

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John Chenoweth W18899

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[The following was apparently written in 1829 or 1830 in the form of a petition, possibly to be sent to Congress to appeal for a pension. It appears in the file as part of the application of his widow for a pension.]

Your petitioner humbly sheweth that some time in 1776 enlisted in the continental service for the time of two years under captain Abel Westfall Robert [last name illegible; Robert Higgins] Andrew Turek [sic: Andrew Turk] his lieutenants & Rees Prichard [sic: Rees Pritchard, pension application S38316, Ensign] and then joined the 8th Virginia regiment commanded by Colonel Muenburg Colonel Bowman [sic: Col. Peter Muhlenberg followed by Col. Abraham Bowman] Major Helviston [sic: Major Peter Helphinston] field officers of the said regiment & we were marched to Charlestown [sic: Charleston] in South Carolina Part of our march was a forced march as the British were expected every day we got there about 2 days before the British cannonade with the fort [sic: cannonade of Fort Sullivan, later named Fort Moultrie, at Battle of Sullivan's Island, 28 - 29 June 1776] & what were able to march were marched to Sunbury [sic: Sunbury GA, site of Fort Morris] & from thence back to Virginia and to the Jersey & c & c and from there to Brandywine we had a hot engagement [Battle of Brandywine] September the 11th 1777 & in October the 4th 1777 [Battle of Germantown] I was taken prisoner in the battle with the rest of our regiment & the 9th regiment along with us and they were still taking small parties of our people which kept up our or there number we were taken when very thin clothed and without blankets the most of us & from the said 4th day of October 1777 we lay till some time near Christmas in the dreffullest suffering that ever mortals did to live our regular burying every morning for a good length of time was from seven to eight and had it not been for the people called quakers we must have still have suffered worse they made contributions to buy affull provisions for us to save life in this time we had the offer of listing out under his Majesty King George some of my mess concluded we had better do it than to die in that miserable state of starvation I remonstrated to the cause we were on & that we had taken the oath of Allegiance [sic: allegiance] to the United States they would dissent [sic: dissent?]. I give them to understand that we had to waste our opportunity & that we must immediately take the oath to his Majesty King George & if defeating him hung if taken & that I did sooner prefer death bitter as it might be than agree to their proposals & a number of us did agree to that miserable death & numbers died I believe in that resolution did die & after some time I think about Christmas our people sent us in half allowance of provisions which did gratefully relieve us in our distress for the British did not pretend to give any more than half allowance & some time we went 3 days on the 2 day half allowance on it & some times 5 & once eight but I believe they would not have quit [been quite] so inhuman if they could have got there shipping up let us wake night or day the cannon were playing at this little mud island fort [Fort Mifflin on Mud Island near Philadelphia, captured by British 15 Nov 1777] & our chief [i.e. Gen. George Washington] I think one amongst the best of men was so troublesome by land that that I believe were much stinted themselves or at least the guard told us so we lay from the 4th of October till the morning the British left Philadelphia [18 June 1778] then put aboard of a prison ship & sent on to New York & there lay till exchanged some time in July or August which was somewhat like 10 months very little more or less and from every circumstance I think served in [two or three illegible words] after my time of enlistment was expired & in 1778 I was exchanged & discharged came home & had a fever [sic: spell?] of sickness my health so much impaired that there was no hesitation in quitting me from mustering & all military service till a little time before Cornwallis was taken [sic: Cornwallis, 19 Oct 1781] & there was a draft on hand. the captain called on me asked me if I was fit for duty I told him I thought I was I was inrolled & drawn number 2 or 3 I think & then I think number 8 9 or 10 which had never been called on & numbers had run out by age while boys drawing number 1 2 or 3 & c had to turn in & go [go] & these old men run out by age when if it had stood till it came round but I conceive it ignorance in the officers and they might as well have drawn me while laying in jail without they had left me till all the higher numbers had went the captain returned me to go & I went while walls

surrend[?] in little yorck & hept to gard a part of the prisonars to the Winchester barracks I have given you a short sketch of my servises & sufferings & now if I live to see the 15th day of november 1830 acording to my fathers regester of my age & shall be 75 years of age & feel veary inferm and unable to worck to git my living & my compannion is an ould woman as well as my self not able to wash our cloths I had a negro gerl but I sold her some years agoo with a nefew for him to find ous one to doo our drudgency during our living wheare I now liv close by him I am allso chargd with fifty acres of land it in the woods & veary thin & hilley & I am satlesfid there is a beter oner for it I pay 3 cents tax for it yearly it gives me a vote till the property other wise proven but as for the title in me I wold not give 3 cents only for the previledge in voting & I also have 3 cows 2 calves 2 triffling steers & hogs 6 shep and one little chunck of a mare & colt & some houshol furneture but of small valyue & an ould small still that has ben patching for maney years & now wants it or to be sold for ould copper 2 weding hoos [weeding hoes] & 2 axes an Iron wedge I have a few debts standing out by loss and some small notes but ought to good [illegible word] for security money I hav paid but but no hope as the man pled the insolvant act before he died & dyd insolvant which has broght me to do what I am doing & in as much as I am not able to labour & the common wealth made ample provisions for such

Randolph County [Virginia, now WV] To wit.

