

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Linchfield (Lincefield, Linn) Sharpe<sup>1</sup> R17780 f30VA  
Transcribed by Will Graves 2/2/12 supp'd 5/28/15 & rev'd 5/11/21

[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. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' or 'undeciphered' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. 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 skills fail 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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

[p 3]

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled –

Your Petitioners Sydney F. Chapman and Edmund Sharpe of Fauquier County Virginia and John Fitzhugh guardian of the infant children of Frances Fitzhugh formerly Sharpe devisees and heirs at law of Linchfield Sharp deceased late of said County of Fauquier respectfully state that said Linchfield Sharpe first entered the service of his country as a Sergeant in a minute Company commanded by one Captain H. Lee [Hancock Lee]. That after the expiration of that service he joined the northern Army in what capacity your petitioners are not able to say, and whilst in service in the northern Army he was commissioned as an officer, as they believe a Lieutenant, in the Virginia Continental Line. That he rose to the rank of Captain before the winter of 1780 – and in that capacity served to the end of said War – your petitioners further state that some two years after the close of said War their father received a commission of Captain in a Light Company in the County of his residence, which they believe was an honor generally conferred on meritorious officers of the regular Army and that notwithstanding they are not able to shew the rank & services of their said father by record proof yet they believe that the positive proof of living witnesses who served under him, ought to be regarded as sufficient proof – They therefore pray that the Commutation of 5 years full pay in lieu of half pay for life may be adjudged to your petitioners, and that if so, that interest may be allowed on the same from the close of said War, as if said officer had settled & received certificates for said commutation pay and subscribed the same to be funded debt of the United States & they will ever pray.

Th Hord Atts [Attorneys] for the above named devisees and heirs of Captain Linchfield Sharpe

[p 9]

Linchfield Sharpe  
April 12, 1836  
read, and laid upon the table.

Mr. Beaumont, from the Committee on Revolutionary Claims, made the following Report:  
*The Committee on revolutionary Claims to which was referred the petition of the devisees and heirs of Linchfield Sharp, praying for commutation, report:*

That the petitioners, by their attorney, states that the said Linchfield Sharp first entered the service of his country as a Sergeant in a minute company commanded by Captain Hancock

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<sup>1</sup> Va. Half-Pay

Lee; that he afterwards joined the northern Army in what capacity is not known, and whilst in the northern Army was commissioned as an officer, as they believe a Lieutenant in the Virginia Continental line; that he arose to the rank of Captain before the winter of 1780, and in that capacity served to the end of said war; and therefore pray five years full pay and interest, agreeably to the mode in which interest was calculated on certificates of commutation subscribed to be funded debt, &c.

The proof adduced in support of the claim is embraced in the copies of affidavits filed in the Executive Department at Richmond, Virginia.

One of the affiants (as per the copy aforesaid) declares, among other things, that, during the siege of York, one Linchfield Sharpe (commonly called Linee Sharpe), who he understood was a Continental officer, was placed in command over the company to which affiant belonged, which company had been attached to Colonel Edmunds's Regiment; and that said Sharpe for the rank and title of Captain; and another person, John Barber, declares that he was well acquainted with Linchfield Sharpe, and that at the siege of York the said Sharpe was a Captain in Colonel Elias Edmunds's Regiment; that he afterwards went as an officer of the guard of the British prisoners to Winchester barracks, and then finally left the service.

Another witness, as per the copies of the aforesaid affidavits, declares that he saw Linchfield Sharpe in Philadelphia, in 1780; that he became acquainted with many of the officers from the fact of his shaving them (being a barber); that said Sharpe was then a Captain in the Virginia Continental line, and that he understood from Philadelphia he returned as a supernumerary; and another person, Spencer Withers, declares, as per said copies, that he was well acquainted with Linchfield Sharpe in the American Revolution, and knows the fact that said Sharpe was commissioned a Captain in the Virginia Continental line in the war of the revolution; that he saw the said Sharpe in command as a Captain at the siege of York; that he was placed in command over a company in Colonel Edmunds's Regiment, and that said Sharp served to the end of the war as he understood; and that he understood and believes that said Sharp had served in the northern campaigns before the siege of York. The respectability of some of the affiants is vouched for by the Honorable Mr. Mercer, of Virginia.

