

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Robert Chambers S8194

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 28 Sep 2012.

Virginia. At a Court Continued and held for the County of Monroe at the Court house on the 22^d day of April 1818 and in the 42^d year of the Commonwealth.

On the motion of Robert Chambers (who intends to apply for a pension under the Law of the United States) It is ordered to be certified to the secretary of the department of war of the United States that it appeared to the satisfaction of the Court from the oath of the said Robert Chambers, that he the said Robert Chambers is at this time a citizen of the United States and a resident in the County of Monroe Virg'a. and that he the said Robert Chambers served in the Army of the revolutionary War, that he entered the service on the 3^d. day of August 1777 by enlisting with Lieutenant James Curry in Captain Robert Higgins's company, 8th Virginia Regiment. It further appeared that the said Robert Chambers continued in the service for something upwards of four years, that he served six months as a private, six months as a Corporal & three years as an orderly serjeant under Captain Leonard Cooper Captain Higgins having been taken prisoner at German Town Battle [Battle of Germantown, 4 Oct 1777]. It further appeared that the said Robert Chambers was taken prisoner [on 12 May 1780] at the seige of Charlestown South Carolina by the brittish Army under the Command of Lord Cornwallis [sic: Henry Clinton], and remained a prisoner with the brittish for about fourteen months & was then exchanged & continued in the service until he was duly discharged from the service which discharge was signed by Major David Stephenson [sic: David Stephenson].

It further appeared to the satisfaction of the Court, by disinterested & Respectable evidence that the said Robert Chambers is an honest & Respectable man, and that from his standing in society there can be no doubt of the truth of the statement made by the said Robert Chambers. It further appeared to the Court that that the said Robert Chambers is a man in reduced circumstances.

Hon'd. Sir/ you will receive enclosed in this a statement of my claim to a pension but as it is not in my power to procure living witnesses it may be necessary to give you some further information I served with Capt. Leonard Cooper as Orderly Serjeant of the Company till he was wounded and render'd incapable of travelling service the regiments were then reduc'd the Eighth and fourth regiments were join'd together [14 Sep 1778] and Capt. Leroy Edwards took command of the company and I served as orderly serjeant of the company under him till I was taken prisoner in Autumn 1779 the grand Army march'd from Robinsons plains New York State to a place call'd Bearskin Ridge [sic: Basking Ridge NJ] here the Virg'a. line received orders to march to Charleston South Carolina to defend it against the enemy the Virg'a. line was then thrown into three Detachments I was in the 2nd commanded by Colo. Cabal [sic: Nicholas Cabell] we began our march the 3rd day of Nov'r. 1779 and we reach'd Charleston the 7th of Aprill 1780 the Seige began the 13th of the same and on the 12th May the commandant Gen'l. [Benjamin] Lincoln surrender'd by capitulation to the enemy by articles solemnly agreed to we were to receive rations as a British Soldier on duty we were to have the Barracks for our resident and the liberty of the town but instead of complying with these articles they confin'd us on board prison ships where our distressed situation was too great to be express'd sometime in August 1781 News arriv'd that we were exchange'd we were then order'd on board a British ship call'd Lord Howe cartel from Charleston to Jamestown Virg'a. when we disembark'd at Jamestown our officers march'd us to Richmond where I was discharg'd by Major David Stephenson I will here mention a circumstance that I do and ought to remember with gratitude when we were discharg'd we were far from home we were entirely destitute of money and almost every other necessary we had suffered a long and severe captivity during which we had receiv'd neither clothing nor pay except two dollars from the commissary of the Southern Department never poor

