

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Chester S1897

fn28NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/14/10

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. I welcome and encourage folks to call those and any other errors to my attention.]

State of Tennessee Weakley County

On this 9th Day of October, personally appeared before the justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, the County of Weakley aforesaid, John Chester, a resident of said County, in the State of Tennessee, aged about eighty-<sup>four</sup> 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 provision made by the Act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832 –

That according to the then arrangement of choosing soldiers by ballot where a certain number less than the whole were required to enter the service out of a militia company, this Declarant was one selected by ballot as aforesaid, in Dobbs County North Carolina about the year 1779 or 1780. He then proceeded under his Captain Benjamin Harrison, to Kingston [sic, Kinston], on Neuse River, the place appointed for the meeting of the troops. And from thence we went on to head quarters at West Point on North River about two hundred miles North of Philadelphia. But after leaving the State of North Carolina, & before we reached the head quarters the men received a certificate from Colonel Hogan [sic, James Hogun], stating that from that period the Term of their Service commenced. Sometime in the latter part of summer, or the forepart of the fall we reached West Point, & continued stationed there until the weather became so cold that in consequence of our not having any barracks to lodge in, we were compelled to retire to Philadelphia, to take up our winter quarters; where we remained until our term of service expired, which was nine months after leaving the state of North Carolina. We then took shipping from Philadelphia to Portsmouth, and travel from thence by land to the town of Halifax in North Carolina, where we received our discharges. This declarant states, that having lost his certificate he placed his discharge in the hands of a purchaser of the arrearages of his pay, to enable him to receive the same; since which time he has not seen or heard of his discharge. He then served a three months tour in the state of South Carolina about the time the British took possession of, and occupied the City of Charleston. He does not recollect the names of any of the officers under whom he served during this tour. He received a discharge at the end of his term of service, but cannot now account for the loss of it. He then volunteered for eighteen months, and served under Captain Benjamin Coleman, Major Redding Blount, and General Greene. This was about the date of 1782 or 83. He served this tour chiefly in South Carolina, below Charleston, about James Island. After his nine months tour of service in the north, he was exempt from serving

anymore for the space of three years, as was all others who served during that tour. – At the end of his eighteen months service, in South Carolina, as a volunteer, peace was made between the contending powers, and the war closed, and the troops were dismissed, and receive their discharges. This declarant states that owing to the great lapse of time, together with other concurring circumstances he is at present unable to produce any discharge, which he received during the whole war. This declarant at the time of his entering the service of the United States, was a resident of Dobbs County, North Carolina, and according to his best recollection the Regiment in which he served nine months was called the 23rd. And also that he has no documentary evidence to prove the fact of his service, nor does he know of any person who can testify to the same.

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.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Wm H. Johnson, Clerk

S/ John Chester, X his mark

[Thomas Ross, a clergyman, & John Terrell gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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

Answer – I was born in Hyde [sic, Hyde] County in State of North Carolina about five miles below the Town of Washington on Pamlico River about the date 1748, where I lived until about the age of thirteen or fourteen – from thence I moved to Contentna [sic, Contentnea] in Dobbs County in the State of North Carolina, where I suppose I lived as much as 12 years – from thence I moved into Edgecombe County in North Carolina, where agreeable to my present imperfect recollection, from age & infirmity, I lived about twenty-five years – from thence I moved to the State of Tennessee to Williamson County, where I lived nearly eight years – from thence I moved into Hickson County in the State of Tennessee, and there I lived about fourteen years – from thence I moved to Weakley County where I now reside, and have been in this County not quite two years.

2<sup>nd</sup> Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Answer – I have no record of my age, nor have I ever seen any; and the only knowledge I have of my age is from the information of old persons, who knew me in my infancy.

3<sup>rd</sup> Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Answer – I lived in Dobbs County North Carolina when I was called into service, and I have stated practically in my answer to your first question where I have lived since the revolutionary war, and also where I now live –

4<sup>th</sup> How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Answer. The first tour I served I balloted in according to the custom of that time, and I served nine months to the northward after leaving the State of North Carolina – and received a discharge which I have since lost. The second time I substituted in place of Lewis Davis for a three months tour, and served chiefly in South Carolina. About the year 1781 or 82 I volunteered for eighteen months, and served in South Carolina, under General Greene, Major Redding Blount & Captain Benjamin Coleman.

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.

Answer – General Greene, Major Redding Blount and Captain Coleman on the names of

three of our officers – the names of the subordinate officers, from the frailty of memory, occasioned by old age and disease, I do not now recollect. Captain Benjamin Harrison was our Captain in my nine months tour to the North and Colonel Hogan was our commander in chief, who after we reached headquarters at West point was made a General – our Regiment to the North, was called I think the 23rd. I was not in any general engagement during my service in the Army. I was in about 30 miles of Charleston in South Carolina, when the British forces took and occupied it. While I was stationed at West Point on the North River a party of the British landed a short distance below where we were stationed, and a party of our men were sent out against them, but they soon got on board their vessels & sailed off.

6<sup>th</sup> Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Answer – I received a discharge at the end of my nine months service but who signed, I cannot now distinctly recollect, but I am of the impression that Captain Harrison signed. This discharge I let go to a purchaser of the arrearages of my pay, to enable him to receive it; and have never seen or heard of it since. The second discharge I received for a three months service as a substitute for Lewis Davis, but who signed it or what I have done with it am wholly unable at this time detail – My third discharge was signed by Captain Coleman, and was for a term of 18 months service – and I think it was dated something in the year 1782 or 83. This discharge I have also lost or mislaid, owing to the little care that I thought necessary to bestow on its preservation and the great length of time since I received it.

7<sup>th</sup> State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Answer – John Terrell, Perry Vincent, Jubilee Rogers & Parson Thomas Ross are all [indecipherable word] well acquainted with me, and can testify to my veracity, and their belief of my services as a soldier of the American Revolution.

State of Tennessee Weakley County: Personally appeared before me, the undersigned, a Justice of the Peace for said County, John Chester, who, being sworn, deposes and saith, that by reason of old age, and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below, and in the following grades & under the following officers – The first Tour I entered the service, agreeable to the best of my frail recollection in the year 1779 or 1780, under Harrison as our Captain & Hogan as our Colonel. This tour I served not less than 12 months, a part of which time we were on march and the balance of my time we were in Garrison at the place of rendezvous, which was Kingston in North Carolina – during the whole of this time of service I was a private soldier – The second Tour I served three months as a private in 1781 during which time we were chiefly on march only a few days stationed at a time and any place; the names of officers, I do not now recollect, owing to the laws of my memory in a great measure. – In 1782 or 1783 I entered the service of the United States as a private under Captain Coleman, Major Redding Blount & General Greene for an 18 months tour, but I served only 12 months of the time, for several months of this time and were in Garrison at Ashley Hill the balance of the 12 months we were stationed on James Island below Charleston until the making of peace. And for such service I claim a pension.

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 14th of February 1833

S/ E. D. Dickson, JP

S/ John Chester, X his mark

[fn p. 14: on August 2, 1842, John Chester filed a statement stating that he is now a resident of Hickman County where he has lived for the last six months passed.]

[fn p. 25: on September five, 1842 in Hickman County Tennessee, the clerk of court filed findings under which he ruled that the veteran died in Hickman County August three, 1842 survived by no widow but leaving children namely John Chester Junior, Henry W Chester, Nancy Chester, Sarah Whitney and Lovey Wills; and indicating that Jacob Humble is the administrator of the estate of the veteran.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for two-year service as a private in the North Carolina Continental line.]