Mr. Hagner, in reply to inquiry concerning this claim, under the date of 19 February, 1836, says:

I have the honor to state, that the revolutionary records on file in this office, furnish no evidence whatever of Captain Linchfield Sharpe having been an officer in the Virginia line at any time during the revolutionary war. The affidavits accompanying this petition go to show, that Captain Sharpe was an officer in Colonel Elias Edmunds's Regiment. Now it appears, from a record in the Pension Office, that Elias Edmunds was a Lieutenant Colonel in the Virginia State line, and of course the officers of his Regiment would have no claim for commutation pay against the United States, even if the Regiment served to the end of the war.

The committee are of opinion, that the evidence adduced is insufficient to support the claim, and therefore all not to be allowed.

[p 11: Reuben Murray,<sup>2</sup> 71, gave testimony in Fauquier County Virginia on February 27, 1834, that he was in service at Yorktown; that the Captain of his company deserted and that Linchfield Sharpe (called Linn Sharpe) took the command of the company in Colonel Edmund's Regiment; and that Captain Sharpe was one of the officers who guarded the British Prisoners from York to Winchester Barracks.]

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<sup>2</sup> [Reuben Murray R7524](#)

[p 12: On February 1, 1834 in Fauquier County Virginia, John Barbee<sup>3</sup>, 80 and upwards, gave testimony that he was well acquainted with Captain Linchfield Sharpe late of Fauquier County a Captain in Colonel Elias Edmunds' Regiment at the siege of York and during the guarding of the prisoners to Winchester Barracks.]

[p 13: On May 28, 1834, in Augusta County Virginia, Smith Thompson,<sup>4</sup> 85 & upwards, gave testimony that he was a soldier in the Army of the revolution and well acquainted with many officers in the Virginia Continental and State lines; that he was well acquainted with Captain Lince Sharpe in Philadelphia in the year 1780; that Sharpe was then serving as a Captain in the Virginia Continental line; he thinks he also saw Captain Sharpe at York in 1781.]

[p 15: On September 5, 1834, in Fauquier County Virginia, Spencer Withers,<sup>5</sup> 69, gave testimony that he was well acquainted with Lince Sharpe who was commissioned as a Captain in the Virginia Continental line; that Captain Sharpe was from the marsh neighborhood in Fauquier County; that affiant saw him in command as Captain at the siege of York in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Elias Edmunds; and at the top of the mountain of Ashby's Gap in the march of the prisoners from Yorktown; that affiant was discharged at Ashby's And left Captain Sharp in command at that place.]

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The [Virginia State Library](#) has posted on its website digital images of the affidavits referred to above.

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[From [Digital Library of Virginia](#)] Fauquier County Legislative Petitions (search Fauquier -- Chapman, Sidney F)

To the Senate and House of Delegates of the General Assembly of Virginia

Your petitioners Sidney F Chapman, Edm'd [Edmund] Sharpe – and John Fitzhugh of the Counties of Fauquier and Prince William, most respectfully represent,

That Lincefield Sharpe late of Fauquier County first entered the service of his Country as a Minuteman in a company commanded by Captain H Lee – and after the expiration of that service he was commissioned as a Lieutenant of Infantry in the Line of Virginia on Continental Establishment in the Revolutionary War. That after having served several years in the North, he was promoted to a Captaincy in said line, & continued to serve till the end of the war. Your petitioners believe that the evidence which they have exhibited will sufficiently show these facts – although they mainly rely on the evidence of living witnesses, yet they are such as served under the above named Officer, and speak positively of his commission and services, – Your petitioners believing in the justness & legality of their claim to the Land bounty usually allowed to a Captain in the Line, preferred [sic, referred?] their petition to his Excellency the Governor in the last year, and for some cause unknown to them the same was rejected. They now respectfully pray the consideration of their claim by your Honorable bodies, and that the papers of evidence now filed with their petition may be received as sufficient as a reference to the original papers on file in the Secretary's office. Your petitioners are aware of the objections which may exist to a reliance on parol proof exclusively, but when they consider that the proof in their case is derived from highly respectable individuals who actually served under their said ancestor – and that the

