

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Shellman S31960

f39MD

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/20/15

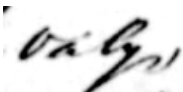
[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have 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 'indecipherable' 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.]

Georgia, Chatham County – On this ___ day of February in the year of our Lord 1833 personally appeared in Open Court before the Honorable the Justices of the Inferior Court of Chatham County in the State aforesaid now sitting, Col. John Shellman a Resident of the City of Savannah in the County of Chatham, and State of Georgia, aged Seventy Seven Years who being 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 the 7th 1832 –

In the year 1776 belonged to a Company of militia composed of Young men, natives of America of good character and standing Commanded by Capt. Peter Mantz, Adam Grosh first Lieut., and Peter Adams second Lieut., natives and residents of Frederick-Town Maryland. Early in the spring of that year, the State was called on by and under the Authority of an Act passed by the Continental Congress to furnish the quota of Troops called the flying Camp as required by said Act. A proposition was made by, I believe, Capt. Mantz that the whole Company should volunteer Service, which was immediately acceded to with perhaps a few exceptions. We accordingly prepared by each man furnishing himself with a uniform consisting of a Hunting shirt, dyed yellow with Hickory bark, Pantaloon of the same, a pair of Indian Legons of gran cloth with a piece of Bearskin over the crown of the hat: armed with a good Rifle and Tomahawk, shot pouch & powder horn – thus armed and accoutred, we took up the line of march about the 1st of June for the City of Annapolis where we arrived after a few days march; after remaining a short time we were ordered to Leonard's town in, I believe, St. Mary's County. This town is situated on a small River which empties itself into the Potomac. Lord Dunmore [John Murray, Lord Dunmore, the last Royal Gov. of the colony of Virginia] who had been Governor of Virginia, had been compelled to make his escape from Williamsburg and had taken refuge on board of a small fleet lying near the mouth of the small River mentioned at an Island in the Potomac consisting of two 44-Gun Frigates, one called the *Roebuck* the other the *Defois* [?]¹ the other Sloop of war and some Transports, with a few British troops on board, it was apprehended that, these troops were intended to be landed for the purpose of committing some depredations we remained several weeks, his Lordship made no attempt at what was apprehended, we were ordered back to Annapolis, where the ship called the *Defense* mounting 26 guns owned by the State of Maryland, was then prepared to make an attack on the fleet of the Lord Dunmore, in consequence of a report that the frigate *Defois* was aground and could not be gotten off; and the

¹ *Defois*

Frigate *Roebuck* had proceeded up the Potomac to take in a supply of freshwater; under these favorable Circumstances it was presumed the Ship *Defense* would be able to capture the other Sloop of war, and the Transports with the Troops on board would of course fall into their hands. This ship was deficient in armed Marines; a number of Capt. Mantz' Company volunteered, myself one of them to supply the deficiency; we accordingly went on board and were stationed on the quarter Deck. I do not recollect the names of any of the offices on board except a Capt. Ware who appeared to be a very active man in discharging his duty, and Commodore Nicholson who was the Commander in Chief on board. We sailed down the Bay and arrived at the mouth of the Potomac soon after sunrise and with a fair when sailed up the River, where we hove in sight of the fleet, lying at a small Island; the other Sloop of War was sailing along the shore on the Virginia side of the river, fired a Signal Gun and laid her course for the British fleet, and as we approached nearer we discovered the Frigate *Defois* afloat and getting underway, And the *Roebuck* coming full sail down the River to give us a warm reception, which the Commodore very prudently declined and gave the order About ship; but unfortunately, in preparing for Action too much rum had been furnished of which some of the sailors drank to such excess as to render them unable to do their duty; we the volunteers were called on to assist in warping the ship to a proper situation to get her again under way; the wind being directly ahead, this we however accomplished, and soon after entered the Bay and made sailed for Annapolis where we arrived the next morning after remaining a short time we embarked on board to Sloops and sailed for the head of the Bay and landed at Elkton or French Town from thence we set out for Philadelphia, where we joined the Regiment to which we were attached commanded by Col. Griffin who lived I believe between Benits Creek and the Senica Creek, now called Montgomery County from Philadelphia we marched to New York, where we remained about a week, when some of the vessels of the British fleet sailed up the East River and immediately the evacuation of New York commenced our Brigade commanded by General Beal of Maryland took up the line of march and arrived at what was called Harlem Heights, where we found the main Army encamped in the rear of some entrenchments, our Regiment encamped in the rear of a large white house, in which General Washington had established his headquarters. The next day if I recollect right the whole Army was formed in two lines, with its right resting on the North River and the left on or near Harlem River; a firing commenced on the right near the North River on a height opposite to that occupied by our Army between the Advance Guard of the British and the rear guard of the American Army, a detachment was drawn out of Col. Griffin's Regiment, consisting of 2 Rifle Companies, the one commanded by Capt. Peter Mantz, and the other by Capt. Little; we marched across the valy [?]² constructed by General Putnam, whose undisturbed and serene countenance I admired on this Occasion, of approaching danger, but he was a Veteran soldier, and we were young. As we were ascending the height where the Battle was raging, for soldiers were bringing Col. Knowlton out of the action, mortally wounded, apparently expiring; Major Leitch of the 3rd Virginia Regiment was also mortally wounded and were both buried the next day with military honors, in this engagement we succeeded in beating the British back near their main lines, when we were ordered to cease firing and return to the main Army although in the History of the war this is called Skirmishing, both parties were reinforced from the main line until a considerable number on both sides were engaged, and it was stated on good Authority, at the time, that it continued two hours. General Washington in his general orders the ensuing morning spoke