man wanted a little money worse than we did our officers sympathized with us in our distress and would fain have relieved us but they were too much in our own situation to afford us any relief the most of us thought of no alternative but begging our way home one of the men said he thought it would be best to go to the Governor and make our case known to him perhaps he could and would relieve us we mutually agreed to his proposal we went to him he was in his palace in Richmond and that worthy Gentleman compassionately and generously and immediately furnished us with money sufficient to bear our expenses home like gentlemen besides treating us with honourable and genteel respect. I wish I could remember his name but I have forgot it it was that exceeding Honorable Gentleman who was Governor of the State of Virg'a. in the year 1781 [Thomas Nelson (1738 - 1789), Governor from 12 June until 22 Nov 1781.] if he is alive he is worthy of peculiar Honour and if he is dead he is gone to heaven to receive an eternal reward a friend in need is a friend indeed I then went home to my friends in Augusta County Virg'a. sometime in September 1781 and I think after I had been at home about two months Major Stephenson came home – he lived in the same county not many miles off he wrote me a letter desiring me to come and see him and to bring my discharge with me I did so and he gave me a certificate for my pay and a Land warrant and a certificate for a years clothing and requested me to leave my discharge with him which I did my pay and land I receiv'd but the certificate for my clothing was by some means lost and on that account I never made application for it I can say with propriety that from my entering into the service till I was discharged I was treated by my country with tenderness with benevolence and respect though my sufferings while I was a prisoner with the enemy were extreme, as I never was on the pension list I have no claim to relinquish in that respect and I have no claim to make in the present case only my age and the infirmity of my body being render'd in a great measure incapable of hard labour and having no other way to procure a living I am afflicted with a violent pain in my left side occasion'd by a fall I am also afflicted at times with the Appoplexy I had a fit of it some time since I was badly wounded in my head in the fall & strain'd my right knee if you should think proper Hon'd. Sir to place me on the pension list your kindness in this respect & whatever my country may be pleased to bestow upon me for my support will be received with the most gratefull sensibility it will render the loss of my life comfortable and happy and I shall die with the most gratefull sensations of the goodness of my country for whose prosperity and welfare I have the most ardent desire
I am Hon'd. sir your most obedient humbe Servant/ Rob't. Chambers
Monroe County May 22nd 1818

At a Court of quarter sessions continued & held for the County of Monroe at the Court house on the 21st day of June 1822 & in the 46th year of the Commonwealth–

Robert Chambers a resident of Monroe and State of Virginia aged sixty six years next September and to whom a pension hath heretofore been granted under the act of Congress passed the 18th of March 1818 and who now wishes to obtain a pension under the act of Congress passed the 18th of March 1818 & the first of May 1820.

On this 21st day of June 1822. personally appeared in open Court (being a Court of record established by law, proceeding according to the course of common law, with unlimited Jurisdiction in all cases above the value of twenty dollars keeping a record of its proceedings & having the power of fine & imprisonment) Robert Chambers aged as aforesaid and resident of the County of Monroe aforesaid who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his Oath make the following declaration towit, that he served in the army of the revolutionary war, that he entered the the service on the 3^d day of August 1777 by enlisting with Lieutenant James Curry in Capt Robert Higgon's company 8th Virginia Regiment, and that he continued in the service for something upwards of four years that he served six months as a private and six months as a Corporal and three years as an orderly Sergeant under Captain Lenard Cooper, Captain Higgons having been taken prisoner at Germantown battle, and he was taken prisoner at the seige of Charlestown South Carolina by the British army under the command of Lord Cornwallis and

remained a prisoner with the British for about fourteen months and was then Exchanged and continued in the service until he was duly discharged from the service which discharge was signed by Major David Stephenson, and that he has no other evidence no in his power of his said service and he is in reduced circumstances and stands in need of the assistance of his Country. And the Court does certify that it doth appear to its satisfaction from the oath of the said Robert Chambers and other creditable witnesses that he is in reduced circumstances and that he did serve on continental establishment as stated in the above declaration.