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<sup>3</sup> [John Barbee W24626](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Smith Thompson S38438](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Spencer Withers S6400](#)

claims depending on prove less forceful have heretofore been allowed, they confidently believe that their case will meet with your favorable views.

They also exhibit a commission dated two years after the War to wit in 1785 to said Lincefield Sharpe giving him an Honorable appointment in the militia, which they believe was in consequence of a preference given in that day to officers of the Continental Army – your petitioners pray that the Register of the Land Office may be authorized by law to issue warrants as for a Captain's Land bounty for the war, to the heirs of Captain Litchfield Sharpe & they will ever pray.

S/ Sidney F Chapman  
S/ Edmund Sharpe  
S/ John Fitzhugh by  
Tho. Hord their attorney in fact

[Reverse]

Petition of the Heirs of Litchfield Sharpe  
January 23, 1836  
Referred to Revolutionary Claims

Case of Captain Litchfield Sharpe of the Continental line  
State of Virginia are queer County to wit

This day personally came before me a Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid Reuben Murray of said County, aged 71 years & upwards and being first sworn deposed and saith – That he was intimately acquainted with Lieutenant Jos. Conway of the Continental Army &c &c &c

This affiant further states that when he himself was in service and after he had served at York, & during the siege the Captain who had command of the company in which affiant was a private left the Army it was said by desertion – & that a certain Lincefield Sharpe commonly called (Linn Sharpe) & who he understood was a Continental officer was placed in command over the said Company which said company had been attached to Colonel Edmund's Regiment. The said Sharpe bore the rank & title of Captain & was one of the officers who had command of the Guard of the English Prisoners from York to the Winchester Barracks – And further this affiant sayeth not. Given under my hand this 27 day of February 1834

S/ John Mais

State of Virginia Fauquier County to wit:

This day personally came before me a Justice of the peace in & for the County aforesaid – John Barbee of said County, aged 81 years & upwards – & being first duly sworn according to law deposed and saith – That he was well acquainted with Captain Lincefield Sharpe late of Fauquier County & that he was a Captain in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Elias Edmunds. This affiant does not know when the said Lincefield Sharpe entered the service; but well recollects that he commanded as a Captain at the siege of York; and afterwards went up as an officer of the Guard of the British Prisoners to the Winchester Barracks, and they are finally left the service. And further this affiant sayeth not – Given under my hand & seal this first day of February 1834

S/ Cam: F. Page

State of Virginia Augusta County to wit

This day personally came before me a Justice of the peace, in & for the County aforesaid – Smith Thompson a Citizen of said County, aged 85 years and upwards & being sworn

according to law deposed & saith that he was a soldier in the Army of the Revolution, from the State of Virginia, & that whilst in service he was well acquainted with many officers belonging to the Virginia Continental & State's Lines. His acquaintance with many of the officers arose from the circumstance of his trade as a barber. He will recollects of seeing & knowing Captain Linn Sharpe in Philadelphia in the year 1780 – & that he was then a Captain in the Virginia Continental line – it was in the month of January affiant was at that time with the Army on its March to the South: there were several officers then together with said Sharpe who it is his impression returned as supernumeraries – that said Sharpe he is under the impression returned from service as such. Affiant thinks that he saw the said Captain Sharpe at the siege of York in 1781 & further he sayeth not. Given under my hand and seal this 28<sup>th</sup> May 1834.

