Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John Chrisp S3222 VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Tennessee } County Court of said County December Term 1833 Gibson County }

This day came into open court, it being the county court of pleas and quarter sessions of Gibson County Tennessee began and held at the courthouse in the Town of Trenton on this the 3^d. Monday in December [16th] in the year of our lord 1833, John Crisp a resident citizen of said county aged seventy eight years old who first being 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 the 7th 1832 for the benefit of old Revolutionary Soldiers

John Crisp the applicant states he was born on the 23^d day of December 1755 as appears by a Record of his age now in his possession and which was taken from a Record keept by his Father. He states he was born in the county of Prince George and in the State of Virginia While he was a child his Father moved to Chesterfield county Virginia where he Resided until January 1784 and in the year 1779 and in the county of Chestifield he entered the sevice of the United States n the Revolutionary ware where he served Eleven months and 18 days as a Volunteer Solder. In the month of May the day not Recollected 1779 he entered the service of the united states as a Volunteer solder in the [militia] company commanded by Capt. David Patterson and in the Regiment commanded by Col. Robert Good [sic: Robert Goode] He marched from Chestifield courthouse crossed James River at the hundreds [probably Bermuda Hundred] and on that night there came on an express that the British were landing on the south side of James River which induced them to change their Rout. They then Recrossed James river at Farlers ferry soon after they had crossed there came another express that the British were landing at Hampton on the North side of the River They then crossed James River again at Barrells Ferry [sic: Burwell's Ferry from Hog Island in Surry County] and marched to Williamsburgh [sic: Williamsburg] where the Legislature of Virginia were then in session They remained at Williamsburgh some four or five days waiting further orders from Gen'l. [Thomas] Nelson at Little York.

They then marched to little York and were stationed there four or five days From thence we marched to Hampton where we Heard the Brittish were landing when we got to Hampton we found the British had not landed but their fleet consisting of forty or fifty sales was Lying at or in Hampton roads We remained there until the British fleet sailed off making a period of two months in that rout that I served as a soldier of the army I then returned after I was discharged by Col Good who gave me a discharge which is lost

There were 200 Virginia regular soldiers stationed at Little York commanded by Capt David Mann and also 200 at Hampton Applicant understood those regular soldiers were raised by Virginia and keept perminantly stationed to guard those places and were not subject to be called into the continental line except there or at some neighbouring point. Applicant does not recollect any of the officers who commanded those regulars except Capt. David Mann as the troops to which he belong did not quarter with them. There were 1400 men raised and marched to Little York under General Nelson but only 200 of that number marched to Hampton under Col. Good the balance was marched three miles below York by General Nelson as a reserve should they be wanting

Applicant on the first of January 1781 again entered the service of the united states as a volunteer soldier in a company commanded by the same Capt. Patterson and in a regiment commanded by the same Col. Good they rendezvoused at Manchester [across James River from Richmond] in Chesterfield County in January 1781 in number from four or five hundred Applicant's Recollection is that on the same day the British landed at Richmond [5 Jan 1781] 3000 regular soldiers commanded by General [William]

