

[Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters](#)

Pension Application of James Shelton S10257

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 7 July 2015.

State of Virginia

Louisa County sct.

On this 7<sup>th</sup> day of May 1836 personally appeared before me Wm Shelton (min'r) a Justice of the Peace and a Judge of the Court of the said County, (being a court of Record) James Shelton Esquire a resident of the County aforesaid, within the said State, aged Seventy six 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 was drafted into the Virginia Militia from the County of Louisa in the early part of the year 1780, and marched to the South under [John] Byars Capt., [Thomas] Shelton Lieut, as Sergeant. Rendezvoused at Hillsborough [NC], and was commanded by Gen'l. [Edward] Stevens. Gen'l [Horatio] Gates wrote to Stevens, as he understood, that the militias must hasten on, or they would lose thier share of the glory of capturing the enemy. He was at the battle of Cambden [sic: Camden SC, 16 Aug 1780] and was stationed in command of sixteen men to guard some wagons, some of them loaded with arms and ammunition. Many of the flyers from the Battle passed him and exhorted him to fly, but he remained until he saw the Enemies horde passing rapidly through Colo. [Henry] Rugeley's plantation, for the purpose of intercepting them, when he and his party took horses from the waggons and retreated. He fell in with Gen'l. Gates and Col Mosley [possibly Maj. William Moseley] in his retreat, and rode some distance with them. After the Battle the militias marched to Salisbury and thence to Hillsborough where some of the refugees from Camden rejoined the army. They then marched under Stevens again, either to join the army or to repress the attempts of the Tories, but had not marched many days, before the disaffected militia again deserted, in the night, having stacked their arms in the camp. After that, Stevens left the troops under the command of Col. [Parke] Goodall of Hanover, who marched them to a place called New Garden [in Guilford County] he thinks, where grain was plenty and the Tories were bold and active. And there he served in keeping under the Tories until discharged. And that in this tour he served at least Seven months as orderly Sergeant. He recollects seeing Colo [William] Washington with his troops at Guilford Court House, and that he caused a dance of some Chickasaw indians and demanded of their chief that he should send fifty of his warriors to the assistance of the army. That in the first half of the next year he served two tours in the Virginia Militia as a private from the same County, in one of which he was drafted and in the other he substituted himself for his Brother John – but that from infirmity of memory and the lapse of time he cannot say which service was first. In his first tour he thinks he was stationed and served in the neighbourhood of Richmond and recollects being at the Court House of New Kent county for some time. He does not recollect his Captain or Company officers in this or his other tour, nor can he clearly discriminate the incidents of each. In his next tour he was with the army under the Marquis Lafayette in its march to meet Wayne [Gen. Anthony Wayne at N. Anna River, 10 Jun 1781] and thence through the uper counties of the state towards the Rivana [sic: Rivanna] River and thence down the country again, and he was discharged he thinks when the army reached his own neighbourhood and that in each of these tours he served three months as private in the Militia. That he was at Richmond when the Marquis arrived [21 Jun 1781] and distinctly recollects his person and horse. That he was stationed on the Hill guarding some baggage at the time when the British were burning the Tobacco at Manchester [30 Apr 1781], and near him was an elderly gentleman with a Telescope who looked and informed them of the proceedings of the Enemy. A Battle was confidently expected, and a young man was brought out of the lines who was much alarmed and declared he could not fight, and he was taken to fill his station. He remembers General Wayne and General [George] Weedon and Colo [Charles] Dabney [Charles Dabney, pension application R13624]. About the time he was discharged the Army had reached the County of Louisa, and many of the officers spent a night at his fathers house. He

does not recollect by whom his Seargents warrant was signed, but he distinctly recollects attending frequently at Gen'l. Stevens quarters to copy orders. That he can prove parts of his service by the testimony of Joel Walton [S6327] and Austin Hunter [S15899], and to the rest can produce no testimony, and that he has no documentary evidence. That from age and infirmity of health, he is utterly unable to attend at the Court House of his County in order to make his declaration, and that his delay until now in claiming the benefit of the law of Congress has been caused by the feebleness of his health and memory and the hope that at some future time he might be relieved. But that his recollection is becoming more indistinct, and he cannot now recall many circumstances of his service which once would have been fresh in his memory. For proff of the reputation of the vicinity in relation to his service he refers to the certificate of the Rev'd. Wm. J. Winston and Zachariah W Perkins Esq. 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 or Territory.

To question 1<sup>st</sup> he replies. That he was born in Louisa county Va. in the year 1759

To Question 2<sup>nd</sup>. There was a record [of his birth], but I do not know where it is. probably destroyed when my father's house was burnt.

To Question 3<sup>rd</sup>. [At the start of his service he lived] At my fathers in Louisa county Va. & since the revolution have lived in s'd. county, where I now live.

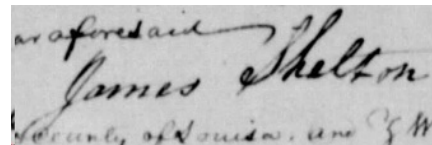
To Question 4<sup>th</sup>. I think I was drafted twice & went once as substitute for by brother, John Shelton.

To Question 5<sup>th</sup>. I took wine with Gen. Gates, saw Gen. Stevens, Lafayette, Wayne, Col. Dabney. As to the other parts of this question, they were answered to the satisfaction of the judge.