S/ William Young

State of Virginia Fauquier County to wit

Personally came before the subscriber, a Justice of the Peace in & for the County aforesaid, Spencer Withers a citizen of Rappahannock County, aged 69 years and & he being a person whose statement is worthy of full faith & credit & he being first duly sworn according to law – deposes that he was well acquainted with Lince Sharpe in the American Revolution, & that he knows the fact, that the said Sharpe was commissioned Captain in the Virginia Continental line in the war of the Revolution; and that he was one of said Continental officer who was placed in command over a Company of the militia – The said Sharpe was from the marsh neighborhood in Fauquier County – Affiant saw said Sharpe in command as a Captain at the Siege of York, – & distinctly recollects that at that day & time he the said Sharpe was placed in command over one of the Companies of Elias Edmunds' Regiment, which had been commanded by Captain James Winn, who abandoned his company & actually ran away – L. Sharpe served to the end of the war as affiant always understood, indeed he knows the fact that he was in command with the prisoners at the top of the mountain at Ashby's Gap, where this affiant was discharged himself – said Sharpe went on – Affiant was in the Company commanded by said Sharpe – the said Sharpe the affiant has always understood & has no doubt, that Sharpe had served as a Lieutenant in the northern Campaigns before he came to the siege of York – but affiant don't know the fact positively, – as he was not in that service himself. And further he sayeth not. Given under my hand this 5<sup>th</sup> day of September 1834

S/ William Thompson

Report upon the claim of the heirs of Captain Lincefield Sharpe of the Continental line for bounty land for his services

To the Governor

Sir

The name of Captain Lincefield Sharpe has not been found on the Army Register, either of the Continental or State Line – nor on any public document concerning the Army of the Revolution – I have not found any evidence of record that Captain Sharpe ever was in the Continental Army.

The petitioners have filed for affidavits, for the purpose of sustaining their claim to wit the affidavit of Reuben Murray, of Smith Thompson, of John Barbee and of Spencer Withers. (Which see him on the papers)

The facts which are set forth in these affidavits are that Lince or Lincefield Probably served sometimes as Lieutenant in the northern Army, before he was promoted – that in 1780 –, he was in service in Philadelphia as Captain that he was in command of the company at the siege of York and 1781 – & marched thence with British Prisoners to Winchester. One witness says that he served to the end of the war – another says – that he probably retired as supernumeraries 1781

– another says that he finally left the service at Winchester Barracks.  
These facts are all that I have it in my power to report.  
Your Excellency will decide whether or not they furnish sufficient proof – That Lincefield  
Sharpe was a Captain in the Continental line, and if he was whether his service as proved entitle  
him to bounty land.

Respectfully submitted  
John H Smith, Commissioner &c  
April 21, 1835

Captain Hancock Lee's Roll  
Lincefield Sharpe, Sergeant 87 days 10.17.6 pay 1.6.0 sums due 9.11.6 balance  
Extract from a book with a Lenin cover & from copy Pay Roll "Pittsburgh"  
S/ James E Heath Auditor  
Auditor's Office  
May 6 come 1835

X This should have been entered before Comr. Report

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Addendum to Lincefield Sharpe R17780

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. 11 May 2021.

[From [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia](#). The file also contains documents transcribed  
above from the federal file.]

THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

To Lincefield Sharpe Gent Greeting:

KNOW you, that from the special trust and confidence which is reposed in your fidelity,  
courage, activity, and good conduct, our GOVERNOR, with the advice of the Council of State,  
doth appoint you the said Lincefield Sharp Captain of the Light Company of The first Regiment  
of Militia of the County of Fauquier to take rank as such agreeable to the date and number of this  
Commission. IN testimony whereof, these our Letters are made patent. WITNESS, his  
Excellency PATRICK HENRY, Esquire, our said Governor, at Richmond, this first day of June  
1785.

(REGISTERED.)

Thos. Meriwether/ No 7



A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "P. Henry", with a horizontal line underneath it.