

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Archibald Shortt (Short) S17085

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 11 Oct 2014.

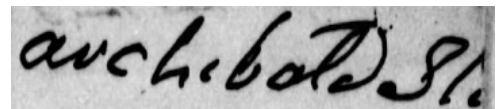
State of Virginia & County of Powhatan to wit

On this 15<sup>th</sup> day of August in the year 1832. personally appeared in open Court before Saml. Jones, B. S. Morrison, Jno. C. Porter & C. Selden the Court of Powhatan County aforesaid now sitting, Archibald Short, a resident of the same County, aged seventy four 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.

I Archibald Short was born in December 1758 in the County of Chesterfield & state of Virginia, but for the last several years I have lived in the adjoining County of Powhatan. I was put on the muster roll in the year 1775, & in the year 1776, I took the oath, common at that time, by which I solemnly renounced all allegiance to King George. In the year 1777 or '78 I enlisted as a regular for three years' service under Captain Francis Smith of Chesterfield County, who was then a recruiting officer in the first Virginia regiment – but after a few weeks' service I procured a substitute. In the year 1780 about the latter part of May or the 1<sup>st</sup> of June the militia was called from Virginia to the South – at which time I substituted myself for Samuel Short of Chesterfield, & we marched under the command of Capt Archibald Walthall. We stopped at Randolph mill in [smudge; near Petersburg] till the Henrico, Hanover & Caroline militias came up. Col. Faulkner [Ralph Falkner] commanded our regiment until we reached Hillsboro in North Carolina, at which place we remained until the Virginia & N. Carolina militia assembled. General [Horatio] Gates then came in from the North & we continued our march to Camden in South Carolina, where we were defeated [16 Aug 1780]. the troops rallied at Salisbury [NC] and I was brought to Hillsborough & put in the hospital, where I staid until late in September. I then got a discharge from General Gates but this I have lost. On account of my ill health I did not arrive at home until the first of December. – In the year 1781 I was called out to guard the Tuckahoe & Westham ferries on James River & remained in service a short time. In 1781, I was again called out, & served under Captain David Patterson of Chesterfield about five weeks, being at this time discharged a little time before the battle of Guilford Court House in North Carolina [15 Mar 1781]. I was again called out during the same summer & served under the same Captain through the seige of York – until Lord Cornwallis surrendered to our Washington [19 Oct 1781]. I then marched with the prisoners to Winchester under the command of Capt. Spencer of Charlotte County, who took the place of Capt. Patterson. – Taking the whole of my active service together, I should suppose that I was on duty for about two years – & indeed I think more. I was in service from the time of my first going out until the end of the war. It is true I was often at home, but I have no doubt that the whole of my active service amounts to more than two years. ~

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, & declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Archibald Shortt". The ink is dark and the background is a light, textured surface.

16<sup>th</sup> January 1833. – Personally appeared before me, the undersigned, a Justice of the Peace for the County of Powhatan, in the State of Virginia, Archibald Short, who being duly sworn deposeth & saith that by reason of old age & the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his services, but according to the best of his recollection, he served not less that the periods mentioned below & in the following grades: In the first tour he served from 1<sup>st</sup> of June to the 1<sup>st</sup> of December in 1780 making 7 months [sic] – this was his 1<sup>st</sup> tour to the South – In this time of service, he went from home the 1<sup>st</sup> of Feby 1781 & did not return home except on furlough till the last of December – How long he staid from home at each separate time he cannot say, but when he went home it was upon

furlough & he never staid more than a day or two at a time. He served more – which, however, he cannot particularly state, & is willing to limit his whole service to the two periods of 11 & 7 months, making in all 18 He served altogether as a militia man, a private. The statement about his age in his declaration is taken from the family record, which he has seen, & which is in the possession of a brother residing now in the County of Franklin. –

He the said Short is the same who deposeseth & saith also that he has no documentary evidence to establish his claim & knows of no living witness whose evidence can be procured who knows that he was a soldier of the revolution. He, therefore, suggests that as he has produced no such living witness there can be no administering of any oath by a Justice & no certificate from said Justice that the witness is credible. and again in this state of things the special character [several lines too faint for reliable transcription] He cannot be more particular with reference to the officers of the revolution than he has already been in his declaration, nor with reference to the different continental regiments, being ignorant of such matters — In answer to one of the questions, inquiring after the names of such character in his neighbourhood as can testify as to his character, he refers to Francis C. Lowry, Major Jacob Richards, James Hoskins, Bennet Dogby[?]. – he [illegible word] had a discharge but this he has lost.

State of Virginia. Powhatan County to wit

This day Archibald Short made Oath before me a Justice of the peace for the County aforesaid that he is unable to state with more accuracy than he has already done in his supplemental affidavit the length of his service in 1780. that he is positive that he left home in May of that year and march'd as a militia Man as already stated to the South where he remained in active service untill the first of December of that year with the exception of a short time when he was sick. That he first march'd as a substitute for his brother Samuel Short in a tour of three months as already stated in his first declaration and he presumes the balance of the time he must have been detained in service on his own account as he is positive about the length of the tour, and the term of his service and absence from home that year, and can account for the great length of time that he was kept in service only in that way. The said affiant also says that upon his return home he was enrol'd again as a militia man, and in February 1781 as already stated he was ordered into service, under Capt. David Patterson of Chesterfield, who was commanded by Colo. Robert Goode of s'd. County under whose command he march'd to Goodes bridge [on Appomattox River at Goode Creek], and from thence to Dinwiddie Court House where he remained one month, and was again marched back to Chesterfield. That after performing this service which to the best of his recollection was three months. He remained at home for a few days and was again ordered out in a Company of Militia commanded by Capt James Harris of Chesterfield to guard Tuckahoe and Westham Ferry's on James River in which service he remained untill Lord Cornwallis returned from down James River, which he thinks must have been between two and three months more, that as soon as Lord Cornwallis pass'd down the River this affiant was ordered with his Captain to join Major Genl. Steubens [Baron von Steuben's] army and was march'd about from place to place untill Lord Cornwallis' surrender at the Seige of York in October. That he was then ordered to march as a guard for the Prisoners to Winchester under Capt. Spencer from Charlotte County, and there he remained untill about the middle of December 1780 when he was discharged. This affiant says that he never returned home or left the service after he marched with Capt Harris from Westham Ferry to join Steuben's army, untill he was discharged at Winchester making the different periods of his service for the year 1781 in all between 10 and 11 months

Given under my hand this 20<sup>th</sup> day of April 1833

William Walthall JP