

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Eles Chaffen (Elles Chaffin)¹ 32172

f18NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

2/26/09 rev'd 11/2/14

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Illinois Clinton County

On this Third day of June 1833 personally appeared in open Court, before the Judges of the County Commissioners Court now sitting in his shaving a resident of the County of Clinton and State of Illinois aged Seventy years who being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath declare and make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit 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 -- The first of my service commenced in 1781 as a spy, in a skirmish in Ballinger's old field where four of our men were killed, we were then under the command of Capt. Arthur Forbush [Arthur Forbis], -- a few moments after our men were killed the battle of Guilford C. H. [Guilford Court House, March 15, 1781] commenced being about 9 to 11 o'clock in the forenoon, the battle was not entirely over until sometime in the afternoon, during the action I received a wound in my leg -- we retired after the battle to a place called the Iron works where the American Army again collected under General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] -- From the Iron works I was obliged to return home owing to the wounded in my leg, in this service I volunteered for six months.

Sometime after my leg got well, I entered the service again as a volunteer to go against the Cherokee Indians under the command of Col. John Pacey [sic, John Paisley] and Capt. Henry Whitesell. We marched to the head of French Broad and Pigeon Rivers, -- at the west side of Pigeon we came up with the Indians -- after a few fires the Indians fled -- we remained in the Indian Country a short time. Were you returned home a short time before the three months had expired for which I had volunteered. The following interrogatories being propounded by the court, answers thereunto was made to wit

Qu. 1st Where and in what year were you born?

Ans. I was born in the State of Pennsylvania Chester County in the year 1763

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

Ans. Yes at my residence

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

Ans. In Guilford County State of North Carolina did and some time in Burke County North Carolina moved from North Carolina to Christian County State of Kentucky lived there about 10

¹ A letter of inquiry addressed to the War Department referred to his veteran as Elias Chafin.

years moved from thence to the Territory of Illinois in 1811 and have lived in the Territory & State ever since

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

Ans. I volunteered

5th 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. General Greene is the only regular officer I can recollect

All I can recollect at this remote period I have already stated before the first question was propounded

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

Ans. I did not receive a discharge, my Capt. died about two weeks after the battle of Guilford C. H. and quitting the service in consequence of my wound I never applied for one

7th 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.

Ans. I am acquainted with John H. Benson, Christ. N. Halstead.

Sworn and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Eles Chaffen

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eles Chaffen". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

[John H. Benson, a clergyman, and Christopher N. Halstead gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[The veteran died November 30, 1837, survived by a widow, her name and marriage information is not contained in the file.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months in the North Carolina militia.]