

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of William Choice W3656                      Mary Choice                      VA  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 29 July 2017.

The State of South Carolina } Ss.  
Greenville District        }

On this fourth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty two personally appeared in open Court, before the court of Common Pleas and General Sessions of the Peace for the District of Greenville in the State aforesaid, being a court of record, now sitting William Choice, a resident of Greenville District in the State of South Carolina aged eighty six 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 7<sup>th</sup> 1832: That he was born as he has been informed by his Parents on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of January 1756 in Halifax County in the State of Virginia which was subsequently divided and Pittsylvania County taken from it [in 1767] in which he resided in the year 1776 when a short time before the 4<sup>th</sup> of July 1776, he first entered the Service of the United States at Pittsylvania Court House in the State of Virginia by enlisting or enrolling himself in a corps of what were called Minute men under Capt. Thomas Dillard, Lieutenant Joseph Roberts and Tully Choice [pension application W3774], now dead, his brother, Ensign, the name of the Major is not remembered and marched to Stinking River in [Pittsylvania County] Virginia where he with the rest of the army were rendezvoused for one week and were commanded and drilled by Col. Haynes Morgan [W17157], from which place he marched to Petersburg in the same state where he remained ten days. there were three companies, one commanded by Capt. Peter Perkins and Lieutenant Jesse Heard, one by Capt [Abram] Penn and Lieutenant Harry Lyons [Henry Lyons] and the other by Capt. Thomas Dillard as before stated. From Petersburg he marched to Jamestown where he was stationed for a short time, then went to Williamsburg and was there under arms in the service of his Country on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July 1776, from this place he marched back to Jamestown and with Captain Dillard and Perkins companies to Quinn's [sic: Gwynn] Island at the mouth of Pianketank [sic: Piankatank River] and was there when Governor Dunmore was driven from that Island [10 Jul 1776], after which he returned through Richmond home having served three months in this tour.

Afterwards in the fall of 1776 as one of the Minute-men aforesaid he marched under the command of Capt. Jesse Heard, Capt Dillard being sick at that time, and joined the army at Bedford Old Court House called New London [now in Campbell County] The army was commanded by General Christie [William Christian] and Major Glenn, and marched from New London to the Island of Holsten (in Tennessee now) [sic: Long Island of the Holston at present Kingsport TN] in an expedition against the Indians, thence into the Indian Nation and assisted in destroying many Indian Towns. that he was taken sick in the Indian Nation and left by every man but one who assisted him back to the island of Holsten, thence to Fort Chissel [sic: Fort Chiswell in Montgomery County, now Wythe County VA], from which place he returned home in Virginia where he arrived on Christmas day, having been out on this tour as he now believes three months

That afterwards in the latter part of the winter or early in the Spring of the year 1779 the Militia having been drafted in classes from 1 to 10 the declarant was drafted in class No. 6 and one Thomas Jameson in class No 1 in Henry County Virginia that he the said William Choice exchanged classes with the said Thomas Jameson, and marched under the command of Frederick Reeves Captain and Tully Choice his brother Lieutenant as far as Statesburg [sic: possibly Statesville] in the State of North Carolina, from which place Capt Reeves returned home and Lieutenant Tully Choice continued in command till the declarant arrived at Salisbury North Carolina where the army was stationed under the command of Col. Mason [David Mason VAS506] and Major Burrell [Burwell?], and at that place the declarant joined Capt. William Witcher's company and marched with the army southward by way of Camden [SC], where the Wateree was crossed, on to McCord's Ferry on the Congaree in South Carolina, thence to Bacon's Bridge on the Ashley River, thence to a place called Black Swamp [present Jasper County SC] from which place

he went to Stono and was in the Battle of Stono [Stono Ferry, 20 Jun 1779] which was fought on Sunday in June 1779 and he believes about the 20<sup>th</sup> of that month; that in this engagement Generals [Benjamin] Lincoln and [Isaac] Huger assisted by Col Mason commanded; the latter named General lost one of his Aiddecamp's [sic: Aides de Camp] in this Battle as the declarant afterwards heard. That after this Battle to wit on the 18<sup>th</sup> July in the same year he with the other Virginia Troops were sent home and on their way were paid off at Camden in the State of South Carolina from which place he went home where he arrived the last of July or the first of August having been in the service in this tour Five months or perhaps more.

That afterwards he entered the service again as a volunteer in Capt. Jesse Heard's company of Light horse and marched to Surry Court House in the State of North Carolina where he was stationed for a week and then went by way of Moravian town [probably Salem NC] to the Trading Ford on the Yadkin [near Salisbury], thence to Rocky River [in Chatham County NC] to join Gen'l. [William Lee] Davidson and was sent out to reconnoitre Genl. Cornwallis' Army – was out from his residence in Henry County in Virginia in this tour one month.