highly of the troops engaged on this occasion, and of the advantages resulting from it, to the Army, which had been much dispirited by the disastrous defeat on Long Island, we remained in our encampment which we had occupied previous to the engagement just mentioned, and the British Army encamped on the height opposite to the one occupied by the American Army, the exact distance of which I do not recollect, between the two armies; but this I recollect that the Picket Guards of the two armies, were so near each other that we, when on that Guard as Sentinels, could hear distinctly when the enemy's Sentinels challenged, whether it was the round, grand rounds or the relief, and frequently had two men as Sentinels on the post nearest the British line. General Washington immediately after the action on Harlem Heights, had every night about 2 o'clock three rounds fired by a field piece at Headquarters as an alarm, the whole Army was immediately formed and marched to the entrenchments where they remained until about sunrise when he would pass along in the rear of the line commencing on the right and continued to the extreme left, on these Occasions we were generally faced to the right about, and saluted the Commander in Chief whose defined Countenance was cheering to every American Soldier. This practice of manning the Lines every night was, no doubt intended for the purpose of ensuring [?] the troops to be ready in case of alarm, to form, and be prepared to resist the enemy in any attempted surprise them in the night, one circumstance I am induced to mention which occurred I believe on the day of the action on Harlem Heights, a Capt. whose name I do not recollect was stationed on the East River with his Company, with orders to maintain the place as long as practicable with the force under his Command; this is what was stated, and when the Enemy approached to attack him, he was the first man who retired, and left his subaltern officers, and men to maintain the place; for this he was tried by Court Martial, found Guilty of the Charges exhibited against him; he was sentenced to be [indecipherable word, perhaps intended to be "cashiered"]³, to be dressed in petty coats [petticoats], with a wooden Sword by his side – a wooden gun on his shoulder, mounted on a Cart to be thus carried to where he resided, accompanied by a Guard to see that the sentence was carried into complete effect; on the day appointed the whole Army not on duty was drawn up in Line, the miserable man accompanied by his Guard, made his appearance on a Cart, dressed and armed as I mentioned and passed from the right in front of the whole line of the Army to the left. This Spectacle of Misery, Shame and disgrace produced more intense feeling and distress, than to have witnessed a half dozen deaths of culprits, by being shot. The History of the war gives no account of this affair neither did I ever hear any person mention the Circumstance who was not present I am induced to believe that he was of some very respectable family in one of the Eastern States, to save whose feelings the affair has been by Common Consent placed in Oblivion. Two of the British ships of war attended by a small vessel called a Tender passed up the North River through the Chiveaux Defries [?]⁴, under a very heavy fire of the large ordinance of Forts Washington and Lee, with double-headed shot; best one of which took effect, which struck the jib boom of the Tender and severed it. The whole of the Army was drawn up in line on this occasion and some large pieces of iron Ordinance mounted on high wheeled Carriages were brought to bear on them and fired at them, but without effect – Soon after this event the Enemy's fleet sailed up the East River with a large detachment of the British Army on board, and landed it at I believe a place called Throgs

