

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Nathan Chapman W6654 Elizabeth Chapman VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 14 Oct 2012.

State of Virginia & County of Roanoke on this 22^d day of November Eighteen hundred & thirty nine personally appeared before the County Court of aforesaid County Elizabeth Chapman a resident of Virginia & County of Bedford aged sixty nine 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 provision made by the act of Congress passed the seventh day of July eighteen hundred & thirty eight entitled an act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows. that she is the widow of Nathan Chapman who was a regular in the army of the revolution. that she always understood from him when speaking of his suffering in the army that he enlisted when very young under a certain Joshuay Chafin [Joshua Chaffin] in the County of Amelia, State of Virginia that he was in several engagements and she distinctly recollects that of Charlestown South Carolina at which place he was taken prisoner [probably at the surrender of Charleston, 12 May 1780] and kept in the aforesaid town some time then put on board a prison ship. I think as well as I recollected called the Belvideer [Belvedere] & kept on short allowance and that whilst on that scant allowance they the prisoners were frequently offered their liberty on condition that they would take an oath not to fight against the King during the war which oath many of the prisoners took. Some of them he often spoke of as being messmates namely a Mr. Basstian and a Mr. Harmas[?] who was sent with others to Halifax [Nova Scotia] and did not get home untill after independence was acknowledged. And that himself with others that refused to take the oath as mentioned above were exchanged at Jamestown not long before the taking of Wallace [sic: Cornwallis, 19 Oct 1781] at Yorktown and that he was on the eve of starting to that siege when he heard of the Surrender thereof. that he stated that he was in service and in prison either three or four years
She further says that there has been a pension of land drawn for him by a treacherous agent just before his death which pension she has not received. She further declares that she was married to the said Nathan Chapman on the seventeenth day of February in the year seventeen hundred and ninety one. that her husband the aforesaid Nathan Chapman died on the 29th day of January eighteen hundred and twenty eight that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but that the marriage took place previous to the first day of Jany seventeen hundred and ninety four, namely at the time aforesated

NOTES:

The [Revolutionary Bounty-Warrant records in the Library of Virginia](#) contain what appears to be a statement of services signed by Nathan Chapman in Bedford County, but it is mostly illegible in the online image. Elisha Bowls made a supporting statement that is also illegible. There is also a document said to be a power of attorney granted to Anthony Evans, Jr.

With Elizabeth Chapman's application is a certificate of Nathan Chapman's service by his sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Bowls, about 80, of Bedford County VA. Also in the file is a copy of a bond dated 12 Feb 1791 and signed by Nathan Chapman and James Coleman for the marriage of Chapman to Betsey Coleman. There is also a copy of the minister's return stating that the marriage was performed by Rice Haggard in Franklin County on 17 Feb 1791. Mrs. Chloe Coleman of Bedford County stated that she had been at the wedding. On 6 Mar 1855 Elizabeth Chapman, 84, applied for bounty land. On 26 May 1857 she and son Henry H. Chapman, with whom she lived, applied for a replacement for the pension certificate, which he had lost.