

[Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters](#)

Pension Application of William Canafax S19233

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 1 June 2015.

State of Virginia } SS
County of Monroe }

on this 31st day of January AD 1834 personally appeared before me Robert Coalter a Justice of the piece for the County aforesaid in the state of Virginia and as such a member of the County Court of said Monroe County which is a court of Record William Canafax a Resident of said County and state aged Seventy five years on the Ninth day of July last who being first duly sworn by me according to Law doth on his Oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

that he Entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein Stated. He was drafted for a tour of three Months Service under Captain John Chiles and Ensign Benjamin Butterworth he was marched to Petersburg Virginia thence to Cabbinpoint Va [sic: Cabin Point on James River in Surry County] thence to Suffolk Joined the Army Commanded by General Mullenburg [sic: Peter Muhlenberg] and Collonial Lawson [Col. Robert Lawson] Commanded the Regiment to which He was attached Marched over the Dismal Swamp was there informed that they were Near the British Retreated back across the said swamp and formed for battle but was not attacked having marched from the County of Campbell (Va) after the Expiration of his term of service he was discharged Receiving from his Captain John Chiles a written discharge he Entered the service on the [blank] day of [blank] and was discharged on the [blank] day of [blank] he then Resided in the County of Campbell Virginia [see endnote]

On the [blank] day of [blank] [May 1778] he was again called into the service in a Volenteer Company for Nine Months under Capt John Montgomery and Col George R Clark [George Rogers Clark] and was marched through the Wilderness by the way of what is now called the Benstation Road to Boonsborough [sic: possibly Byne or Byrne Station Road to Boonesborough] on the Kentucky River to guard the frontier settlement from the depredation of the Indians thence to Logans fort [Logans Station at present Stanford] thence to Herrods fort [sic: Harrods Station at present Harrodsburg] thence to the falls of Ohio [at present Louisville] built a fort in the Island and there planted corn thence [24 June] down the Ohio River within about 40 miles of the mouth thence leaving the River through the Country that is now the Illinois State to pass a Nation of Indians that lived on the Masisipi River [sic: Mississippi River] between the mouth of Ohio & the mouth of Illinois Rivers unperceived and did so to depopulate and destroy a town [Kaskaskia, 4 July] on the said Illenois Rever Inhabited by french and Indians under British protection and did take the Inhabitance all prisoners and took Rosebrock the Chief Man of the place [Philippe de Rastel, sieur de Rocheblave, commandant of Fort Gage] and conveyed him to Virginia he continued to serve out his said term of Nine months and was again discharged by his Captain John Montgomery he Received a written discharge which has been lost. he continued to reside in the County of Campbell Va. he has no documentary Evedence to prove his servises and does not certainly know of any living witness by whom he can prove them.

1st I was Born in the County of Cumberland Va on the 9th day of July 1758

2nd he has no Record of his age in his possession although he believes his age is upon Record in the possession of a Brother in the state of Kentucky

3rd he was living in Campbell County Va when called into service he resided thirty years in the state of Kentucky since the war and hath resided five years in Monroe County Virginia

4th This question hath been answered

5th this question has been answered

6 he received two discharges from the service the first was signed by Capt John Chiles the other by Capt John Montgomery

7th he is known to Jacob Cook & Adam Mann Sr of his Neighbourhood who can testify to his Character for Veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revelation he served the whole time as a private

he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension 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

William hisXmark Canafax

[The following report is by District Attorney Washington G. Singleton who investigated many pensioners from present West Virginia. For details see my appendix to the pension application of David W. Sleeth (S6111).]

William Canafax. – 1 yr. Va. Militia Capt Chils &c

I the undersigned William Canafax in pursuance of the requisition of the Secretary of war make the following re-declaration of my services as a soldier in the war of the Revolution to Wit– I shall be 78 years old July the 9th next occurring – am a native of Cumberland county Va lived in Campbell county during the war – left the last mentioned county 36 years ago went to Kentucky & returned to Monroe Co. six years since.

Some time during the war of the Revolution (but I cant tell in what year) I volunteered in Campbell county. was attached to Capt. John Montgomeries company – our company (alone) marched to Boonsborough, from there to Harrodsburg thence to logans station, and from there to the falls of Ohio. at the latter place we joined Genl Clarks army – remained there built a fort & raised corn for the use of the army – the army marched from the falls of Ohio to Illinois under Genl Clark. Captured the Governer (I think Roseblock) and returned to the falls. At the latter place I was discharged after haveing been in actual service at least one year. I volunteered for the expedition & remained in service until discharged – I got a written discharge but I cant now tell what has become of it —

After returning from the preceeding expedition (cant tell in what year) I was drafted for 3 months. Went from Campbell county under Capt John Chiles to Cabbin Point & the Burnt Mills. was attached to Col. Flemming Regt. Genl. Muhlenburgs Brigade. I served out the time – thus ended my services. – I think my cousin Wm Campbell wrote my Declaration – I made it before a magistrate – was then and still am unable (from bodily infirmity) to travel to the County Seat. In Witness of all which I hereto subscribe my name. September 5, 1835

William hisXmark Canafax

Witness Jno W Kelly

A Copy

W. G Singleton October 11, 1835

This is an Honest man – W.G.S

[From [Library of Virginia Legislative Petitions Digital Collection](#)/ Pittsylvania County]

To the Honorable the speaker and the members of the General Assembly The petition of William Canafax and David Irby [pension application S5602] Humbly shews that they served under Colo. Clark in the Illinoise regement and were duly discharged therefrom but have not obtained their bounty in land which other soldiers belonging tto the same regiment have received. Your petitioners beg leave to represent that their Capt. omitted to make a return of them is the reason why their claim was not admitted by the commissioners. Wherefore your Petitioners pray that their case may be enquired into and such redress afforded them as their respective cases may entitle them to & they as in duty bound will ever pray &c

Wm. Cannafax

David Irby

Nov'r 23rd [1796] Claims/ Reasonable/ Special/ Report

NOTE: The first tour described occurred before the formation of Campbell County from Bedford County in 1782. According to the pension application of George Moore (S17593), Muhlenberg was near Dismal Swamp observing movements of Gen. Benedict Arnold around 19 Jan 1781. Capt. John Chiles of the Bedford County Militia resigned 24 Sep 1781.