3

Outthink,

4

Chiveaux Defries,

point [?]⁵, and General Washington commenced moving the main Army to the White Plains. General Beal with the Brigade of the flying Camp, was detached as a Corps of observation, he defiled off from the main road to the right, and took possession of what was called in that neighborhood Tuckaha Heights, here we encamped, and in a few days the British Army on their way to the White Plains appeared in sight and immediately pitched their tents & formed their encampment; this force was so superior to that under the command of General Beal that it became necessary for the safety of the troops he commanded to retire as soon as practicable to accomplish which he had a great number of fires made on the right and rear of the encampment which gave it the appearance of a reinforcement having arrived, when all was ready, the Brigade commenced the retreat, by the right, Capt. Mantz' Company formed the rearguard, and as soon as it was discovered that the Army was moving off, one of the Sentinels of the Picket Guard, a foreigner, deserted from his post, went over to the British and informed the Commander of the British forces of the movement, and the number of Troops under the command of Gen. Beal, the Bugle immediately sounded and the whole British Army was formed under arms in line, this we discovered by the light of their fires in their encampment as soon as our Brigade had left the encampment and had marched some distance we followed after in the order of a rear Guard in consequence of information received by the British General from the deserter, Gen. Beal was compelled to march his Troops in unfrequented roads, in bad repair, in order to avoid being intercepted by the British Army in pursuit which increased the distance and harassed the troops to such a degree that we did not reach the White Plains until the third day just before sunset, during the whole of this retreat we were without provisions of any description. We were conducted to a place where a number of Bbls [Bushels or Barrels?] of flour were placed with one head open, of which we supplied ourselves with as much as we could make use of, marched into a piece of woodland where we encamped, made fires and baked bread in the hot embers, this bread tasted [indecipherable word]⁶ to me than any I had ever eaten, the next day we drew our rations of meat. On this day or the next, I do not now recollect, the British Army made its appearance on the height opposite the Center of the line formed by the plain in a semicircular manner, Gen. Beal's on or near the extreme left, under the command of Major General Putnam, by whom we were ordered to ground arms, in front of our line, a number of trees had been cut down and the limbs severed from the Trunks, we were directed to take up these limbs, and place them in such manner in our front as to answer the purpose of Abatore [abatis?] to protect us from a Charge by a Squadron of British Cavalry in our front, about 400 yards distant, this Squadron appeared to be preparing to charge us, they came on in full gallop to within about 100 yards, a small redoubt on our right gave them one shot, the column wheeled to the left about, in this sudden wheeling a Dragoon on the right flank fell off his horse returned to his place in the column and the Dragoon rode and followed on, this was a faint made for the purpose of diverting the attention of General Washington from the main object, where the attack was to be made, a Column of German Troops was maneuvering in front of the line formed by the American Army and finally marched parallel with the line until it arrived opposite the hill occupied by the Troops under the command of Major General Madugal [Alexander McDougall], then suddenly wheeled to the right and ascended the hill, the summit of which was occupied by Smallwood's [William

⁵ *The only point,*

⁶ *Seductive* seductive?