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 persons engaged in the land and Navel sevice of the United States in the revolutionary 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 & by me subscribed, towit, ninety five acres of land clear title, two hundred acres claimed by the owners of a Survey of fifty thousand acres. One hundred acres a late entry in the same survey of fifty thousand acres. about thirty acres enclosed and prepared for tilage very hilly and rocky an acre and a quarter planted with young fruit trees and a small kitchen garden, One hewed logg house 20 feet long and 18 feet wide a puncheon floor below, some loose plank above a clap board roof and wooden chimney a barn another hewed logg house eighteen feet square puncheon floors above and below. clap board roof and wooden chimney a loom house ten feet square round loggs clapboard roof no chimney a small meet house clap board roof and barn 54 feet long and eighteen feet wide puncheon Threshing floor clap board roof One gelding one mare and yearling colt five cows and a two year old heifer and three calves ten old sheep and two lambs. One old sow and eight pigs and 17th shoats. 2 ganders and six goslings one old chest one broken table, six chairs one spinning wheel one reel one bid wheel and old loom & 2 reels one dutch oven and one skillet 4 pair of pot hooks and one pot rack, 12 old knives & forks & a knife box. one old dish and seven plates, & 4 basons One coffee pot 5 Scups & 3 Scausers, 5 tins one tea canister a ladle and pepper box. one blowing horn, one candle stick one smoothing Iron one shovel one looking glass one old silver watch single case out of repair one side saddle, one mans saddle one old bridle a few pales and coolers one churn one razer and shaving box, one little old cupboard of poplar planks about thirty bushels of grain in wheat rye and Indian corn about sixty pounds of bacon a little salt & a little sugar one hackle & a little flax and about thirty pounds of wool no money. no bonds or notes of any person in debt & very infirm by old age and should exceedingly thankfull for some relief one fan for cleaning grain one old bar shear plough and two old shovel ploughs 2 pairs of gears. 4 old hoes. one pair of double trees & 2 clevesses one mattock and two axes. one Iron wedge one hand saw. one drawing knife one auger one chisel one Reg. & a few old vesells for holding grain & 2 gimblets one cuting knife and box of 3 old sickles a little soap & a few candles & a venigar Reg. one long sled and one half sled one small Bible one testament one hymn book the life of General Washington & the life of Dr. Coke a few small tracts & some pamphlets also Enticks Dictionary & Dilworths arithmetic My wife Hannah Chambers aged sixty years six sons 4 married one of them living with me. two sons single one of them living at Kanawha County the other in his 21st year living at home two daughters both married an orphan girl aged thirteen years living with us & raised by by us from an infant named Jane Brown. Value of property as is estimated by the Court \$466.00

Robert Chambers

[Chambers was struck from the pension list because he was considered to own too much property. On 23 Feb 1829 he applied again giving a similar declaration of his services but with a different schedule of property, including the following: "an obligation on William Brown for keeping his daughter, who has removed from this Country, and I never expect to receive any thing; if ever I get it, the am't. would be

about \$74.00 a note on my son William for \$16.50 payable in trade 1 d[itt]o on same for \$11.00 payable in cash." In addition he had given 150 acres and farm tools to son William "in order to keep him near me, as I am unable to do any work." The revised schedule also includes property sold to Robert Chambers, Jr. He described his family as follows: "I have no family except my wife who is sixty six years of age, my son William (who is the only child, that lives near me) has a wife and four children." He also stated that he was unable to attend court because "of disease or bodily disability, which I have been laboring under for seven years." The certification by the justice of the peace stated that the disease was asthma.]

State of Virginia }
Monroe County } SS

On this 24th day of August 1832 personally appeared before (me Henry Alexander a Justice of the peace in and for said County) Robert Chambers a resident of this said County of Monroe and State aged seventy six 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 provisions made by the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832 —

That he by his declaration having date the 22th of April 1818. obtained Pension under the act of Congress of that year and was Dropped or taken from him on acct. of possessing property, that he made a 2^d Declaration on the 21th of June 1822 under the act of Congress or regulation of the department — all of which are as he believes filed in the War office, that at the time of the Declaration aforesaid he resided in the State of Virginia Monroe County and resides at this time in said County and state, that he served in the Army of the revolution that he Inlisted on the 3^d day of August 1777 with Lieutenant James Curry in Capt. Robert Higgins Company 8th Virginia regiment and continued in the service for upwards of four years. that he served six months as a private and six months as a Corporal, and three years as an orderly sergeant under Capt. Leonard Cooper, Capt. Higgins having been taken prisoner at German Town battle. that he the s^d. Robert Chambers was taken prisoner at the siege of Charlestown in South Carolina and remained so for about fourteen months and was then exchanged and afterwards served until he was discharged by Maj^r. David Stevenson, all of which is set forth in his declarations heretofore made. he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any State. [signed] Rob^t. Chambers

[The following report is by US District Attorney Washington G. Singleton, who investigated many pension applicants in present West Virginia. For details see my appendix to the pension application of David W. Sleeth (S6111).]

