

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Sheftall Sheftall S31959

f36Blank [sic, GA]

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/8/09 rev'd 11/23/14 & 9/8/16

[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. The word 'illegible' or 'indcipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. 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 skills fail 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 material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Georgia County of Chatham City of Savannah

At a regular Term of the Honorable the Court of Common Pleas and of Oyer and Terminer for the City of Savannah, a Court of Record, at the Court House in said City on Monday the 15th day of October in the year of our Lord 1832 –

Present, the Honorable John C. Nicoll Judge.

On this 15th day of October in the year of our Lord 1832 personally appeared before the Honorable John C. Nicoll Judge of the said Court Sheftall Sheftall, a resident of Savannah in the County of Chatham and State of Georgia, 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 provision made by the act of Congress passed on the 7th day of June 1832. That sometime in the latter part of the year 1777 or the beginning of the year 1778 the deponent was appointed by John B. Girardeau Esquire -- Deputy Commissary General of Issues of the Continental Troops in Georgia to be an Assistant Deputy Commissary of Issues in his office. That the deponent continued in that office at Savannah aforesaid for several months when the said John B. Girardeau resigned and the deponent's father the late Mordecai Sheftall Esquire of Savannah was appointed as his successor. That the deponent was reappointed to his said Office of Assistant Deputy Commissary of Issues, by his said late Father at Savannah aforesaid and received from him his Commission now produced and shown on the 29th day of July 1778. That the deponent continued and acted in his said office until the British Troops took Savannah on the 29th day of December 1778, when they took the deponent and his Father prisoner and in a few days afterwards say the second day of January 1779 put them on board a prison ship. That on the 26th day of March following the deponent's Father was admitted to his Parole and that on the 26th day of June, the same year, the deponent was admitted also on his Parole. That on the deponent's landing from the Prison Ship, he was sent to the Town of Sunbury in Georgia a distance of 40 miles from Savannah where deponent's Father and a number of Continental officers were on Parole. That they continued there until the month of October following (the British Garrison having been previously withdrawn to reinforce Savannah). That when the American and French Army under the command of General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] and Count d'Estaing laid siege to Savannah a Tory armed party was hovering about the Country & threatened to kill the American officers at Sunbury and did actually kill Captain Hornby of the 4th Georgia Continental Regiment. That, in the situation, the Officers so on parole applied to the officers of the Allied Army requesting to know what course to pursue and in reply they were recommended to remove to a place of safety but to consider themselves still on parole. That the deponent, his

Father and several other officers embarked on board of a Brig in the Harbor of Sunbury (which had been taken in the said Harbor by a small American Privateer) to proceed on her to Charleston in South Carolina. That on their passage they were taken by a British Frigate called *Guadeloupe* who bore away and carried them and landed them on the Island of Antigua sometime in the month of November. That after being at Antigua between 5 and 6 months, they were admitted to a parole to return to America. That the deponent and his Father arrived in Philadelphia (via St. Eustalia [sic, St. Eustatius]) on the 20th day of June 1780. That a few days after their arrival at Philadelphia, they were introduced to the Board of War which consisted of General Thomas Mifflin, Colonel Timothy Pickering, Colonel Harrison and Richard Peters Esquire then Secretary, by Colonel George Walton¹ one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. That the board of War directed Mr. Bradford, Commissary of Prisoners to send away two Englishmen, natives of Antigua, by the name of Jacob Jarvis and his brother John Swinson Jarvis to be exchanged for this deponent and his Father. That sometime in the early part of the month of December following certified copies of their paroles with certificates of their exchange for the said 2 above named persons were received by this deponent and his Father by which means they were released from being prisoners of war. That a few days thereafter the deponent was sent for by the Board of War and informed that he must proceed on a sloop called the *Carolina Packet* commanded by Captain John Derry, a Flag of Truce, as Flag Master to Charleston in South Carolina to carry goods flour and money to be delivered to General Moultrie or the Senior officer of the Continental troops prisoners of War at that place. Deponent proceeded on the voyage agreeably to his instructions -- that owing to storms and headwinds he did not arrive at Charleston Harbour until the 7th day of February following, when the aforesaid articles were delivered to a person appointed by General Moultrie and by his order. That he was detained by the British until sometime in April when he was permitted to pursue his voyage back. That he arrived in Philadelphia on the 23rd day of April. That on his arrival he delivered up to the Board of War all his papers and vouchers and one [?] particular, obtain a receipt technology in the receipt of the money of agreeably to the orders of General Moultrie which receipt was signed by a Mr. Charlton or Carlton -- Pay master of the Board of War and Ordinance. That about 3 years ago a fire broke out in this city in deponents neighborhood -- that he moved his furniture and things for safety into the street -- that among them was the certificate of his Exchange, the