Smallwood's] Regiment of Maryland, they suffered the enemy to approach within a small distance, when they opened a galling fire upon them and opened the intervals for some pieces of field artillery to be brought forward, which pieces opened a destructive fire also on this Column, killed and wounded a great number but notwithstanding this the Column kept steadily on, closed up the ranks and filled up the intervals caused by the very destructive fire of the field pieces, and advanced again, at the commencement of this attack, General Putnam ordered us, in this particular manner, "Come boys take up your arms, you are going to fight hard[?]"⁷ We instantly obeyed his order, having been formed into lines, we faced to the right and marched in open order across the plain, under the fire of the British Park of field Artillery, at the distance of about 1400 yards, consisting it was stated of 30 pieces. My attention was particularly attracted by General Washington who with his Suit went riding along the line on our left, through this heavy shower of Cannon balls without stooping, when at the same time those or the most of them with him were continually dodging on their Horses necks to avoid being hit by the many balls fired at them, in consequence of the open order we marched in, many balls passed between the files, very few were killed or wounded, my file leader had the toes of one of his feet struck off by a Cannon ball this was the only one wounded of our Company. When we arrived at the foot of the Hill where the attack was made the Troops on the summit broke and retreated in some disorder excepting Smallwood's Regiment, which retreated in good order; Col. Smallwood received a slight wound. General Washington withdrew the line and the Army retired and encamped on a height in the rear of the ground they had occupied the day previous, in the course of that night a very heavy fall of rain took place which continued more or less for several days, after which a part of the Army including General Beal's Brigade received marching orders and we proceeded towards the North River which we crossed as well as I recollect at Dobs' ferry under the command of General Putnam, who was very active in expediting the crossing of the Troops in boats. We continued our march down the River to Fort Lee, where we arrived about midnight; I was on the flank guard, we were compelled to wade through all the watercourses which crossed our road, some of them with us up to the breast, and in this situation we pitched our tents and laid down in wet Clothes, and slept soundly until the next morning; a detachment was formed out of the troops at Fort Lee, to pass across the River to reinforce the Army at Fort Washington. This detachment was fired on by the British the moment they arrived at the Shore on that side, a little below the Fort, and the whole taken prisoners, we witnessed a great part of the action in the attack, and capture of the troops at Fort Washington, from the Heights on which Fort Lee was situated. General Washington commenced the retreat through Jersey in consequence of a large detachment of the British Army advancing towards Fort Lee; here we left all our Tents, which fell into the hands of the British, the consequence of this was that we were exposed to the inclemency of the weather which continued wet and cold during nearly the whole time of the retreat, which produced much sickness amongst the Troops. Our time of service (which was six months) expired on the 1st day of December; the Troops composing the flying Camp were discharged, furnished with provisions and marched to Philadelphia, and were quartered in the Barracks, where a great number died of the prevailing Camp fever. The troops a few days after our arrival were drawn up in a hollow square in the old Stable house yard, where Samuel Chase Esq. then a member of Congress addressed them in a very eloquent and pathetic speech, with a view to induce such as were able and effective men to return and again join the Army, but the fatal fever which then prevailed, and the great suffering of fatigue and privations we had

undergone was such that few were able & willing to return to the scenes so distresses as those we had left behind us, in a few days after aiding in depositing in Potters Field many of my Companions in arms, my elder brother, who is still living on a farm near Frederick town arrived with a Horse which enabled me to get home to my * father's house on the 24th of December, and on the 26th I was severely attacked by the Camp fever, my life was despaired of for several days, at the end of three weeks the fever ceased; but left me in a very feeble state, the shock my constitution received I did not properly recover from for at least a year. A law was passed by the Legislature of Maryland for the purpose of facilitating the recruiting service to complete the regiments intended to form the Maryland line to serve during the War. **The provisions of this Law were that any two men who could furnish an able bodied man to serve during the war and delivered him to a recruiting officer, were after examining, and finding him to be such as he was authorized to enlist, would place him on his role of enlistments and give those who furnished the recruit a Certificate of having received such recruit, they were exempt from all Militia duty during the war. Such a recruit was furnished by a Mr. Henry Baer and myself and received a Certificate accordingly and were exempt from all militia duty. I had determined after the experiment [sic, experience ?] I made in the Campaign from which I had just returned of a Soldier's life, never again to enter a Camp. A law was passed soon after this by the Legislature, forming a species of State Troops, called in this Law, Select Militia, the Colonels of Regiments were authorized to nominate and recommend to the Governor such persons as he thought best qualified to command the Companies intended to be raised, and the Governor Commissioned them accordingly, the officers and men provided themselves with uniforms at their own expense but were furnished with arms by the State, and powder to go through the firings, they were bound to muster once in every week, for the purpose of being disciplined and prepared for immediate and active service, whenever the state required it of them. Col. William Beaty who commanded the Regiment formed by two Battalions one in the town of Frederick and the other in the neighborhood adjoining the town, nominated and recommended me to the governor Thomas Sim Lee, who sent me a Commission of first Lieut. of Capt. John D Casy's Company I accepted the appointment, my commission was signed the 18th September 1780, the uniform of the Company was a White Coats faced with blue Cloth, after drilling and exercising the men until they were qualified for duty in 1781 the Company was ordered on duty to guard some prisoners who were then at Frederick Town, these were as well as I can recollect taken at the capture of General Burgoyne's Army [Battle of Saratoga II or Bemis Heights, October 7, 1777], and I believe some of the Hessians captured at Trenton in 1776 and were moved from Lancaster in Pennsylvania, we also had prisoners at Frederick Town taken I believe at an action fought at the long bridge [Battle of Great Bridge, December 9, 1775] in Virginia consisting of Tories and some scotch officers and common soldiers. About this time our company formed a part of a Guard to conduct some of the prisoners to little York in Pennsylvania under the command of Major Mountjoy Bailey, who appointed me his adjutant, but after I believe two days march Major Bailey received orders to return with the prisoners which was accordingly done, early in the spring of 1781, when Lord Cornwallis had invaded the State of Virginia, and the enemy not landing any forces on the Shores of Maryland to volunteer Troops of Cavalry one of the city of Baltimore commanded by Capt. Moore, the other of Frederick town and County commanded by Capt. John Ross Keys, offered their services to join and aid the Army in Virginia under the command of General Lafayette, this offer was promptly accepted. My service at that time, as 1st Lieut. of Capt. John D Casy's Company could be dispensed with, I immediately furnish myself with a good Horse, uniform, arms and accoutrements complete, and joined Capt. Keys' Troop,