That he again entered this service under the command of one Col. [James] Lyon and was on the march to join Genl Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] just before the Battle of Guilford in North Carolina [Guilford Courthouse, 15 Mar 1781], but having received orders was discharged and returned home having been out this time not more than two weeks.

And the said William Choice further swears that all the services he rendered his country in the revolutionary war, were rendered as a Minute man, drafted Militiaman or as a volunteer; that as a minuteman he was liable at any time to be called into service, and was always ready and willing to obey the call and did so when required to the utmost of his ability; that he was never under the immediate command of any of the regular officers of the regular Army and consequently is unable to give the names of any of them; that he served his country faithfully during the revolutionary war in her services in the various tours and campaigns in which he was engaged in the aggregate of active service thirteen months; that he has no documentary evidence in his power or possession by which he can prove his said services, that if he ever received any regular written discharge he has no recollection of it, and cannot now produce it, and that at this time he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his said services.

And he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity, except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state

1<sup>st</sup> Where, and in what year, were you born?

Ans'r. In Halifax County Virginia on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of January 1776 [sic].

Int 2<sup>d</sup> Where were you living when called into service; where have you lived since the revolutionary war; and where do you now live?

Ans'r. I lived in Halifax County Va. which was divided and Pittsylvania made and Henry County too was made from it [in 1776], and in one of these I lived at all times when called into the service; In 1784 I removed from Virginia to Greenville District in the State of South Carolina where I have lived ever since, and now live.

Int. 3<sup>d</sup> How were you called into the service, were you draughted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute; and if a substitute, for whom?

Ans'r. I was called into the service as a Minute man or drafted Militia, one tour, and one I exchanged places with one Thomas Jameson and went one tour as a substitute in his place, and I also volunteered into the service Int 2<sup>d</sup> Omitted at the proper place – Have you any record of your age? If so where is it?

Ans'r. I have no record of my age. It was left with my Mother in the family register in the Bible.

Int 5<sup>th</sup> State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such continental and militia regiments as you can recollect, and the general circumstances of your service.

Ans'r. I name Capt Henry Conway [W6719], Cyrus Roberts [Cyrus L. Roberts BLWt2053-300] and William Jenkins

Int. 6 Did you ever receive a discharge from the service; if so by whom was it given; and what has become of it?

Ans'r. If I ever received a discharge I have lost it

Int 7 State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood, who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the revolution.

Ans'r. I name the Hon. Wm Butler Member of Congress, Judge B. J. Earle, Major Micajah Berry, Col. Henry G. Johnson, Tandy Walker Esq'r. and Dempsey Nesbitt to all of whom and many more I can appeal with the fullest confidence

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid— The said William Choice annexes three old papers which he brought from Virginia –



The Commonwealth of VIRGINIA

To William Choice Gentleman, greeting:

KNOW YOU that our GOVERNOUR, on Recommendation from the Court of the County of Henry hath constituted and appointed you Second Lieutenat in a Company of Militia in the said County. In Testimony whereof, these our Letters are sealed, with the Seal of the Commonwealth, and made Patent.

Witness THOMAS JEFFERSON, Esquire, our said Governour, at Richmond, the Tenth Day of January in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty.



The Commonwealth of VIRGINIA,

To William Choice greeting:

KNOW you that from the special Trust and Confidence which is reposed in your Fidelity, Courage, Activity, and good Conduct, our Governor, with the Advice of the Council of State, and on the recommendation of the Worshipful Court of the county of Henry doth appoint you the said William Choice Leut. of the Militia of the said county of Henry to the rank as such from the 28<sup>th</sup> day of March IN testimony whereof these out letters are made patent. WITNESS, His Excellency Benjamin Harrison Esquire, our said Governor, at Richmond this 28<sup>th</sup> day of March in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty three/ (Registered in the WAR-OFFICE.)



Henry County Virginia Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup> 1783

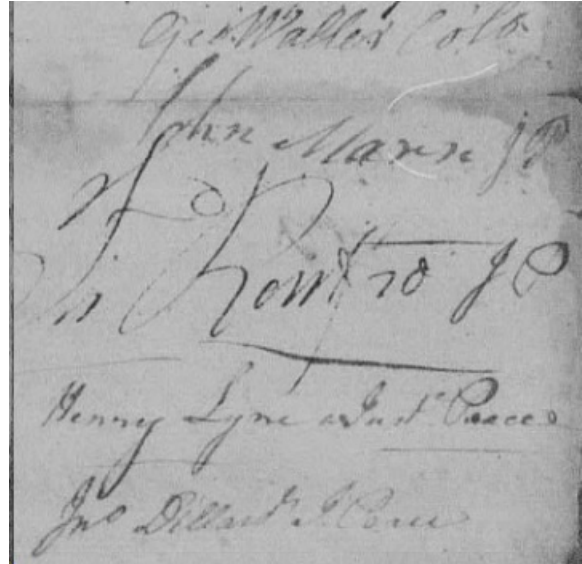
To all persons to whom it may Concern, Whereas the Bearer hereof Viz. Mr. William Choice having a Design to Travel to the state of South Carrolina or Georgia, This doth Certify that the s'd. Choice has ever maintained a fair umblemish'd Character, and During the Contest for liberty and Independence has Distinguished himself a true friend to the Cause, and if he should incline to fall into buisness we do Certify that he is well calculated to follow the Occupation of an Overseer, being well skill'd in the Culture of the produce of our Country as well as industrious and Expert in looking after Negroes, given under our hands Oct'r. 1783

