

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of James Chambers S37838

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[Punctuation and capitalization partly corrected in all documents.]

Westmoreland County State of Virginia

The affidavit of James Chambers (alias Burges) Aged about sixty years old taken this 16th April 1818. This affiant declares on Oath, that he enlisted in the Continental army under Catesby Jones, and was marched with other recruits by Capt George Garner to Chesterfield Court House and was delivered to Colo. Davise [sic: William Davies]: under this enlistment he was, and did serve one year in the foot service under Capt [Joseph] Scott & afterwards Capt Lawson and was marched to Guilford Court House [sic: Guilford Courthouse NC] the Regiment was Commanded by Colo. [John] Green & Lt Colo. Haw's [sic: Samuel Hawes]. he was in the Action at Guilford Court House [15 Mar 1781]. After this Battle, this Affiant inlisted in the first Troop of light dragoons Commanded by Capt [Churchill] Jones in the Regiment Commanded by Colo William Washington and served from this time to end of the war. on the conclusion of Peace, this affiant with others were carried to Charlston [sic: Charleston SC], where their horses were sold, and he was discharged and returned to Westmoreland County where he was born and where he now resides. This affiant is now grown old, has raised & supported a wife & family of children. And stands in need of assistance from his Country for future support. [signed] James Chambers

[Alexander Parker certified that he knew Chambers had served.]

State of Virginia. County Court of Westmoreland.

On the 27 day of April 1818 came before the said Court being a Court of Record. As will appear by a former declaration and Oath made on the 16th of the same month and ordered to be certified by the said Court of the above date, and now again on the 22^d day of March 1819 as will appear by the Clerks Certificate of the above date personally appeared in Open Court James Chambers aged about sixty years, resident in the said County who on the former and present occasion being first sworn according to Law doth on his oath make the following statement and declaration in order to obtain the provisions made by a late 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.

That some time in the year 1779 he enlisted with Catesby Jones in the Virginia line of Troops on Continental establishment and was with other recruits marched by Capt George Garner from Westmoreland to Chesterfield Court House in Virginia, and delivered to Colo. Davise who placed him first under the Command of Capt Scott and afterwards Capt Lawson. And joined a Regiment commanded by Colo. Green and Leut. Colo. Haw's and was in the said Regiment marched to the southward and was in the Battle at Guilford Court House. That after this Battle he the said James Chambers enlisted in the first Troop of light dragoons commanded by Capt Jones and was attached to the Regiment commanded by Colo. William Washington. in this Company and Regiment he served untill the end of the war. And was discharged in Charls Town in South Carolina some time in the year 1783 he thinks That it was sometime in the year 1780 [sic] that he enlisted in this Troop. He is now old and infirm and stands in need of assistance from his Country

State of Virginia

Westmoreland County, To Wit,

On this 26th day of June 1820 personally appeared in Open Court being a Court of Record agreeably to the Law's of the State of Virginia, James Chambers about sixty years old Resident in the

County of Westmoreland in said State, who being duly sworn according to law, doth on his Oath, declare that he served in the Revolutionary War as follows, That he served in a company of Infantry commanded by Capt. Scott and was in the Battle at Guilford Court House in North Carolina at which time the company was commanded by Capt Lawson attach'd to a Regiment of Continental Troops of the Virginia line, but the number of which Regiment or the Colo. that commanded he does not now recollect but he believes was commanded by Colo. Green. After the action at Guilford Court House he enlisted for during the war in a company of Cavalry commanded by Capt Jones attached to the Core of Colo. William Washington of the 3^d. Regiment of Virginia line, on Continental establishment and was in the Battle at the Utaw Springs [sic: Eutaw Springs SC, 8 Sep 1781] when Colo. Washington was taken prisoner, and in many skirmishes with the British on the lines near Charls Town. he continued to the end of the war and was discharged in Charlston after peace was declared all of which will more fully appear by reference to the original decleration filed in the war office dated the 26th day of April 1818. On which pension certificate was granted the 31st day of July 1819 Number (13,416) And I 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.

Schedule &c. &c.

No Real estate of any kind whatever.

Occupation. Farmer. Rents Land for which he pays \$20 anually.

