

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of William Sharp R9429

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia     } Ss  
Pocahontas County   }

On this fourth day of September 1832 personally appeared before me the subscriber a Justice of the peace for the County aforesaid William Sharp a resident of the County and State aforesaid aged ninety two 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 act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated

That he was drafted and went into service in the company commanded by Captain William Kincaid [William Kincaid]; does not now recollect the name of his Lieutenant but recollects that his Ensigns name was James Trimble: that the Company to which he belonged was attached to a regiment commanded by Colonel Samson [Sampson] Mathews: that he entered the service in the early part of the month of January 1781 and was discharged from that tour of service in the month of April following: that he was in a skirmish with the British at Portsmouth Virginia. That he resided near where he now does when he entered the service in what was then called West Augusta: that he was drafted: that he marched across the blue Ridge and directly on to Portsmouth where he remained until he was discharged that he has no documentary evidence but supposes that John Bradshaw [pension application S6738] knows of his having performed said tour of service

He was drafted and was in service in the summer of 1774 in a Company commanded by Captain Andrew Lockridge in an expedition against the Indians: that a certain William Mann and himself were sent by Colo. Andrew Lewis with a message to Governor Dunmore who was then at Fort Pitt (now Pitsburg) and did not return to join the Army until the next morning after the memorable Battle at Point Pleasant [10 Oct]: that he has no documentary evidence and that he knows of no person now living whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service in said campaign. He went as a volunteer in the month of September 1764 under Captain Charles Lewis (the same who was afterwards killed in the Battle at Point Pleasant) in an expedition against the Indians on the Muskingham River [Muskingum River in OH]; that he was in service said tour during the fall of 1764 and did not return home untill the month of March 1765; Lieutenant McClenachan [William McClenahan] belonged to Captain Lewis's Company: he does not now recollect the names of any other officers that were out on said expedition except Colonels Field and McNeel; that they had no engagement with the Indians that tour: that the indians came in and gave up the prisoners they then had. He was also in service as an Indian Spy during the summer of 1773 and the summer of 1774 previous to being drafted into service as before stated under Captain Lockridge of which said services as a spy he has no documentary evidence nor does he know of any person now living whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his said service. He states that adding all his services together; those when drafted; the tour as a volunteer and the various times as an Indian Spy will exceed two years and six months

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state

[signed] Wm. Sharp

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid before me a Justice of the peace for the County of Pocahontas. And I do moreover certify that the said William Sharp cannot from age and bodily infirmity attend the Court

[signed] James Sharp

State of Virginia     }  
Pocahontas County   } Towit

On this the 31<sup>st</sup> day of December 1833 personally appeared before Joseph Moore a Justice of the peace for said County Mary Sharp widow and relict of William Sharp deceased of

the said County of Pocahontas and State of Virginia aged eighty three years and that the said William Sharp who died on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of March 1833 was aged Ninety three years at the time of his death. Who being first duly sworn according to Law, doth make on her oath the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June the 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That her Husband served as an Indian Spy three months in the summer of 1776 that the nature of his services that summer was to guard Warwicks fort situated on the head waters of Greenbrier River in what was then called west Augusta now Pocahontas County (where the settlers had collected as a place of safety) and to traverse the surrounding mountains and to watch the gaps and passes through them for the purpose of discovering the trail of the Indians should any of them be making their way toward the fort or the settlement; that during the Summer of 1777 he was again engaged in spying & early in the Spring of that year he went to live at his own House which was situated near the Town of Huntersville and on the spot where John Bradshaw now lives in the said County of Pocahontas that early in the spring of said year the hostile Indians made an inrode into the settlement and killed three men two by the name of Bridgers and one named Baker in consequence of which the settlers betook themselves to the House of her Husband which was strongly built and fortified for defence, the names of most of the persons who came to the House of her Husband she has forgotten but she recollects the names of four men towit: [Capt.] Thomas Hicklin, Ralph Stuart [possibly Capt. Ralph Stewart], Joseph Baker and John Collum that during that summer her Husband was engaged at least six months in guarding the settlers and watching the passes of the mountains; that again in each of the summers of 1778, 1779 and 1780 her said Husband continued to act as an Indian Spy from about the first of May in each year until the first of November continuing to guard the little settlement then forming on Greenbrier River, reconnoitering the Country or mountains between the head waters of Greenbrier River and the Tygarts Vally River [Tygart Valley River] a branch of the Monongahela River and on the head waters of Elk River; that during each of said summers he was engaged in no civil pursuit except to plant a little corn and to work it as well as he could or to stand guard while others worked for the purpose of making bread to subsist upon and in the summer of 1780 he was kept so constantly in service that he lost all his corn.

That her said Husband had been considerably engaged in pursuing and routing the Indians before the commencement of the Revolutionary War and that she has frequently heard him say that he was on his way down the Ohio River from Pittsburg and arrived at Point pleasant soon after the celebrated Battle fought at that place commonly called Dunmores War at which time the celebrated Logan the Indian chief delivered his speech [Logan's Lament], and she supposes it was in consequence of the service he had seen the experience he had and his undoubted courage that caused him to be more actively engaged in spying the Indians than most of the other men who were forming the new settlement there was however a man by the name of John Davis who sometimes went with him; that the whole of his services as an Indian spy amounts to at least the term of two years and three months. That in the month of January she thinks in the year 1781 he was either drafted or went as a Volunteer against the British and served a three months tour at a place called Portsmouth either under the command of Captain Kinkead or Captian Hicklin She does not now know which; that she does not know or recollect of his being in any engagement unless it was a skirmish while at Portsmouth that her said husband and herself were married in the year 1769 that he departed this life on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of March 1833 that she has no documentary evidence by which she can prove his said services and that she knows of no one living by whom she can prove the same except John Bradshaw Esq'r. who she believes can testify as to his services at Portsmouth: that at the time of his death he resided in the County of Pocahontas and State of Virginia where he had resided ever since before the commencement of the Revolutionary War

She relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity of pension except the present and declares that the name of the said William Sharp is not on the pension Roll of the agency of any state

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