the two Corps met at Georgetown Maryland where they formed a Squadron and placed under the command of Capt. Moore, the Senior officer. After remaining some short time & parading in Squadron every day the patriotic Citizens gave the Corps, General Elbert [Samuel Elbert] and Col. Marbury and some other officers from Georgia a Barbecue and a Ball at night, in a few days after we received marching orders and the next day took up the line of march through Alexandria to Fredericksburg where we were honored with a public Dinner. The next day we continued our march, the nearest route to join General Lafayette's where we arrived at his headquarters, he received the Squadron, Complimented us highly on our appearance, that we were well mounted, armed and accoutred, and he would endeavor to afford us an opportunity to distinguish ourselves. He accordingly placed us near the Enemy whose Cavalry (called Tarleton's Legion [Banastre Tarleton's Legion]) was in point of numbers much superior to ours, we had to be on the alert during night to prevent being surprised by that active officer. On the day of the Battle at old Jamestown [probably a reference to the action on July 6, 1781] between Lord Cornwallis and General Anthony Wayne, we were seven or eight miles distant from the place, we received orders in the afternoon of the day to proceed immediately to the aid of General Wayne, we mounted instantly and set out in full gallop and arrived near the place of Action, where we met General Wayne's Brigade, who had just left the battleground, the Squadron passed on and formed the rearguard. The severity of our duty increased daily in consequence of the activity of Col. Tarleton's Legion, some nights we had to stand by our horses with the bridle reins in our hands and the Horses had to eat their food with the bits in their mouths. When General Lafayette discovered that Lord Cornwallis was preparing to recross the James River he detached some infantry and our Squadron of Cavalry under the command of General Mulenburg [Peter Muhlenberg] with the intention to surprise and capture the rearguard of the British Army. When all was prepared he marched all one day in the whole of the succeeding night when just at the break of day we arrived near the open Ground on or near which Jamestown is situated, then some delay caused I believe by the spies not returning as early as was expected, in consequence of this delay when we entered the open field prepared to charge the enemy their rearguard ran into their boats and shoved off, left nothing but a few wounded soldiers in an old framed house, two of whom died whilst we were looking at them. Capt. Keys Troop was immediately detached to Williamsburg without having eaten anything since the previous day, we arrived in this situation in a few hours after at the place of destination, dismounted at a widow lady's House, where some of the British officers headquartered, and had set out but a few hours before we arrived. We applied to the Lady of this house to furnish us with Dinner which she declined, by saying that she had no provisions of any kind in her house. We discovered a flock of Geese, and cut the heads off of as many as we thought would be sufficient to satisfy our craving stomachs and directed the cook to have them dressed, which was done accordingly, and we were furnished with what we then thought a sumptuous Dinner. We then set off in pursuit of the British under the direction of a Col. Matthews who was notorious for using much profane language, but we were not successful in this pursuit. In a few days we returned and joined the Squadron. After this we remained with the Army until Lord Cornwallis took possession of Portsmouth Virginia. Soon after which event we were discharged and returned home, the precise time of which is not now in my power to recollect; having left all my documents and papers relating to my military transactions at my father's who died in 1816 and not a vestige of them [one or more