John Cox C.H.C. Geo. Waller [George Waller] Colo

John Marr JP

Jno Renfro [John Renfro W9250] JP

Henry Lyne Just Peace  
Jno Dillard [John Dillard] J. Peace



[The following document is extremely faded.]

To all persons to whom it may Concern. Know ye that we the subscribers being well acquainted with the Bearer hereof Viz. William Choice. We do know him to be an Honest, Industrious & inoffensive person & as he is about to leave us we do hereby Certify that he will leave behind him a good Name & is in Friendship & unity with us all being their friends, Neighbours & Acquaintances. [Several illegible words]

It is the Earnest prayer of [one or two illegible words] &c Dec'r 21 18[??]

John Chandler	[illegible signature]
[illegible] Ryan	[illegible signature]
Henry Clark	Burwell Rives
Daniel Richardson	Sam'l Bollinger
Richard Varnar	Elisha Estes
Mat Edwards	[illegible] Hutchins[?]
Abner Cockerham	William Garrison
[illegible] Edwards	Swinfield Hill
Joseph Cavis[?]	Philip Hutchinson
Samuel [illegible]	Hugh Innes
Benjamin [illegible]	John Law junr
John Groole[?]	Thos Heard
[illegible signature] Tully Choice jun	Fred'k Rives
Joseph Johnston	James Major
Thomas Black	James Bea[?]
Clayton Smith	
John Kearby	
Bird Smith[?]	
[illegible signature]	
Lewis Jenkins	

[In Greenville District on 13 Sep 1848 Mary Choice, 81, applied for a pension stating that as Mary McDonald she married William Choice in Laurens District SC on 10 May 1786.]

The Deposition of Jessee Kerby Sr [W9489] of Warren County Kentucky taken at his residence in s'd County, on Friday the 11<sup>th</sup> day of August 1848 to be used and read as evidence in the matter of the application of Mrs. Mary Choice for a pension. This deponent being first duly sworn on the Holy

Evangelists to tell the truth the whole truth and nothing but the truth in the matters above named upon his oath deposes and saith that he will be ninety one years old on the 23<sup>d</sup> day of October next.

That he was a soldier of the Revolutionary War – And resided during the period of the war in Henry County, Virginia. That from his early boy hood, he was acquainted with William Choice, who also lived in said County of Henry & State of Virginia prior to and during the War.

That this deponent married Sophia Choice the sister of said William Choice, in said county and state – and his said wife yet lives.

Deponent served one Tour in the Army of the Revolution with William Choice. During this Tour, according to Deponents best recollection said Choice held the rank and discharged the duties of Second Lieutenant in the company of Capt [Swinfield] Hill (if deponent rightly recollects the name, for he did not himself belong to that company).

Lieutenant Choice was an older man than this deponent – and had served, according to deponents best recollection, and which is quite distinct on the subject, two Tours before the one under Hill just spoken of. The first of these was under Capt Dillard . The second under Capt [John] Cunningham. He was a Lieutenant under Cunningham. A Brother of his was a Lieut. under Dillard. Deponent by conversation with his wife and from his own recollection is enabled to state with great confidence that Lieutenant Choice served on these various tour, upwards of a year. The Tour under Hill was a short one, not longer perhaps than three months. Those under Dillard & Cunningham were longer. That under Dillard was near or quite nine months in duration. He is less assured as to the length of Service under Cunningham. He was marched under him to South Carolina and was at the battle of Stono. Altho witness was not with Lieut Choice under Cunningham & Dillard, he knows and states the fact that s'd Choice belonged to these Companies – that he marched out – remained and returned with them. Deponent can not fix dates with certainty. He has nothing with which to refresh his memory concerning them. He can not therefore state the precise years or periods within which these services of Leut Choice were rendered. He can state however that he was a brave, active & efficient young officer. That he was out in the service at various periods and at various intervals throughout the revolution. And whilst deponent remembers the particular tours he has before mentioned, he s'd Choice may have been out in other tours, which this deponent can not now recollect.

