

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Robert Whiteley (Whitley, Whitely) R11459

Jane fn18VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

9/14/11

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Virginia County of Smyth: SS Be it known that on this day personally appeared before me a justice of the peace in & for the County Jane Whitely a resident of said County & being first sworn in due & solemn form of law, doth, on her oath make the following declaration: That she is now seventy-five years of age, that she is the widow of Robert Whitely deceased who was a revolutionary soldier, that she was married to the said Robert Whitely in the year 1790 by the Reverend William Reagan in the County of Washington, that the said Robert Whitely died in the County of Smyth in the year 1838: that her husband, the said Robert Whitely fought through the Revolutionary War alternately, that his last campaign of service in said war was from the County of Shenandoah in the State of Virginia, that his Captain was by the name of Bell & his Colonel was by the name of Dark, that he was in the battle at Yorktown, at the surrender of Lord Cornwallis, that he was honorably discharged after or about the peace of 1783 by order of Congress & that he never applied for a pension & that she is unable from age & bodily infirmity to attend court & being now aged, infirm & poor she respectfully prays that her name maybe inscribed on the pension roll of widows of Revolutionary soldiers & that her pension me commence on the 4th day of March 1836 & the continued to her during her natural life in conformity with the law in such cases made & provided. Sworn to & subscribed before me in the County of Smyth on the 28th day of July 1858.

S/ James Whitley or Whiteley, X her mark

The signature of Jane Whiteley or Whitley acknowledged in my presence to be her act & deed
S/ Robert Thurmon

[attested by Charles C Campbell, JP]

[fn p. 5: extract of marriage records from Washington County Virginia, "... By the Reverend Nicholas Reagan, 'Washington County Virginia in June 17th 1794. To the worshipful court aforesaid County memorandum of Marriages, Robert Whiteley and Jane Gilliland, signed Nicholas Reagan.'" Also, copy of a marriage bond issued July 2, 1790 to Robert Whitely and John Gilliland to secure the marriage of Robert Whiteley to Jane Gililand. The clerk notes in his certification that the records filed by the Reverend Reagan contained a record of the marriages performed by him over a number of years prior to his filing his memorandum and that he failed to specify the dates of each of the marriages solemnized by him.]

Smyth County to wit

This day Elias Poston of the County aforesaid and State of Virginia personally came before Charles J Shannon a Justice of the said County and state and made oath that he was well acquainted with Robert Whitely of the aforesaid County and State for nearly forty years a portion

of which time he lived in the house with the said Robert Whiteley and in conversation with the said Whiteley had frequently heard him the said Whiteley say that he served some time as a soldier in the Revolutionary war. That he Whiteley was at the taking of Lord Cornwallis near Yorktown in Virginia and he had frequently heard him say that he had a messmate by the name of George Vineger and another by the name of Michael Shivertaker¹ that he had heard him say that he assisted in constructing the American breastworks and that he frequently saw all the bombshells from the British position fall very near when they were at work and had seen soldiers put out the matches in the shells and save the powder. That he had heard the said Whiteley say that he saw the French troops pass by where they were in the entrenchments the evening the battle commenced That after the surrender of the American troops were formed into lines. That the soldiers were ordered not to laugh, talk or make any noise while the British troops passed between the American lines. That he saw the British troops passed between the lines carrying their muskets by the brick [butt?] and dragging the Bayonets on the ground. That he had frequently heard (he is Poston's mother) say that Robert Whiteley served in the revolutionary war. That he from his acquaintance with the said quietly believe him to be a man of strict integrity. Given under my hand this 10th day of November 1853

S/ Charles J Shannon, JP

Smyth County Virginia to wit

This day Joseph Belleter of the same County & State came before me Charles J Shannon a justice of the peace for the County aforesaid and made oath that he the said Belleter had lived neighbor to Robert Whiteley for upwards of 50 years, during which time I had often heard the said Whiteley speak of his serving in the Revolutionary War. That he (Whiteley) told him that he entered the Army in his 17th year, That him & his brothers, John & Alexander Whiteley was at the taking of Lord Cornwallis, all three serving together – that he had a messmate by the name of George Vineger, and that they were honorably discharged, and further in conversation with Alexander Wheatley (Robert's brother) I often heard him repeat the same particulars, that Alexander had the yellow fever and when discharged they returned home by the Barracks at Winchester in Virginia and from his knowledge of the 3 brothers in point [?] of Narration, has no doubt of the correctness of their statements.

Given under my hand this 29th day of October 1853

S/ Charles J Shannon, JP

¹ A Michael Sheverdecker FPA W6039 was pensioned for his service in the Frederick County, Virginia, militia in Capt. Bell's company at Yorktown at the surrender of Cornwallis. I could find no likely candidate as a pensioner named George Vineger (Vinger, Vinegar, etc.)