

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of William Cheatham S31607

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 27 Oct 2012.

State of Kentucky }

Cumberland County } Sgt.

On the [blank] day of August 1832 William Cheatham personally appeared in said Court now setting aged 70 the 28 of this present month, who 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 7th 1832:

I entered the Service of the United States in 1778 served a Tower in the Militia hired by Edward Varnear[?], met at Chesterfield Court House We went down James River below Smithfield as the Enemy were in the mouth of the River. Commanded by Capt Henry Cheatham I think the Tower was two months before we were discharged.

In 1779 as well as I recollect I entered the service under Cap Creed Haskins, we went to Petersburg, from there up James River crossed the River and went into Hanover went down to the place called the Hundred. the Enemy sent several Boats from their shipping, we attacked, killed and took them; we were Commanded by Maj'r. Boice [sic: William Boyce]. went still down the river was gone about three months before we were discharged.

Another Tower under Cap. Barnet Marcham [probably Barnett Markham], rendezvoused at Osburns [sic: Osborne's on James River E of Chester in Chesterfield County] below Warwick, from thence to Petersburg [sic: Petersburg], from thence to Cabin point [in Surry County] where we joined the Army Commanded by Baron Stuban [sic: Baron von Steuben], from there we went to Smithfield, then to Mackys Mills. I think Thos Bowlin [sic; Maj. Thomas Bolling] Com'd. the Reg't. From the Mills returned to Smithfield & Petersb'g. where we were discharged. I suppose the Tower about two months.

The same year the Militia was called out nearly in mass in Chester [edge of page] I went under the same Capt. and as well as I recollect Robt. Good [sic: Robert Goode] was the Col'n. We went on the north side of James River down to Bottoms Bridge [on Chickahominy River] and near Williamsburgh [sic: Williamsburg]. The British lay about Norfolk or Hampton, and when their Fleet left there we were discharged. I think we were on duty about six weeks.

The next Tower was in 1781 the Capt. I went under was Edward Mosly [sic: Edward Moseley], joined the army in South Hampton; Cln. Forkner [sic: Ralph Faulkner] Com'd. Reg't. Declomen [sic: Christian Charles de Klaumann] Maj'r. Com'n'd. by Gen'l. Mulinburgh [sic: Peter Muhlenberg], with Barren Stuban. We lay sometime watching the movements of the Enemy; they landed and pursued us to Petersburg, we retreated before them; and at that place had an engagement [Battle of Blandford Hill, 25 Apr 1781]. The Enemy was Com'm'd. by Gen'ls. [William] Phillips and [Benedict] Arnold. The advanced guard of the British and the rear of our Army were attacked about sunrise. The firing kept up until the middle of the day. We returned that evening to Chesterfield Court House. from thence we went up James River crossed above Richmond, then down the River and joined the Marquis Delayfayette [sic: Marquis de Lafayette] at Richmond. From that we went down to a place called Wilton, the Troops lay there several weeks, and the Marquis sent Two Cannon and fired on the House that Gen'l. Phillips lay sick. [See note below.]

Cln. Rob't. Good got leave of the Marquis to take the Militia of Chesterfield County to watch and prevent the deprivations of the Enemy in that County

Coln Good quartered at Sudsbury [Sudbury's 3 mi NW of Chesterfield] with his men, the second or third night Tarlton and his Troop [sic: Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton and his Legion, 23 May] got intelligence and attacked us in the morning, surprised and took a good many prisoners, some of us escaped Those that escaped afterward rendezvoused at Young Shorts, there we had no officer higher than an Ensign, who

was Archer Walthal [sic: Archibald Walthall] We joined the Army again in the lower end of Hanover County and to the Court House and up towards Amherst or Culpepper [sic: Culpeper] Coun's. where we were discharged, which was about the middle of May, being at least three months I was appointed with 5 others to purchase and collect Cattle to drive to Yourk [sic: Yorktown] in the time of the Siege [28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781], which was about six weeks as near as I can recollect. I hereby relinquish every claim whatsoever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declare that my name is not on the pension list or Book of the Agency of any State. I was raised in Chesterfield Virginia, moved to Kentucky in 1807 to Cumberland County were I now live.
[signed] Wm Cheatham

State of Kentucky Cumberland County Sct

On the 14th day of January in the year 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the Cumberland County Court now sitting William Cheatham a resident of the County and State aforesaid aged 71 years the 28th day of August next who being first duly sworn according to law makes the following Statement by way of amendment to his original Declaration subscribed and sworn to at a former term of the said County Court in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

He was born in Chesterfield County in the State of Virginia in the year 1762 he has a record of his age in his family Bible taken from his fathers family register in his family bible he lived in Chesterfield County Virginia from his birth up to the year 1807 when he moved to Cumberland County State of Kentucky where he now lives and has ever since. he is known to John Baker & William Baker & James Baker who can and have testified as to his character as a person of veracity and of their belief of his having been in the service of the United States as a soldier in the Army of the Revolution he has no recollection of ever having received a written discharge-

He further states by way of Amendment to his original declaration that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods below mentioned; For two months I served as a substitute for Edward Varnier for nine months and two weeks I served as a drafted Militia man in the Militia of Chesterfield County Virginia as a private soldier in the army of the Revolution for which services I claim a pension- Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid
[signed] Wm Cheatham

[William Baker (pension application S12967) certified that he and Cheatham had served together on several tours. Charles Thurmon (S31414) stated that he had seen Cheatham in service.]

NOTES:

Gen. William Phillips died of typhoid on 13 May 1781 in the home of Mrs. Mary M. Bolling in Petersburg.

On 7 Mar 1837 William Cheatham applied to have his pension transferred to AR, having moved to Hempstead County because "he had three children in Arkansas and wished to be with them," and "he believed he could better his situation by removing to Arkansas."