indecipherable words]⁸ one has been preserved, excepting my commission of 1st Lieut. I am under the impression that Capt. Keys Troop set out about the 1st of June and returned towards the last of September. After my return I resumed my Command as 1st Lieut. of the Company of Select Militia commanded by Capt. John D Casy —***soon after this many of the prisoners captured at Yorktown Virginia were brought from Winchester to Frederick town, and quartered at the Barracks which increased the Duty of the Company which we continued to perform during the year of 1782 and the ensuing year until the definitive articles of the Treaty were signed and ratified, with this our Duty ceased. On the 12th day of May 1784 I set out from Frederick town my place of nativity in Company with Dr. John Nelson of the same place and a Dr. Sander whose father & family also resided in Frederick, the old Gentleman was the Parson of the Episcopal Congregation of that town. On the 12th day of June ensuing we arrived at Augusta Georgia in which state I have resided ever since and 28 of which in the City of Savannah.

P. S. On reading over the above narration I discovered that I omitted to mention the number of Capt. Mantz's men wounded in the action at Harlem Heights, none were killed and only for wounded one of them was a Mr. John Gomber who was standing near me at the time loading his rifle which he had just discharged, the ball struck him on the left wrist & passed horizontally under the skin to the joint next the hand; the second was slightly wounded in the left breast by a musket ball partly spent; the other two were wounded through the fleshy part of the thighs by grapeshot, the shot passed through both thighs of one of the last two; I cannot recollect now the names of the last mentioned soldiers, they were the sons of respectable families. I have thus in conformity to the instructions of the Secretary of War, related, in the above narrative, a number of minor occurrences incident to campaigns in time of war, for the sole purpose of identifying my presence at the Occasions mentioned.

Savanna 25th of February 1833

S/ Jno. Shellman

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I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension Roll of the Agency of any State.

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court the day and year aforesaid.

S/. Jos. Cummins, JICCC

S/ Jno Shellman

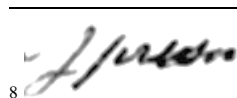
[Edward Neufville, a clergyman, and Anthony Porter, gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Marginal notes:

*The only pay I received for this 6 months service, was \$8 Continental money when I joined the Regiment at Philadelphia.

**I am induced to mention my having furnished a substitute to serve during the war, to show that, after that period I was not subject to Militia Duty at the time I accepted the appointment of 1st Lieut. in the Select militia Company commanded by John D Casy [John D. Casey].

***Among these was the German Regiment Bubose and a number of the officers, the highest of rank, was a Major whose name I believe was Shearon, and a number of British troops arrived



about the same time.

[p 23: On April 30, 1852 in New Haven County Connecticut, Catharine Ann Shellman Willcox, 40, signed a power of attorney in which she states she is the daughter of John Shellman, a revolutionary war pensioner; that her father died in May 1838; that her mother named Clarissa Montfort Shellman died in Savannah in February 1845; that her parents were married in 1794 while they were residents of Georgia.

Catharine A Willcox]

[p 29]

The State of Maryland to *John Shellman Gent* Greeting.
BE it known, that reposing especial trust and confidence in your fidelity, courage, good conduct, and attachment to the liberties of America, ^{and independence} you are by these presents constituted and appointed *First Lieutenant of Capt John D. Carey's Company in the Edward Town Battalion of Militia in this County.*

You are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the trust reposed in you, by disciplining all officers and soldiers under your command; and they are hereby strictly enjoined and required to obey you as their *First Lieutenant*

And you are to observe and follow all such orders and directions as you shall from time to time receive, according to the laws and constitution of this state, and the rules and regulations, which, under the authority thereof, are or may be established. This commission to be in force until lawfully revoked.

G I V E N at ANNAPOLIS this *18th* day of *Sept^r* Anno domini ~~1777~~ *1780*

Wm. J. [Signature]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$400 per annum commencing March 4th, 1781 for service as a Lieut. of cavalry in the Maryland service for 2 years.]