

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of James Chance S39316

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

At a Hustings Court held for the town of Petersburg at the Courthouse of the said town Thursday the 20th day of January 1825—

James Chance, a Soldier of the Revolution, Presented a paper in Court with his name subscribed thereto, and made oath thereto before the Court, a Copy of which here follows towit —

Corporation of Petersburg Va. towit On this 20th day of January 1825 personally appeared in open Court: being a Court of Record for the said Corporation of Petersburg, having Common Law Jurisdiction unlimited as to amount and instituted and recognized as such by the free Independant Sovereign State of Virginia: James Chance resident in the said Corporation; aged 64 years: who being duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the provision made by Acts of Congress of the 18th March 1818 and the 1st May 1820. That he, the said James Chance enlisted for the term of 18 months on the 10th day of June in the year 1780 in the State of Virginia in the Company Commanded by Capt'n. [John] Overton, afterwards by Capt'n John Crawford, in the regiment commanded by Colo. William Davies in the line of the State of Virginia on the Continental establishment: That he Continued to serve in said Corps and afterwards under the said Capt'n Crawford in the Regiment Commanded by Colo. Richard Campbell in the Carolinas untill about the 31st December 1781 when he was discharged from the Service at the "Round O" in the State of South Carolina: That he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except the present: that his name is not on the Roll of any State except as above mentioned: And that the following are the reasons for not making earlier application of a pension: Viz — That being illiterate and from circumstances in life confined to hard labour while able to work he had few or no oppertunities of understanding what provisions his Country had made for persons in his situation: That he had understood till more correctly informed, the 18 months enlisted men were not entitled to Pension: That after age and infirmity began to make the Charitable notice his situation that a certain Ned Harriss [probably Edward Harris] a fellow soldier of the same battles and term of service informed him that relief might be obtained by application to his Government: These are on his Oath the reasons for [page torn] earlier application: And he further states that if able to maintain himself and those dependant on him he would not burthen the Country he has defended by asking for support. — And in Pursuance of the Act of the 1st May 1820 I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for certain person engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War" passed on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property or securities contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed Viz. No real Estate nor personal Estate except a chest of pine a pine cupboard, a straw bed and bedstead and a few cooking utensils: The subscribing declarant further states that he has no Mechanic trade, but is, or rather has been, a hireling for common hard labour: And that he is nearly too much worn down by age &c. further to attempt the pursuit of such occupation: That his wife is 28 years of age tolerably smart for work and his almost only support; That he has two children one of four years of age and the other one year old; and that he has no other residing with him or in such a situation as to contribute to his support.: And lastly that no changes have been made in his Estate since the 18th March 1818 except such as in the expenditure of wages is made in a struggle for daily subsistance — James hisXmark Chance