

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Alexander Chambers S32173

f32NC/VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

12/1/11

[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 Indiana County of Knox: SS

On this 16th day of March 1833 personally appeared in open court, before the President Judge of the Circuit Court of said County now sitting Alexander Chambers, an old resident of said County of Knox and State of Indiana 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 seventh 1832 – that he was born in Ireland and was about 15 years of age, when with his father and the family, he landed in America at the port of Philadelphia; that his age was noted by his father in a family Bible and to the best of his memory he is now in his eighty first year – that for upwards of sixty years he remembers his residence distinctly – that he resided in Louden [Loudoun] County Virginia, near the great falls of Potomac [River], at the commencement of the revolutionary war that he volunteered in said County in a company organized at said time to protect the property and estate of General George Washington from a threatened attack by the British, then lying in the neighborhood of the Potomac in the Chesapeake Bay, and said to meditate the destruction of the property; marched to Alexandria, was there stationed under command of a Colonel whose name he does not recollect, a resident of Leesburg, nor can he call to mind the name of the other officers, nor the exact length of the time he remained on duty; but he well remembers a considerable time, and he received a written discharge for a tour of militia duty, which discharge he has lost or destroyed long since – that he afterwards volunteered in said County in a company commanded by Captain Richard Spur [Richard Spurr] belonging to Colonel C. Caphams [?] Regiment, was marched to Lancaster, Pennsylvania, thence to near Schuylkill River and encamped under the chief command of Colonel Crawford, while in camp he volunteered with different scouting parties, and on one occasion, remembers going with a party in the night to a place called Rising Sun to destroy British officers who had escaped only a short time before the attack; was on the wagon guard on the day of the battle of Germantown [October 4, 1777] in 1777 and was one of the first company in that town after the British evacuated it, which company was chased back to camp by the British light horse, when General Washington ordered a party of our American light horse to pursue our pursuers, and the order was immediately obeyed with great effect; was of a party ordered to approach and destroy the Mills over Schuylkill which had supplied the British with flour – on returning to camp remained some time, and then marched back to Leesburg, where the main Army were placed in winter quarters; at Leesburg the company was discharged after three months constant duty; the discharge was in writing and is now lost. After various necessitudes and services to secure the independence of

¹ The War Dept. read this name as "Clapham." If correct, it could be a reference to Col. Josias Clapham of Loudoun County Militia.

the country, he removed from Loudoun County Virginia to Washington County near Jonesboro, then North Carolina, now Tennessee, in the year he believes of 1779, and in the spring of 1780 he thinks at any rate the spring before the battle of Kings Mountain [October 7, 1780], he volunteered in a company raised by order of Colonel Sevier [John Sevier], to go under him against hostile Indians – marched through woods and over mountains to Cherokee towns – attacked them, killed twenty-five, took some prisoners and lost none, left a garrison, marched to other towns, and destroyed seven in succession – at one of the towns the Indians made an attack upon the party, one American was killed, another wounded and died afterwards of his wounds – the Indians loss unknown – after incessant toil for a time the object of the expedition was accomplished and with the party he marched back to the first garrison, where the Indians again made an attack and disappeared after killing many horses. It was during this campaign that Colonel Sevier demanded the swords of Colonel Robinson and Major Sevier and suspended their commands placing Major Walton in their room – after this all were marched home and discharged – does not remember how long he was out on this expedition, nor can he say whether his discharge was verbal, or written, but the expedition was authorized and required by proclamation, and it must have occupied his time, two or three months. On various occasions after this expedition he went out on scouting parties when men were required by Colonel Sevier to guard the frontier from Indian depredations, and received no written discharges or compensation. A few years afterwards, he removed from his residence near to Jonesboro, to Knoxville where he again volunteered on many scouting parties against hostile Indians and was appointed and served for two succeeding Summers, first Lieutenant of Captain Hind's Company of spies, he received orders from Colonel Sevier, Colonel Martin and Colonel Blount; and the many troubles he served to overcome, it would be only tedious to relate in detail – the Indians inhabiting a country only about 20 or 25 miles distant, from his quarters. He states that with the exception of his services as a Lieutenant of spies, he had always acted as a private previously; that being destitute of all documentary evidence, and knowing of no person now living to testify to his services, he will only swear to twelve months (one year) active services during the war of the revolution. In the year 1788 or 1789, he removed from Tennessee to Fayette County Kentucky; lived some years on the waters of Boone's Creek, then lived some time and Clarke and Montgomery counties, then lived about eleven miles from Fort Hamilton on the great Miami in Ohio, and for the last 23 years had resided in the County of Knox, Indiana, where he shall in his days in this world. He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name, on his account, is not on the pension Roll of any State agency.

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court the day and year aforesaid.

S/ A. Kinney

S/ Alexander Chambers, X his mark

[H. M. Shaw and David Warford gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Additional Declaration

State of Indiana County of Knox: SS

Personally appeared before the Resident Judge of the Circuit Court of said County and State, now in session, Alexander Chambers, who has subscribed and sworn to the foregoing Declaration to obtain a pension for services rendered during the revolutionary War; and being duly sworn deposeth and saith, that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory, he fell to set forth and relate the following facts in addition: That according to the best of his recollection, the company in which he served at Alexandria at the commencement of the War,

was commanded by Captain James Coleman of Loudoun County, whose discharge he received for a tour of duty, but he cannot refer to it for dates as it is lost, or destroyed long ago: that he knows he had no printed commission as Lieutenant of Spies, under Captain Hinds; that he and the Captain were appointed by the company, and the verbal appointments were sanctioned and recognized by Colonel Sevier; that he acted as Lieutenant of said company of Spies for the period of two years, and to the best of his knowledge and belief he was not less than one third of that time in actual service performing the duties of the office; that although he cannot specify dates with certainty and precision, he unequivocally declares his conviction of having performed twelve months services during the war, as a private, in Virginia and North Carolina, on the occasions adverted to in the original declaration, and this service is exclusive of the service rendered, and of claim, as Lieutenant of Hinds Spies.

Sworn to and subscribed in open court, this sixth day of September 1833
S/ A. Kinney, P. J. S/ Alexander Chambers, X his mark

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$40 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 12 months in the Virginia service.]