

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John Shope R9530                      Sarah Shope    PA  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of N Carolina } Court of Pleas and Quarter Session October  
Buncombe County } term 1832. On this 19<sup>th</sup> day of October Personally appeared in Open Court before the Court of Pleas and Quarter Session of Buncombe County State of N Carolina now sitting John Shope, a resident of said County and states his age 78 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 towit he was born in Lancaster County Pennsylv'a on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of March A.D. 1756. He was drafted in said County and State at the age of 21 years for 4 months by Capt Jno. Riley [John Riley]. Col. Crup commander and Christopher Lowry Maj. That from the necessity and scarcity of wagoners he was made driver and entered that capacity and put in company with four wagons and had charge of one team in company and was ordered to the State of Virginia. on their way they were stoped by the British Cavaldry in Anhers [sic: Amherst] County in State of Virginia. but they avoided meeting them by driving to a valley under the mountain and by this time the wagon master came up with them with orders to turn back to Philadelphia John Borsler the wagon master he went back to Phil'a and there received a discharge from the wagon Master that he has lost that discharge but Previous to this Col. Crup who lived in 4 miles of him had drafted him for a 12 months tower and put him to driving a wagon (Col. Crup lived in Lebanon town seat in Lancaster County) having the reputation of being a good wagoner which he bears to this date. that He received his discharge from the wagon master having served 16 months in that business. He returned home to Lancaster County and stayed untill 26 or 7 years old. He traveled to Virginia from thence to No. Carolina Buncombe County where he married and has resided for 25 years and do at present I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare my name is no on the pension of any state or agency. Sworned to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid  
John Shope

State of North Carolina } Court of Pleas and quarter  
Buncombe County } Sessions January Sessions 1835  
On this 6<sup>th</sup> day of January 1835 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices holding said Court John Shope resident of Buncombe County in the State aforesaid; aged 78 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 & served as herein stated.  
He entered the service of the United States as a drafted Militiaman, about the middle of August 1777 in the County of Lancaster Pennsylvania, under Capt. Wagoner in the Regiment commanded by Col Joseph Turnbarger, for the term of two months was detached as a wagoner, and marched to to Brandawine and was with the baggage near that place at the time of the Battle [Battle of Brandywine, 11 Sep 1777]. He then marched back to Germanton and was with the baggage at that Battle [Battle of Germantown, 4 Oct 1777] Soon after which he was discharged having served out the term of two months. He entered the service again in said County State of Pennsylvania as a drafted militiaman in the month of January 1778 for the term of two months in the Company commanded by Capt. John Riley in the Regiment commanded by Col. Curtis Grubb and was detached again to the baggage wagons. He marched to a place called Hickory town or Hickory Ground where he remained till the expiration of his service of two months and was discharged. He entered the service again in same County of Lancaster in the month of January 1779 in the Company commanded by Captain John Reaser in the Regement commanded by Colo. Lessan and marched to a place called Lebanon in the County aforesaid to guard the Prisoners where he remained until the expiration of his term which was two months having served this term also as a drafted militiaman and

was discharged. He entered the service again as a drafted militiaman in the month of March 1781 for the term of two months was again but with the waggons and ordered to head twice[?] from Philadelphia to Richmond in Virginia was driven from the Road by the British light horse at Albamarle in Virginia [sic: in Albemarle County by Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton's Legion, early June 1781] and continued with the Wagons till the capture of Cornwallace [sic: Cornwallis at Yorktown, 19 Oct 1781] when he was discharged having served this term four months though he was drafted for only two.

That during the whole of the above specified terms including altogether ten months he was under the direction of his officers and attended to no other business received pay and was discharged by the officers as other private Militiamen. 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. He has no documentary evidence and knows of no person now living by whom he can prove his said services. He had a declaration made out to sent to the war department some time in the last of October 1832 which he understood was rejected on the ground that he had served but four months, but he expressly states that he endeavored to make the same statement to Mr. Patton who drew that which he has now made.

John hisXmark Shope

Q 1<sup>st</sup> Where and in what year were you born?

I was born in Lancaster County Pennsylvania on the 13<sup>th</sup> of March 1756.

2<sup>nd</sup> Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

It was set down in my fathers Bible which I expect is in the possession of George Ruserman in Cumberland County Pennsylvania.

3 Where were you living when called into the service? Where have you lived since the Revolution and where do you now live?

In Lancaster County Pennsylvania, I lived when called into service. I removed to Albemarle County in the state of Virginia about the year 1789, where I lived sixteen years from there I removed to Barke [sic: Burke] County N Carolina where I lived four years from there I removed to Buncombe County N Carolina where I have lived ever since and now live.

4<sup>th</sup> How were you called into the service

I was drafted each time.

5 State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served; such Continental and Militia Regiments as you remember and the general circumstances of your service

I was acquainted with Col. Henry Miller, Major Cristopher Lowrie, Major John Snally, Genl George Washington and Gen'l [Nathanael] Greene.

6. Did you ever receive a discharge from the service and if so by whom was it given and what has become of it:

I received a discharge each term of my service. They were signed as well as I remember by Col. Turnburger, Col. Grubb and Col. Lessan. After the war was over I expected they of no service and took no farther care of them and can not now say what has become of them further than they are lost or destroyed

7 State the names of persons to whom you are know in your present neighborhood and who can testify to your veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution.

Col Samuel W. Davidson, John Garrett Esq. James Alexander and many others.

John hisXmark Shope

NOTE: A letter from the Pension Office dated 14 May 1833 states that John Shope's claim for a pension was rejected because "his service as wagoner does not entitle him to the benefits of the Act of Jun 7 1832." This opinion is contrary to the law and the Pension Office's own regulations for administering the law, which allowed pensions to all those "bound to military service, but not those who were occasionally employed with the army upon civil contracts." On 27 Oct 1852 Sarah Shope assigned power of attorney to pursue the claim of her husband for a pension, but there is no indication that she succeeded.