I Archibald Earle do hereby certify under oath that the foregoing declaration is to the best of my knowledge the Handwriting of John Chenoweth and the said John Chenoweth was a man of Honesty & good demeanor
Sworn & subscribed this 6th day of November 1837

A. Earle

State of Virginia } Ss
Randolph County }

on this 28th day of June 1837 personally appeared before me Squire Bosworth a Justice of the peace for and in the county aforesaid Mary Chenoweth a resident of the county of Randolph and State of Virginia aged Seventy five years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provission made by the act of Congress passed July 4th 1836. That she is the widow of John Chenoweth who was a private in the revolutionary war - dont recollect any of the field officers nor company officers under whom he entered the serve. that said John Chenoweth lived when he entered the service about one mile from this declarant. that to best of her knowledge he enlisted for two years in the year 1776 she dont recollect the month but beleaves it was in the spring or fore part of the summer. she dont know where he marched. that he was at home a very short time on furlow & then returned to the army. That he was discharged & came home in fall 1778 she recollects of hearing her husband say that he was in two battles and in one of them he was taken prisoner in October 1777 & stayed a prisoner Ten months she also heard him say that he was not discharged when his two years was out in consequence of his being at the end of said period confined as a prisoner that he lived in Hamshire [sic] County State of Virginia when he entered the service. she recollects of hearing husband talk of Able Westfall Andrew Turk Rees Pritchard being with him in the army. that in fall the fall of 1781 he was drafted to go & help take Cornwallis That he arrived at Little York the day after Cornwallis was taken. That she understood him that he help to guard the prisoners up to the Barrax near Winchester she beleaves he was out about two weeks was discharged & returnd home that they were then married she dont recollect who his officers in this Tour. that this Claimant has no documentary evidence in support of the claim. That her husband had a discharge that there was some pay due him when he left the service. that he gave said discharge to a man by the name of Blue to draw the ballance due him she knows of no person by whom she can prove her husbands services except Barney Kerns [sic: Barney Karren, pension application S15906] she had a brother living in Wood County Virginia the last she heard from him whether he now living or not she knows not she supposes that he would know something about her husband service. She further declares that she was married to the said John Chenoweth on the 7th day of January in the year seventeen hundred and seventy nine that her husband the aforesaid John Chenoweth died on the 16th day of June in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty one

and that she has remained a widow ever since that period as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed. she herd her husband say that he was confined in Jail a part of the time he was a prisoner
Mary herXmark Chenoweth

The deposition of Andrew Arnold taken before Michael Pugh at the said Arnold house on Big Capon [sic: Cacapon River] Hampshire County State of Virginia on the 21st day of September 1837

Question - will you tell what you know of John Chenoweth (son of William Chenoweth) being an enlisted soldier and serving in the army of the American Revolution

Answer I was acquainted with John Chenoweth from the time he was 16 or 17 years of age to learn the blacksmith trade with his uncle John Chenoweth on big Capon in Hampshire County he came about the year 1771 or 1772 after staying there 3 or 4 yours he enlisted a private soldier for three years in the regular service and marched under the command of Captain Westfall and from every information we then received through his friends he was in the battle of Brandywine - when his Term of service had expired he returned to our neighbourhood I saw him before he shifted his soldiers clothing, some time after his return he married Mary Pugh I was at his wedding, after which he lived in the vicinity of our neighbourhood, until he moved to Randolph County, I have conversed with him since whenever he returned to this place and further this deponent saith not
Andrew Arnold

State of Virginia } Towit
Wood County }

Be it know that the 17th day of October 1837 Personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace in & for said County Samuel Pew a resident in the County of Wood & State of Virginia and the following questions were put to him and he answered the same under oath after being sworn according to Law

1 question

was you acquainted John Chenoweth who formerly resided in Hamshire County Virginia & removed from there to Randolph County & resided there til his death

answer I was

2 question

was said Chenoweth in the revolutionary war - answer I know he enlisted and left his home and I believe served out his Tour.

3 question

at what time did said Chenoweth enter the service & when did he return

answer - at what time he left or returned I cannot say

4 question

did he list or was he drafted

answer He listed

5 question

what was the name of the officers under whom he entered the service & their Ranks

answer I do not know

6 question

where did said Chenoweth reside when he entered the service

answer He resided in Hampshire County in the state of Virginia & on Big Caperpton creek

7 question

do you or do you not know whether said Chenoweth was in any battles in said Revolutionary War if so when & where was said battles fought

Answer I do not know

8 question

do you know whether said Chenoweth was taken prisoner or not during said War if so when & where & how Long he remained such prisoner

answer I recollect he told me he was taken prisoner while in the service but where or how long he was a prisoner I do not know

9 question

do you know when said Chenoweth was married if so to whom was he married and where said marriage took place whether said Chenoweth had a Licence or whether the bands [sic: banns] was Published.

Answer - he was published

[signed] Sam'l Pugh

NOTE: The file contains an original family record in the handwriting of John Chenoweth, taken from his Bible, and transcribed as follows:

John Chenoweth was born november 15th 1755

Mary Chenoweth was born Jenuary 29th 1762

And married the the 7th Jenuary 1779

Robert Chenoweth was married august 23^d 1802

Maray Chenoweth was married march 25th 1803

William P Chenoweth was married jenuary 25th 1807

John J Chenoweth was married August the 5th day 1810

Robert Chenoweth married his second wife 10th april 1811

John Chenoweth was Married to Nelley Skidmore the 19th September 1813

Gabriel Chenoweth was married to Elisibeth Currante the 21st day of november 1815

Nelley Chenoweth was Married to James hart the 23^d of September 1819

our first born did not live to be namd which was a son

Ruth Chenoweth was born july 8th 1780

Robert Chenoweth was born Apriel 19th 1782

Willi P Chenoweth was born february 2^d 1784

Mary Chenoweth was born october 22^d 1785

Ann Chenoweth was born march 21st 1788

John J Chenoweth was born february 13th 1790