Some two years after the close of the war and after deponent had married the sister of S'd Choice, he and s'd Choice removed from Henry County Virginia to Greenville County, District 96, South Carolina. and deponent lived in that state about eleven years and then removed to Kentucky – in which state he has continued to live ever since.

Deponent would state, in addition to the facts already detailed as personally known to him, that s'd William Choice was well known to have been an officer and to have actually served, in the Revolutionary War, in the neighbourhood where he resided both in Virginia and South Carolina.

Deponent is well acquainted with Mary Choice, the present applicant and the widow of s'd William Choice. He was at the marriage of her and the s'd Wm. Choice and gave them a wedding dinner afterwards They were married about the year 1786 in the spring of that year. And further deponent saith not

Jessee hisXmark Kerby Sr.

Also the Deposition of Sophia Kerby wife of Jessee Kerby Sr above named, taken at the same time and place and for the purpose stated in the caption to the preceeding deposition of s'd Jessee

This deponent being first duly sworn on the Holy Bible to tell he truth the whole truth and nothing but the truth in the matter above stated, upon her oath deposes and saith That she will be eighty eight years old on the 23<sup>d</sup> September next. That she is the sister of William Choice, now dec'd, late of Greenville County, South Carolina. She of course can make no statement from her own knowledge of the actual services of her brother William in the War of the Revolution. In the early part of the War she lived with her Brother, but deponent was married in the year 1778 and ceased to live with her brother then. She well remembers his going out into the service joining the army – and staying away from home for months at a time and coming back when the tours were out. She knows he was out under Dillard, Cunningham & Hill, and her recollection is that he was out under others besides them. Her recollection is that he was out some

six times in all. And she has not hesitation in saying that he was out in all more than a year. The first tour he was out began about the last of March and he got back just before christmass. This was the time he went out as a Minute Man with Capt Dillard. They were gone some five or six months when he was at Stono in the South. He was known to all the neighbours in Henry County (she thinks it was then Pitsylvania) to have served in the revolutionary war – and whilst he was away on these tours the family knew & understood that he was in the army – sent word to him to the army – received word from him from the army &c &c. From these multiplied facts she may well say she knows he was in the Revolutionary Army and served during the period of his absences on his several tours as above stated. And from her recollection of these times he was then out, she would say he was in the service from twelve to fifteen months.

She further states that she too knows Mary Choice, her Brothers widow – was at their wedding &c. From her recollection, which is strengthened & refreshed by the date of the birth of one of her children, her brother was married to s'd Mary on the 10<sup>th</sup> May 1786.

She unites & concurs with her husband in his statements as to their removal from Va to South Carolina & thence to Ky &c &c

And further deponent saith not

Sophia herXmark Kerby

NOTE: On 8 April 1851 William Choice, 54, gave the date of marriage of his parents, William and Mary choice as 11 April 1786, and he stated that his father died 30 Sep 1843, and his mother died 6 Oct 1848. He also certified that the original family record transcribed below was in the handwriting of his father. On 31 July 1850 William Choice stated that his mother died in 1847 and was survived by the following children: William Choice, Josiah Choice, and Tully Choice, all of Greenville SC; Jefferson Choice of Spartanburg District SC; Cyrus Choice of Santa Fe NM; Nancy Cobb, wife of Samuel Cobb, residing in Cherokee County AL; Aralinta Dial, wife of Joseph Dial, of Cherokee County GA. A document dated 31 Aug 1855 certified that Tully Choice, son of William and Mary Choice died in Greenville District leaving neither wife nor child, and that the following, all over age 21, were the surviving heirs of William and Mary Choice: William Choice, Josiah Choice, Jefferson Choice, Nancy Cobb, and Aralinta Dial.

Family Record of William Choice Sr, Decease of Greenville District South Carolina.

William Choice and Mary Choice his wife was married May 11<sup>th</sup> day 1786

Tully Choice a son of William Choice and Mary Choice was Born December the 18<sup>th</sup> day 1787

Ann Choice, Daughter of William Choice and Mary Choice was Born July the 30<sup>th</sup> day 1790

Mary Choice a Daughter of William & Mary Choice was Born July the 7<sup>th</sup> day 1792

Mary Choice Died August the 12<sup>th</sup> day 1792

John Choice son of William Choice and Mary his wife was Born October 11<sup>th</sup> 1793

William Choice son of William and Mary his wife was born October 24<sup>th</sup> 1796

Cyrus Choice son of William Choice and Mary his wife was born October the 18<sup>th</sup> 1799

Aralinta Choice, daughter of William and Mary Choice his wife was Born July 20<sup>th</sup> day 1802

Sophia Choice daughter of William Choice and Mary his wife was Born October the 29<sup>th</sup> day 1805

Jonah Choice, son of William Choice and Mary his wife was Born March the 28<sup>th</sup> day 1808

Jefferson Choice, son of William Choice and Mary his wife was Born 29<sup>th</sup> April 1811