¹ WALTON, George, (brother of John Walton and cousin of Matthew Walton), a Delegate and a Senator from Georgia; born in Cumberland County, Va., in either 1749 or 1750; apprenticed as a carpenter; attended the common schools; moved to Savannah, Ga., in 1769; studied law; admitted to the bar in 1774 and commenced practice in Savannah, Ga.; secretary of the Provincial Congress in 1775 and a member of the committee of intelligence; member, council of safety in 1775 and later president of that body; member, State house of representatives; member of the Continental Congress 1776, 1777, 1780, and 1781; a signer of the Declaration of Independence; served in the Revolutionary War and was captured at Savannah; colonel in the First Georgia Battalion; Governor of Georgia 1779; commissioner to treat with the Indians and to negotiate a treaty with the Cherokees in Tennessee in 1783; chief justice of Georgia 1783-1789; member of the Augusta Board of Commissioners 1784-1785; represented Georgia in the settlement of the boundary line between South Carolina and Georgia in 1786; elected as a delegate to the convention to frame the Federal Constitution in 1787, but declined; Governor of Georgia 1789; was appointed first judge of the superior courts of the eastern judicial circuit in 1790; appointed to the United States Senate to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of James Jackson and served from November 16, 1795, to February 20, 1796, when a successor was elected; trustee of Richmond Academy and of the University of Georgia; moved to Augusta; again appointed judge of the superior circuit of Georgia and served from 1799 until his death at his home, "College Hill," near Augusta, Richmond County, Ga., February 2, 1804; interment in Rosney Cemetery; reinterment in 1848 beneath the monument in front of the courthouse on Greene Street, Augusta, Ga
<http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=W000114> viewed 6/8/09.

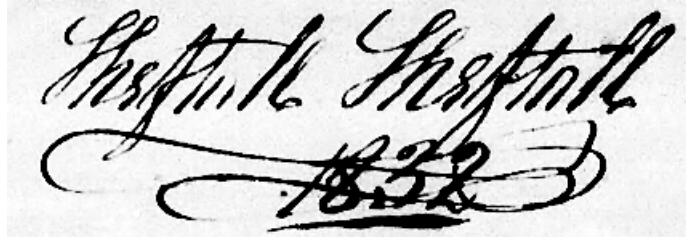
instructions from the Board of war and the receipt for the money which were unfortunately lost. And the deponent saith that when he entered the service as aforesaid he was a resident of Savannah in the State of Georgia -- that he continued in the Service in his said office until the close of the Revolutionary War, and that his pay was \$60 per month exclusive of expense. And he saith that on the 8th day of September last he was 70 years of age.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the Pension roll of any agency of any State.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Jacob Nicoll

S/ Sheftall Sheftall,
1832

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sheftall Sheftall" with "1832" written below it.

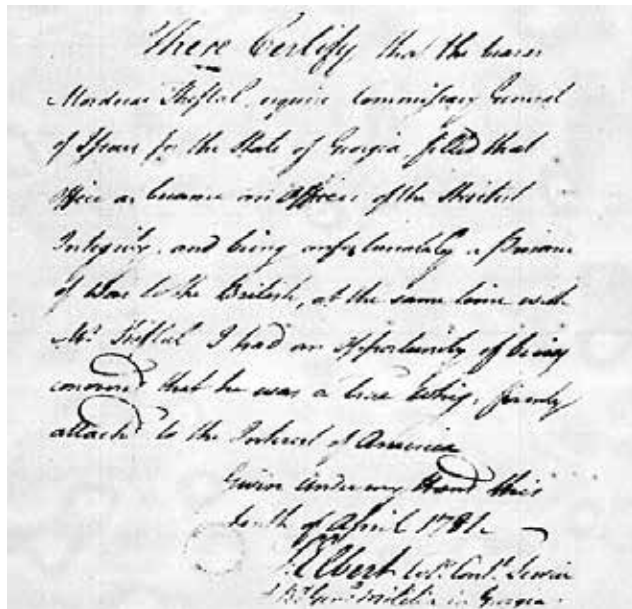
[Jeremiah Cuyler, 64, Judge of the District Court of the US for the district of Georgia gave a supporting affidavit saying he has known the applicant since childhood and has always believed him to have served in the Revolution as he states in his declaration.]

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I here Certify that the bearer Mordecai Sheftall, Esquire, Commissary General of Issues for the State of Georgia, filled that Office as becomes and Officer of the Strictest Integrity, and being unfortunately a prisoner of war to the British, at the same time with Mr Sheftall I had an opportunity of being convinced that he was a true Whig, firmly attached to the Interest of America.

Given under my Hand this 4th of April 1781

S/ S. Elbert Col. Contl Service
& Br. Genl. Militia in Georgia

A handwritten document in cursive script. The text reads: "I here Certify that the bearer Mordecai Sheftall, Esquire, Commissary General of Issues for the State of Georgia, filled that Office as becomes and Officer of the Strictest Integrity, and being unfortunately a prisoner of war to the British, at the same time with Mr Sheftall I had an opportunity of being convinced that he was a true Whig, firmly attached to the Interest of America." Below this, it says "Given under my Hand this 4th of April 1781" followed by a signature and the text "S. Elbert Col. Contl Service & Br. Genl. Militia in Georgia".