Phillips and the traitor General [Benedict] Arnold The day after the Rendezvous at Manchester they marched about ten miles up James River to Obediah Smiths Thence they marched in a fieu days to German Bakers Hill in sight of Petersburg to which place the British had marched from Richmond at which place applicant believes General Phillips died [of typhoid fever, 13 May 1781] The whole of the American force collected at that place was said to be 10,000 commanded by General La Faytte [sic: Lafayette] and the Barron de Stuben [sic: Baron von Steuben]. There was some cannonading and fireing at Petersburg between the americans and British Armies. The British attempted to cross to the American Side over Pocahuntas [sic: Pocahontas] Bridge but were repulsed by the Americans. Applicant remembers that General Arnold during the fireing between the armies sent a flag to LaFaytte stating that his Lord Phillips was dying and wished to die in peace and requested the fireing to cease. The answer returned by LaFayette as understood among the troops was that he would not attend to the flag unless it was brought by General Arnold himself shortly after Col Abercombee [probably Robert Abercrombie] sent over a flag with the same request when the fireing ceased and applicant understood they then buried General Phillips After this the British then left Petersburg and marched towards Norfolk The American troops marched after them they encamped one night at Blans our dinary [sic: Bland's Ordinary] thence they went to Cabbin point [sic: Cabin Point on James River in Surry county] and thence to Smithsfield [sic: Smithfield] on Pagan creek. Applicant was there taken sick and was furlouged to return home where he remained a week or ten days he states he served before he was furlouged in his last Tour two months as a soldier in the Revoluary War Applicant then in a week or ten days returned to the service of the united states as a Volunteer solder he joined a detachment under the command of Col Good at Petersburg where they had returned retreating from the British the number of this detachment was about 200. General LaFayette had marched with the main Army as he understood to the north side of James River at a place then called four mile creek but now Moulans Hills [sic: still Fourmile Creek in Henrico County, near Malvern Hill]. Good's detachment moved up the River from the British sometimes they would halt and remain 3 or four days sometimes a week as circumstances would require. It was rumored in the American Army that General Washington had commanded General LaFayette not to venture a General engagement with the British force as a French fleet in aid of the Americans was expected in a short time The detachment under Col Good continued marching and countermarching and reconnoitering the British Army in Chesterfield county the whole Spring and Summer until they took up their line of march to little York Sometime in August 1781 Applicant recollects to have been with a party of a about one hundred & forty men at Sutberrys springs [sic: Sudbury's 3 mi NW of Chesterfield] some time in April or May 1781 on a verry rainey day. About sixty of the party having gone to the house to get shelter from the rain were there surprised and taken prisoners by Col. Taltons corps [sic: Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton's Legion, 23 May said to be about 500 strong. The Ballance made their escape Col Good in a few weeks afterwards collected the remains of his scattered detachment and took his station in Hucklebury Swamp within a fieu miles of Manchester From this point Col. Good with his Brother Thomas Good [sic: Thomas Goode, possibly pension application S38742] John Fowler [S31033] Matthew Cheatham and William Cheatham [S31607] mounted their horses and went to make some examination of the British forces but being discovered by some Cavalry belonging to Col. Simpcoes [sic: John Graves Simcoe's] Legion they were pursued and after retreating about five miles were all five taken prisoners. Applicant does not remember that the detachment to which he belong was engaged in any other skermish until they marched to little York where he was during the whole Siege [28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781] and until the surrender of Cornwallis He was still commanded by Capt Patterson. He thinks the cannonading commensed at York sometime in September [28th] and continued until the 17th of October 1781 when Cornwallis surrendered [sic] and the British marched out on the morning of the 18th [sic: 19th]. Applicant was then discharged whether he had a written discharge or a verbal one he does not recollect but if a written discharge he has lost it from the time he was furloed home until his discharge he states he served seven months 18 days Applicant states he frequently volunteered and was out in several scouting parties the time not

remembered and is not aded in the time he here states. The whole time he served that he recollects is Eleven months and 18 days enclusive of the several scouting parties he was in as before named. He states in January 1782 he moved to Cumberland County Virginia where he resided until the first of November 1817 when he moved to Rutherford County Tennessee he states he moved from Rutherford county Tennessee to Gibson County in the month of October 1832 where he now resides He states he has no document or other evidence in his power directly whereby he can prove his actual services as a Revolutionary soldier. He refers to David Mires John Parker. Andrew Miller and John Brittenham who has known him since the year 1818 and who will certify as to my character for verasity and truth and to the general reputation of the Neighbourhood as to their belief of my services as a soldier in the war and to my age. I know of no Clergyman in my county with whoom I am acquainted. Applicant hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declars that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

[signed] John Chrisp sen'r