Robert Chambers. — 2 yrs. Virg'a. line 8th Regt.

I the undersigned Robert Chambers in pursuance of the requisition of the Secretary or war make the following re-Declaration of my services as a soldier in the war of the Revolution to Wit on the 15th September (Inst) I shall be 79 years old. am a native of England. migrated to the U States in 1774 — lived in augusty county until 1782. I then settled in Monroe Co. — on the 3rd of August 1777 I was Enlisted in augusty co. by Lieut James Curry for 3 years. myself with other recruits were marched by Lt. Currie to Pheladelphia and then on until we met Genl Washingtons army retreating from Brandy Wine [Battle of Brandywine, 11 Sep 1777]. on joining the army I was attached to Capt. John Higgins Company the 8th Virg'a. Reg't. then commanded by Col. Muhlenburg [sic: Peter Muhlenberg] (afterwards Gen'l.) the army went on to white Marsh. we there had an engagement. Col. Morgans [Daniel Morgan's] Regt. of Riflemen kept up the firing the whole day. the main army was not brought into action. Shortly after the engagement at White Marsh I was in a small skirmish at Yellow Spring, immediately after which I was detached from my company for service at Mud Island [Siege of Fort Mifflin on Mud Island, 10 Oct - 15 Nov 1777]. remained in service at the last mentioned place for 2 mo. was attached to Treats company of artillery after Mud Island was evacuated I again joined Washingtons army. but cant now recollect at what

place. Whilst I was in service at Mud Island as before stated my Capt. Higgins was taken prisoner at Germantown. Capt Cooper succeeded to the command. I found him commanding when I joined Washingtons army as before stated. the army next made a stand at Robinsons Plains. at this place I was detailed with others to join the retreat of Gen'l. [Anthony] Wayne in case he should be defeated in an attack which he was to make on Stoney Point [sic: Stony Point NY, 16 Jul 1779]. our next stand was at Basking ridge – at that place the Virginia line was thrown into three detachments. on getting there we joined Genl Lincolns Division Shortly after getting to Charleston our army in the town was beseged. we held out for 30 days before capitulating. I remained a prissoner of war 14 months before being exchanged. we (the Prissoners) were sent around by water to jamestown was marched to Richmond and then discharged in September 1781 [sic: see below] – the first six months service I was a private soldier. the next 6 mo. I was a Corporal. and the balance of my time I was orderly Sergeant and Clerk of the company. Sept. 7 1835.

Robert Chambers

Witness/J W Kelly.

a copy W G Singleton/ Octo 13, 1835.

[The following two items are among the [bounty-land warrant papers in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

I do hereby Certify that Serg't. Robert Chambers in Col'l John Nevils [sic: John Neville's] Detachment of the Virginia Line has serv'd the term of three years for which he was Inlisted and is now hereby Discharged from the service, that he has receivd his pay in Continental Currency up to the First Day of December One Thousand Seven Hundred & Seventy Nine, Since Which he has Only Receivd Two Dollars in Specie from the Deputy Comm[issa]ry of Prisoners in Charles Town

Given under my hand at Williamsburg this 25th Day of July One Thousand Seven Hundred & Eighty One.

John Stith Cap't Comm't [Captain Commandant]

A copy

DStephenson Maj. [illegible abbreviation]

Teste/ Chas. Jones Ck. A

[illegible] Regiment Virg'a. Line

Please [two or three illegible words] my certificate for pay & Depreciation & Deliver them to Jacob [illegible] & this Shall Be your Receipt for the same Given By me this 3rd Day of Dec'r. 1783

To the Auditors of Publick Acc'nts Robert Chambers/ Sergt Con'al. Virg'a Line

Sir, Please to Direct the Register of the Land office to Issue a warrent for the Land Due to me as A Serg't.

In the Virg'a Con'al. Line & Deliver it to Jacob Dorris[?] Dec'r. 3^d 1783

To his Excellency the Governor of Virg;a Robert Chambers/ serg't Virg'a. Con'l Line

NOTE: A typed summary states that Chambers died on 23 Sep 1836.