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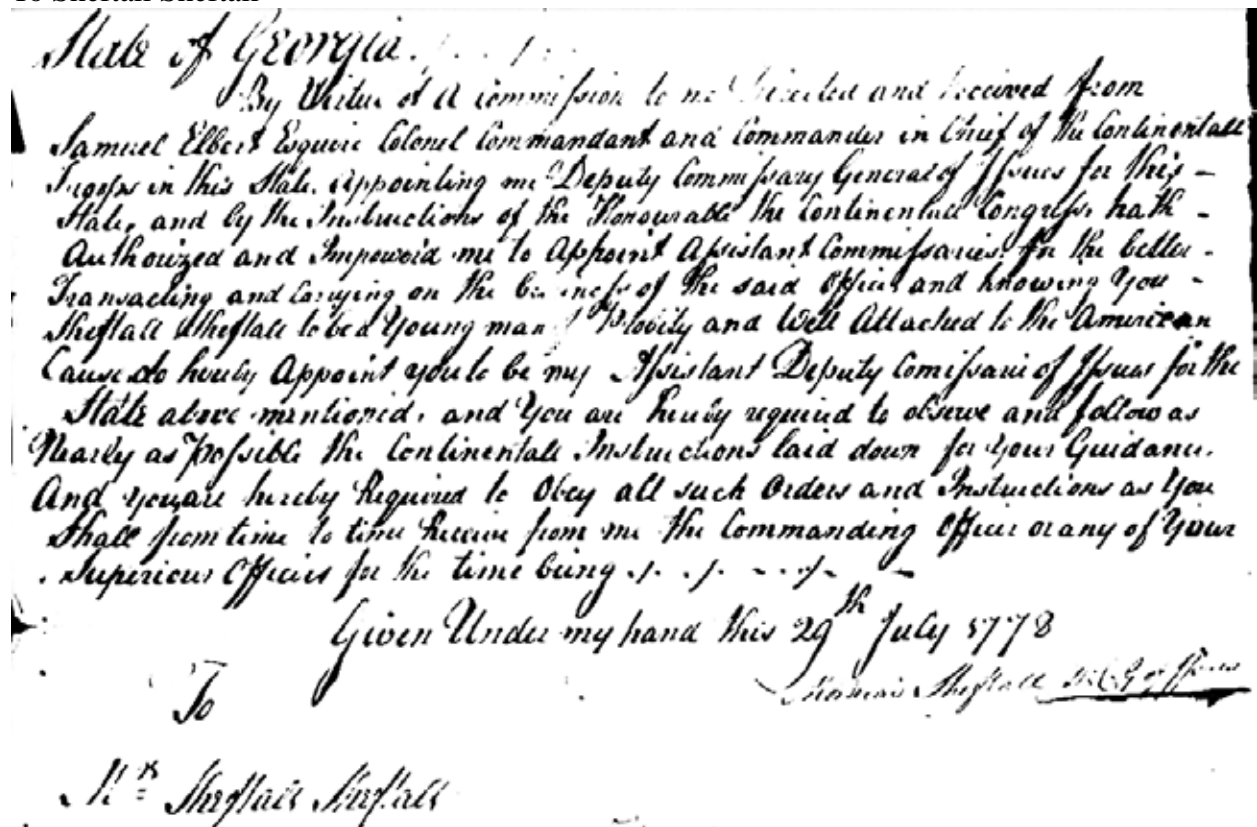
State of Georgia

By virtue of a commission to me directed and received from Samuel Elbert Esquire Colonel Commandant and Commander in Chief of the Continental Troops in this State, appointing me Deputy Commissary General of Issues for this State, and by the Instructions of the Honorable the Continental Congress, passed authorized and Empowered me to appoint assistant commissary's for the better transacting and carrying on the business of the said Office and knowing you Sheftall Sheftall to be a Young man of Probitiy and the well Attached to the American Cause do hereby appoint you to be my Assistance Deputy Commissary of Issues for the State above mentioned and you are hereby required to observe and follow as nearly as possible the Continental Instructions lay down for your guidance. And you are hereby required to obey all such orders and instructions as you shall from time to time herein from me the Commanding Officer or any other of your Superior Officers for the time being////////

Given under my hand this 29th of July 1779

S/ Mordecai Sheftall, D. C. G. of Issues

To Sheftall Sheftall



State of Georgia.
By Virtue of a commission to me directed and received from Samuel Elbert Esquire Colonel Commandant and Commander in Chief of the Continental Troops in this State, appointing me Deputy Commissary General of Issues for this State, and by the Instructions of the Honorable the Continental Congress, hath Authorized and Impowred me to Appoint Assistant Commissaries for the better Transacting and carrying on the business of the said Office and knowing you Sheftall Sheftall to be a Young man of Probitiy and Well Attached to the American Cause do hereby Appoint you to be my Assistance Deputy Commissary of Issues for the State above mentioned, and You are hereby required to observe and follow as Nearly as possible the Continental Instructions laid down for your Guidance. And you are hereby Required to Obey all such Orders and Instructions as you shall from time to time receive from me the Commanding Officer or any of your Superior Officers for the time being. . . .
Given Under my hand this 29th July 1778
Mordecai Sheftall D. C. G. of Issues
To
M^r Sheftall Sheftall

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$600 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a deputy Commissary for 2 years in the Georgia service. His pension was increased to the above amount from an original pension at the rate of \$320 per annum.]