To Question 6<sup>th</sup>. I think I had written discharges, but dont know what has become of them, or by whom given.

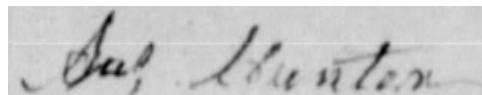
To Question 7<sup>th</sup>. Zac. W. Perkins, H. G. Winston, Mat. Ferran, Doct'r Wm Meredith.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Shelton". Above the signature, the words "as aforesaid" are written in a smaller hand. Below the signature, there is some faint, illegible text.

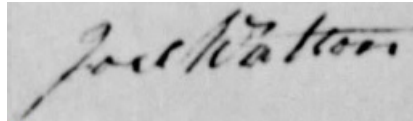
Virginia Louisa County (Sct) Personally appeared before me John B Shelton a justice of the peace in and for said County Austin Hunter, aged Seventy four years and a credible person as appeared to me, and made oath, that he was well acquainted with James Shelton Esq'r. of the County aforesaid in the time of the Revolution, that he and said Shelton were drafted from the Louisa Militia in the year 1781 in the summer and served a tour as privates in the lower part of the state That they marched from the County under an officer whose name he does not now recollect, but were soon detached to the light infantry, and served the tour under Captain Mordacai Abraham [sic: Mordecai Abraham] of King William. That they served generally in the County of Gloucester and were finally discharged at the Court House of that County.

Sworn and subscribed this 9<sup>th</sup> day of May 1836  
before me Jno B Shelton JP

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John B Shelton".

Virginia Louisa Sct on this 9<sup>th</sup> day of May 1836 personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace in and for said county, Joel Walton a resident of the county aforesaid aged seventy six years, and as appears to me a credible person, and made oath that he was well acquainted with James Shelton Esq'r. of Louisa who now applies for a pension in the time of the Revolution, and has been so since. That in the spring of the year 1780 said Shelton was drafted at the same time with this affiant, from the Louisa Militia, and they marched to the South under Capt Byars. That said Shelton served the whole of the tour as this affiant believes, for when he returned to the army after the defeat at Camden, he found said Shelton had not left the army as most of the militia had done. And further this affiant saith not.

Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid  
before me Jno B Shelton JP



[A note in the file indicates that James Shelton's application was suspended on 20 May 1836.]

Montpelier P.O. Hanover County Va/ Wednesday Septem'r 28<sup>th</sup> 1836

Sir [J. L. Edwards, Commissioner of Pensions]. The attention of the office is again respectfully requested to the application of James Shelton Esq'r. of Louisa County, presented last Spring through the Hon'l. James Garland. This renewed examination is requested not so much for the purpose of bringing to the notice of the Com'r of pensions, any new testimony now offered, through the enclosed affidavit it is conceived, must have some weight as corroborating testimony; as that the writer may call attention to several misapprehensions of Mr. Shelton's meaning, which he regrets his want of perspicacity in drawing the declaration, should have betrayed the Com'r of Pensions into. In the first place Mr Shelton designed to say, that in the latter part of his first tour, he was employed in keeping under the tories, not in Virginia, but in N. Carolina the returning of which he speaks being to some town in the latter state, and not in Va. It is believed to be matter of history, that the fragments of Gates's army, were so [undeciphered word] for some time after the scope of the Campaign was resigned, under the command of some inferior officers of whom Parke Goodall late of this County was one. And it was to this service the applicant designs to allude. Any different impression is attributable to confusion in preparing the memorial. Again, the idea seems to be entertained that the applicant claims for three other tours of service. This he by no means designed to do. He as well as his agent, was fully aware of the difficulties under which he labored from want of memory, and he merely designed to claim for those terms of service of which he could distinctly recal some material circumstances; though he is well assured that he performed many others. In relation to one of the two short tours for which he claims much diffidence is as felt, from his not being able to recollect his officer's names, and he wishes now to be understood as relinquishing that claim, if by the favorable construction of the regulations, so much required by his great infirmities, he shall not be considered entitled to a pension in virtue of it. The fact of his service for the whole time claimed for, it is hoped, is made out to a moral certainty by the testimony, and he trusts that no inflexible rule will preclude the examining officer from awarding him the compensation, which every man who knows him personally, considers him entitled to. In regard to the duration of the first tour a general misapprehension must exist through all that neighbourhood, or there was some peculiar circumstance to prolong the service of the company marched from thence. Every applicant who was in company with Mr. Shelton has claimed for a longer period than five months, and some have been paid it is believed for as much as eight. The Com'r. is refered to the claims of Joel Walton, Ezekiel Perkins [S5905] and John Rutherford [S6038] and John Woodson [S6434] of Hanover.

The writer wishes to know if there is in existence a Law extending the provisions of the act of 1818 to old soldiers, without respect to the amount of thier property.

With Respect.  
Col Dabney

[On 18 Jul 1836 in Goochland County VA, Joseph Shelton, a relative and former neighbor in Louisa County, also made a supporting statement.]

NOTES:

On 5 Oct 1836 James Shelton was issued a certificate for a pension of \$40 per year for six months service as a Sergeant and three months service as a Private.

A Treasury Department document states that "The child of James Shelton, dec'd." received his father's pension up to the date of his death, 24 Dec 1840.