Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John Chambers S34686 Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Territory of Missouri }
County of Saint Louis } [13 April 1819]

The Declaration of John Chamber's at present in St Louis – and an inhabitant of Lincoln County in the Territory aforesaid – made and taken before the Circuit Court in and for the County aforesaid now in Session it being the April Term thereof – and of which said Court, the Hon'ble. Nathaniel Beverly Tucker is Judge –

The said John Chambers being desirous of taking the benefit of an act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the Land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War" approved March 18, 1818 comes into the aforesaid Court before the said Judge – and solemnly declares that he is now about Eighty years of age – that he is a native of Ireland and in the year 1767 left his native Country and came to Little York in the State of Pennsylvania; that in the year 1778 he entered as a private in the army of the United States in the Company of Capt Alexander Cummins in the 14th Regiment of the Virginia line then lying in Valley Forge – that he continued in the service – was in active service during the time of his being in the army – and continued until his regiment was consolidated with the 10th Regiment of said line [14 Sep 1778] – & he remained in the last Regiment until its term of service expired – which was near and about twelve months after he entered the service, the precise time to the month and day he cannot now recollect having had the misfortune to get his discharge burnt in his Cabin soon after his arrival in this Territory twenty ___years since – when he lost most of his perishable effects –

He further states that he is now very infirm from old age – that he has no property but a horse – that he is now living with and dependant on one his sons – but for whose kindness he should be a houseless, homeless stranger and a wanderer and therefore can with the utmost confidence freely declare that "by reason of his reduced circumstances in life he is in need of assistance from his Country for a support" having never heretofore received any pension –

In further proof of his claim he begs leave to refer to the evidence of Alexander Clark hereunto annexed also to state further, that he was discharged as a private in the same Company then under Capt Whiteholt in the said tenth Regiment under the Command of Col William Wilson [sic: William Davies] – [signed] John Chambers

Alexander Clark of the County of Saint Louis being duly sworn says that he is now fifty seven years of age – that in the year 1778 he served in the Company of Capt Robert Kirkwood in the Regiment of Delaware Blues attached to the Brigade of General Charles Scott in the United States Army – that while in that Service in the year 1778 he recollects well in serving with the within named John Chambers while they were at White Plains in the same army That he has known him ever since he came to this Country twenty — years ago – that he knows said Chambers Cabin was burnt as stated by him – and further he says not – [signed] Alexander Clark

[On 6 April 1820 Chambers made an amended declaration stating that "by the mistake of the person who wrote the original declaration the name of Col 'William Wilson' was inserted by mistake for the name of Col William Davis". The amended declaration also added the following: "That he was with his aforesaid Regiment at the Battle of Monmouth [28 Jun 1778] although his said Regiment was not immediately engaged in the Battle, being kept in reserve."

In the County Court } Ss. Lincoln County Missouri}

Be it Remembered that on this fifteenth Day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand Eight Hundred and twenty One personally appeared in Open Court being a Court of record for said County of Lincoln John Chambers Aged Eighty years a resident in the County aforesaid who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his Oath declare that he served in the Revolutionary War as follows in the year 1778 the said Chambers enlisted as a private in Capt. Alexander Cummins Company of the 14th Regiment of the Virginia line in the Revolutionary Service. Capt. Cummins Resigned immediately after when one Capt. Whiteholt took command of said Company that on the 28th June 1778 this Affiant was at the Battle of Monmouth that he said affiant continued in said service untill the year 1779 when he was discharged by Col. William Davis then belonging to the 10th Regiment of said Virginia line with which the aforesaid 14th Regiment had been Consolidated. This affiant further states that he cannot state the aforesaid facts more precisely as his discharge was destroyed by fire some years since. that in the month of April 1819 this affiant made an application for a pention under the act of March 18th AD 1818 And in pursuance of said application a pension has been granted to said Chambers the Number of the Certificate thereof is 17-459 - And I said John Chambers do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for certain person engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War" passed on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property or securities contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed. One Horse (now lost) also one mare and one saddle and bridle – that he has no other property. This affiant has no permanent seat of residence nor Family that he is too Old and infirm to Labour at his Occupation which is a farmer and depends on the charity of his sons who are married and settled to afford him shelter and sustenance [signed] John Chambers

NOTE:

On 7 Sep 1835 at age 93 Chambers applied to have his pension transferred to Ohio having moved to Butler County in order to spend "the remainder of his days with his son William Chambers," who was at the time visiting in Indiana.

On 11 Sep 1839 Chambers applied to have his pension transferred back to Missouri, having returned to Lincoln County because "he has no family of his own, and has been living with his children in Ohio for several years past, and has now come to Missouri to reside with his children in this state." In contrast to previous documents, he signed with his mark, which was witnessed by James Chambers.