

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Greenberry Choat S32176

fn25NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/15/10

[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 Illinois, County of Johnson: SS

On this 4th day of June 1833, personally appeared in open court, before the court of County commissioners for the said County of Johnson, now sitting, Greenberry Choat, a resident of said County of Johnson, aged eighty-two 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 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 resided on the waters of the Holston River in Washington County in what is now a part of the State of Tennessee in the year 1779. In the fall of that year a call was made upon the inhabitants of that part of the country for force to act against the Cherokee and Shawnee Indians, and this applicant volunteered his services as a private in the month of October of that year as well as he now recollects, for a tour of one month under Captain William Cocke. His company was placed under the regimental command of Colonel Andrew Christie. There were no regular troops in the neighborhood, and only one squadron of horse, which composed the only militia troops besides those under Colonel Christie, in the service with this applicant. This applicant served out his tour of one month under his Captain, but was in no battle. Captain Cocke's company was marched to, and stationed at a position about twelve or fourteen miles higher up Holston River, where they remained until the expiration of their term of service, guarding the country below from the incursions of the Indians. At the end of his said engagement of one month this applicant having faithfully served it out, was discharged, he thinks at his residence on Holston, by his Captain, Captain Cocke. His discharge has been lost or mislaid for a long time.

~~In the month of March following another call was made upon the people residing on Holston, where he continued to reside for troops to [indecipherable word] against the British, when this applicant again turned out, and volunteered as a private, for a term of one month under Captain James Knox. Captain Knox's company was marched from Holston to Williamsburg in Virginia, where he joined the troops assembled there from Virginia and North Carolina. This applicant remembers Colonel McClanahan, who commanded a Virginia or North Carolina Regiment as this applicant thinks.~~

In July 1780, this applicant again turned out as a volunteer, under Captain James

Lawrence. He had continued to reside on Holston, at his previous place of residence. The company was conducted to the long islands of the Holston River, by the Captain, and was then placed under the command of Colonel Russell. A short time after their arrival at the long islands, and after Colonel Russell had had the command, Colonel Christie came on, and Captain Lawrence's company was taken command of by him. Colonel Christie led the troops under his command to the Cherokee towns on the waters of Tennessee River, said to be 115 miles from the long islands. Upon the approach of Colonel Christie the Indians fled. The troops took possession of, and destroyed the towns, after which the troops were we conducted to the long islands where after they had remained a short time some of the principal men of the Indians came in, a talk was had, and a peace, or some friendly arrangement, was concluded. This term of duty called for four months – during all of which time this applicant continued as a private in Captain Lawrence's company as above mentioned. The Companies in service were dismissed by their respective captains, at the long islands of Holston, the men, so far as this applicant is informed, receiving no regular or formal discharge – he received no other discharge than the company order of dismissal from the service by his Captain, the object for which they turned out, having been accomplished, as it was thought, by the adjustment made with the Indians. There was a Regiment, this applicant thinks of North Carolina militia, under a Colonel Lewis, engaged in the same service with the troops to which this applicant belonged, but according to the best of his recollection Colonel Christie had command of the whole. There was no other militia or regular troops with them.

During the following year, the Cherokee Indians again became hostile, and another call was made upon the inhabitants of the country where this applicant had still continued to reside, for troops to quiet them. This applicant again volunteered as a private under Captain Ezekiel Smyth, for one month's tour. The company was put under the regimental command of Colonel Clark, and Colonel Clark's Regiment, together with the troops under Colonel Lewis, who was in advance, and had had a battle with the Indians, was placed under the command in chief of Arthur Campbell, whose title, whether colonel or general, this applicant does not now remember. The troops were conducted on to the same places to which this applicant had marched before, and beyond, on the waters of the Hiwassee [River]. Upon reaching the Indian towns, they were found evacuated. The troops however pursued the Indians, occasionally overtaking and killing straggling ones, and having performed a considerable route through the Indian country, they were re-conducted to their respective homes. Captain Smith's Company was dismissed in the same manner as the company of Captain Lawrence had before bed. In this service this applicant was engaged one month. There were no regular or other troops than those above named in service with this applicant – nor was he in any battle.

This applicant has no record of his age, but dates it from the best information he has been able to obtain, he lived as herein before mentioned in Washington County, now a part of the State of Tennessee, where he continued until a short time before the close of the revolutionary war, when he moved to Cumberland County, Tennessee where he remained until nearly 20 years ago, when he moved to what was then Johnson County, Illinois, where he remained until about 10 years ago when he moved to his present residence in Johnson County Polk County having been in the meantime formed out of Johnson, and embracing his former residence.

This applicant knows of no living witness whose testimony he can procure to testify to his services, nor has he any documentary evidence thereof.

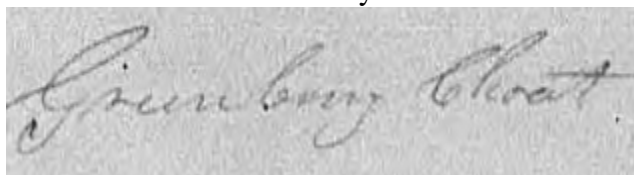
He was engaged in no civil pursuit whatever, during the periods he has stated within to have been occupied by him in the service of his country.

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/ John McIntire, Clerk

S/ Greenberry Choat

A photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Greenberry Choat". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper.

End of said court put the following interrogatories to the said Greenberry Chote, which were by him answered, as stated below:

1st Where and in what year were you born?

Answer – I was born in the colony of Virginia, in the year 1751.

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

Answer – I have none.

3rd 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 Washington County, now in the state of Tennessee, on the waters of Holston River, when called into service, and remained there until shortly before the close of the revolutionary war, when I moved to Cumberland County, now also in the State of Tennessee. There I continued to live until about 20 years ago, when I moved to this state, and settled at a place which was then in this County, but is now in Polk County – thence about 10 years ago, I moved to my present residence in this County of Johnson, where I have continued to live since my arrival in it.

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

Answer – 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.

Answer: – There were no regular, or Continental troops, where I served. I remember only the militia regiments of Colonels Christie, Clark and Sevier and I think one of a Colonel Lewis from North Carolina & a squad of horse. I volunteered on all three of the occasion stated in my declaration to go against the Indians, under the officers they are mentioned, and perform the services, as therein described. I remember of no other circumstances.

6th 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 from my Captain, Captain Cocke, at the end of my term of service for stated. I have long since lost or mislaid it. For my other services, I never did receive any formal discharge – the companies to which I belonged being merely dismissed, or disbanded by their captains after their respective tours of duty had been performed.

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.

Answer – The Reverend Hezekiah West, and Mr. John Peterson
Subscribed & sworn to the day & year aforesaid.

S/ John McIntire, Clerk

S/ Greenberry Choat

[Hezekiah West, a clergyman, and John Peterson gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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