to officers, sent for them to fill Col. Lee's [Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee's] Horse Regiment. Then he received a written discharge from his Capt. and returned immediately home. That discharge, too, is lost. In this tour he served eight weeks at least.

Besides, the last named tour of duty, declarant is satisfied that he served seven months and two weeks at least, and that including it, he served nine and 1/2 months. During all these services he was a private militia soldier drafted as aforesaid, and agreeably to the method of numbering been practiced in Virginia. He knew Generals Greene, Gates [Horatio Gates], & Wayne [Anthony Wayne], & Colonels Holcom [Holcombe?] & Morgan [Daniel Morgan] besides the other officers named in this declaration. He has no documentary evidence, and knows of no person whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his service, but James Carnahan, John Stringer and George A. Waller with whom he is acquainted, and who reside in his present neighborhood, can testify as to his character and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution.

He was born, as aforesaid, in Amelia County (Virginia) December 4, 1760 according to a record of his age in an old family Bible now in his possession. He lived in the same County till about 10 years after the Revolutionary war, when he removed to Wilkes County, Georgia. In said County in Georgia, he remained till about 1800, and then removed to bourbon County Kentucky, where he resided till 1814, and then came to Daviess County Indiana, where he has ever since lived.

He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity whatsoever, except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State. Sworn to and subscribed before me the judge of the Probate Court aforesaid on the day & year first aforesaid.

S/ John Chumbley, X his mark

S/ James McDonald, Probate Judge

[James Carnahan, George A. Waller & John Stringer gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$30.88 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 9 months and 8 days in the Virginia militia.]