

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Thomas Chapman W8605 Nancy Chapman VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of South Carolina } Ss

Sumter District } On this tenth day of October A.D. one thousand eight hundred and fifty one personally appeared before me William J Gibson a Magistrate in and for the District of Sumter and State of South Carolina Nancy Chapman aged Ninety four years who being first duly sworn according to law make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by an Act of Congress passed July 7th A.D. 1838 entitled "an Act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows" and all other acts passed by Congress relating to the same subject. That she is the Widow of Thomas Chapman who was a soldier in the revolutionary War and who served a part of the time as private and then as sergeant in the Virginia Continental line. That according to the best of her knowledge and belief he entered the service sometime during the year 1777 and continued in the service till the close of the War – that he resided in Virginia when he entered the service but cannot now say under what officers nor what were their rank but have heard frequently speak of General [Daniel] Morgan and Col. Laurence Manning [see endnote] yet cannot say that he was under the immediate command. That he was engaged in the Battle of Eutaw under General [Nathanael] Greene – that she heard him say frequently that he was also engaged at the Seige of Fort Watson at the Cow Pens and at Guilford and thinks at Camden [Siege of Fort Watson SC, 15 - 23 Apr 1781; Battle of Cowpens SC, 17 Jan 1781; Battle of Hobkirk Hill near Camden SC, 25 Apr 1781].

She is not aware that there is any documentary evidence to support this claim now in existence unless indeed such can be found among the archives of Virginia, as she well remembers that her said husband spoke of having received some compensation from the State of Virginia through his Brother William Chapman and she thinks some one else but don't remember who. That her maiden name was Nancy Wise and that she was married to the said Thomas Chapman in June 1785 by one Thompson – that no record was made of said marriage that she is aware of as neither her husband or herself could write and that they had to travel some twenty five Miles to get the ceremony performed in that early day. Deponent further swears that she was born and raised up in Virginia and removed to South Carolina just before the commencement of hostilities and that her said husband was likewise raised in Virginia but that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service but previous to the first of January 1794, Towit, at the time above stated which marriage took place in South Carolina Sumter District.

Deponent further swears that she is still a widow and that she has never before made any application for a pension and that by reason of her extreme age and great bodily infirmity she is altogether unable to travel to Sumterville to make this her declaration before a Court of Record

Nancy herXmark Chapman

THIS IS TO CERTIFY, That it appears from a list in this office of such Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia Continental Line as settled their accounts and received certificates for the balance of their Full Pay, according to an act of assembly, passed the November session 1781, directing the Auditors of Public Accounts to settle and adjust the pay and accounts of the said Officers and Soldiers from the 1st January 1777, to the 31st December 1781, (see Hening's Statutes at Large, vol. 10, p. 462,) that a settlement was made on the 9th day of April 1783 in the name of Thomas Chapman as Soldier of Infantry and evidence of the indebtedness of the State to him for £57.19.4 and was delivered to Gen'l. Morgan

Given under my hand at the First Auditor's Office, Richmond, this 5th day of Nov'r 1851.

Ro. Johnston/ First Auditor

NOTES:

A Lt. Lawrence Manning (BLWt1457-200) was in Lt. Col. Henry Lee's Legion.

On 11 Oct 1851 Jamimi Richbourg, 64, stated that Thomas Chapman married Nancy Wise, the sister of her father, John Wise, and that since Thomas Chapman's death in 1823 his widow had lived with her as one of the family. She also stated that during the war Thomas Chapman became acquainted with John Richbourg, the father of her husband, Samuel Richbourg, and that she frequently heard the two of them "speaking together of their exploits and of their wounds received in said service both of which had several scars." On 21 May 1853 Samuel Richbourg, 75, stated that "Thomas Chapman had been severely wounded more than once the evidence of which deponent had often seen on his person. He was engaged in several Battles but deponent cannot speak with certainty only to the Battle of Eutaw [Eutaw Springs SC, 8 Sep 1781] where the said Chapman was taken prisoner but managed to escape the same night."