Personal Property. One Plough Horse. 12 head Cattle of all sizes. 20 head of sheep including Twelve Lambs. Twelve head of hogs small & great. house hold furniture supposed to be worth \$

Family [illegible word]

himself – aged about sixty years and infirm. not very able to pursue his calling.

A Wife about seventy years old. Much afflicted. Scarcely able to support herself

Altho he has raised 3 children none reside with him.

Signed by [signed] James Chambers

[Punctuation and capitalization extensively corrected.]

Westmoreland County Templeman's X Roads 1st Novm'r. 1821

William Lee Ball Esq'r [Member of Congress]

Dear Sir At the request of the following old soldiers of the Revolution, namely James Chambers (alias Burgess) [pension application S37838], Edward Sanford [S41120], & John Morriss [S38235], I take the liberty to address you & state the following facts as may be seen by reference to papers filed in the office of the War Department, under the Law of Congress of the 1st May 1820 (for all the above persons had drawn their pensions). It required that these old soldiers should compley with the requisets of said Law, and return a schedule of their property to the Secretary of War. This was done. Among many who was thus presented, James Chambers, Edward Sanford, William Spurling [S41182] and John Morriss were rejected. In consequence of which and being personally acquainted with the entire circumstances of these old men, I again represented their situations to the Secretary, begging that he would reconsider their cases. (This letter to which I refer you and vouch for the truth thereof I refer you filed in the office). April 12th I received a letter from J. L. Edwards [Commissioner of Pensions] of that office stating that the above cases were filed for reconsideration. On June 1st I received a Letter addressed to John Morriss inclosing the Attorney General opinion dated 9th February 1821 informing Morriss that agreeably to the opinion of the attorney he could not be restored to the pension roll. In July 21st 1821 I received a letter informing William Spurling that his name was restored to the pension list roll. The

others appear to have been passed over in silence.

I before stated to the Secretary of War that I was apprehensive their real circumstances were not well understood from the schedule reported. I will now repeat them to you, and which you may find in my letter on this subject filed in the War Office.

James Chambers entered into the United States service in the Revolutionary War at the commencement when young and continued until the peace took place, and was discharged in Charleston and left to get home to Westmoreland as he could. After his return he married, had and raised several children on rented land. For several years they have all been married and has left him and his wife considerably older than himself and both infirm on rented land to struggle for themselves. On examining his schedule it will be found that the only property of any value was a horse actually obtained by his pension drawn, and which since he has been obliged to sell to pay his debts. I can only say that I have known him from a boy unto the present day, and that if any revolutionary soldier deserves well of his Country James Chambers is the man.

[Paragraphs relating to Edward Sanford, John Morriss, and William Spurling omitted here.]

The object of this is to get the favor of you to have the cases of James Chambers, Edward Sanford & John Morriss reconsidered & certified, or take such other steps as you may deem necessary in your wisdom.

There is another subject connects with this to which I beg leave to call your attention. You know that there was a number of soldiers of what was called the Virginia State Troops forced into the United States service and served both to the north and south and received Continental pay. And yet neither by the Law of [top of page missing] Law making provision for them and numbers besides. But the almighty Senate rejected them in Toto. Can no remedy be made in this case. What an ungrateful set of creatures we are – while we are dwelling in our cieled palaces, roling in all the luxeries of life & patronage, we forget the poor old war-worn Soldier & Officer that fought and bled and died to procure us this ease and affluence. Would it not be better to dispense with some of those silver knives, forks, and gold spoons, &c. &c. Excuse these remarks – they are the effusions of my heart. May you experience a pleasant and profetable session this season.

Yours respectfully

Samuel Templeman [pension application S6204]

NOTES:

A size roll compiled at Chesterfield Courthouse after 1 Sep 1780 includes the following information: James Chambers/ age 18/ height 5 5¼/ gunsmith/ born and residing in Westmoreland County/ light brown hair/ hazel eyes/ swarthy complexion/ enlisted Feb 1780 for six months/ "Militia Sized Feby 20th 81."

A Treasury-Department document states that the administrator of the estate of James Chambers was issued the final pension payment up to the date of death on 13 Feb 1842.