

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Shotwell S17088

f30VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

2/12/12

[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. 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 fails 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 8th of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Virginia County of Madison

On this 19th day of September 1832 personally appeared before William H. Hill one of the Commonwealth's Justices of the peace in and for the County of Madison and State of Virginia James Shotwell resident in the County and State aforesaid an infirm Soldier of the Revolution aged seventy 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 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. Colonel James Barbour and Captain Henry Towles in the fall of the year 1780 the declarant served the Tour as a substitute for John Gaar [?] after this in the year 1781 and the spring of the year the declarant was drafted and served under Colonel James Slaughter, Major Henry Hill and Captain Fisher Rice he resided in the County of Culpeper State of Virginia, afterwards in the same year the declarant went into the service as a substitute for one John Zachary the names of the officers not particularly recollected but believes that Robert Roebuck was the Captain under whom he served: Afterwards the declarant was drafted in the same year under Major Welsh [indecipherable symbol all word] Colo. Edmunds the subaltern officers not particularly recollected. He was in the Battles of Petersburg [April 25, 1781], Sandy Point, Cabin Point and at the commencement and ending of the siege of York in the month of October in the year 1781: after the siege the declarant marched with the prisoners been taken, to the Barracks near Winchester in the County of Frederick in the State of Virginia where he with his Companions in arms were discharged and returned to their respective homes, and that he has no evidence of his services except the affidavits herein forwarded. He was not acquainted with the regular officers except General Lafayette, Washington.

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.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ James Shotwell, X his mark

The following interrogatories were propounded by the said William H Hill and the answers to them respectively given as follows.

Question. Where and in what year were you born?

Answer. Near where I now live then a part of the County of Culpeper Virginia. I was born in the year 1762.

Question. Have you any record of your age and if so where is it? Answer, I have no record of my age.

Question. Where were you living when called into service; where have you lived since the Revolutionary war and where do you now live?

Answer, When called into the service I lived in the County of Culpeper – after the war I lived two years in the State of North Carolina afterwards I returned to my native state and lived within one mile of where I was born, now the County of Madison.

Q. How were you called into service; were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute? And if a substitute for whom?

Answer. I was drafted twice as before stated and went twice as a substitute once for John Gaar and once for John Zachary.

Q. State the names of some of the Regular officers who were with the troops where you served; such Continental and Militia Regiments as you can recollect, and the general circumstances of your services. Answer. I have no distinct recollection of many of the regular officers. I recollect Generals Washington, Lafayette, Colonels Slaughter, Edmunds, General Stevens, Major Welch and Major Boyce and some of the Captains but whether they were regulars, Continental or Militia officers I do not know.

Question. Did you ever receive a discharge and if so by whom was it given & what has become of it? Answer. I never received a discharge. The men were all mustered after surrendering the prisoners at the Barracks near Winchester in the County of Frederick in the State of Virginia and dismissed by Colonel Edmunds and Major Welch.

Q. State the names of persons in your [neighborhood] to whom you are known in your present neighborhood, and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution?

Answer. Major William Chapman, John Fray, William Yowell, Dennis Crow, Captain Robert Thomas [one or more indecipherable words or symbols] Levin Banks and many others.

State of Virginia County of Madison SS

This day personally appeared before me one of the Commonwealth's Justices of the peace in and for the County of Madison and State aforesaid William Yowell, Dennis Crow and Joseph Sampson who being duly sworn deposeth and saith that they have known the foregoing James Shotwell, whose declaration was made before William H Hill Esquire on this day; They respectively knew the said James Shotwell whilst in the service of the United States during the Revolutionary War; and they hereby testify to the truth of the service he rendered, according to the foregoing declaration, being eyewitnesses to the greater part of the time he was in service, and they believe the said Shotwell did not serve less than 12 months during the War. And further these affiants sayeth not.

S/ Wm Yowell,¹ X his mark

S/ Dennis Crow,² X his mark

S/ Joseph Sampson,³ X his mark

Additional or explanatory Declaration made by James Shotwell in the County of Madison and State of Virginia on this 4th day of June 1834 in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

This day personally appeared before me one of the Commonwealth's Justices of the peace in and for the County aforesaid the said James Shotwell made oath according to law that the first tour he served during the War of the Revolution was as a Substitute for one John Gaar for the

¹ [William Yowell \(Yowel, Youell\) W5551](#)

² FPA S39380

³ [Joseph Sampson S7453](#)

space of 2 months as a private commencing in the early part of the month of April in the year 1780, he was discharged sometime in the month of June of the same year, at a place called Germanea [?] in the County of Culpeper in the state aforesaid by Captain Henry Towles. Afterwards in the spring of the year 1781 in the early part of the month of May, this declarant was drafted as a private soldier and served as such for two months and was then discharged at the Malvern Hills below the City of Richmond in the State of Virginia in the month of June of the same year, the precise day from the lapse of time & loss of memory not recollected. He was discharged by Major Henry Hills. Afterwards in the same year the declarant mustered as a private for one John Zachary and served two weeks at which time he was discharged, the month in which the service was rendered the declarant cannot state with certainty but is positive that he served two weeks as before stated. Afterwards in the latter part of the month of August in the year 1781 the declarant was drafted and went to the siege of York and continued in active duty until the surrender of Lord Cornwallis to the American forces under the command of General Washington; The declarant was then sent with the prisoners captured to the Barracks near Winchester in the County of Frederick in the State of Virginia where he was discharged by Major Nathaniel Welch the officer in command, the last of October the 1st of November in the same year the date not recollected but this tour was not less than 2 months; making in the aggregate a period of Revolutionary service of 6 months and 2 weeks for which he claims the bounty of the Government. Given under my hand the day and year 1st above written.

S/ James Shotwell, X his mark

[Robert Garnett, a clergyman, and Lewis Banks gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$24.55 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months and 2 weeks in the Virginia militia.]