

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of John Shank S31961
Transcribed by WF Dixon

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Shank, John, Sr.
Number S. 31,961

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Georgia 29,692
John Shank Senr
of Wilkes in the State of Georgia
who was a pri in the Comp. commanded
by Captain Keller of the _____ commanded
by troops in the Va State
for _ years.

Inscribed on the Roll of Georgia –
At the rate of 80 dollars _ cents per annum,
To commence on the 4th day of March, 1834.

Certificate of Pension issues the 30 day of Jan. '35
and _____
Lincolnton, Geo.

Arrears to the 4 th of Sep '34	282.-	
Semi-anl. Allowance ending 10 Mar '35		40.-
	:	320.-

Revolutionary Claim
Act June 7, 1832
Recorded by Nat'l Rice (?) Clerk,
Book E Vol. 6 Page 107

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Georgia
Lincoln County
On this the twenty seventh day of Oct
1834, Personally appeared
In Open Court before me Garrett Andrews
presiding Judge of said Court. John Shank Senior a resi
dent of Wilkes County and State aforesaid aged seventy
three years in July last past according to the family
records of the familys ajn'd. Who being duly according
to Law doth on his oath make the following decla
ration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made

by 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 after stated.

Sometime in the month of November in the year 1779 Capt. Abram Keller of the United States Army went into the State of Virginia from where he had been stationed more Westwardly, and at Williamsburg drew money in order to recruit for the western service and went in the County of Dunmore where he had previously lived and where deponent resided at that time. (but now the county is changed to Shenandoah as deponent is informed and commenced recruiting. Cap't Keller was a distant relation to deponent and extremely anxious to get the deponent to enlist and give a stimulus to others to engage in the service. deponent did enlist for one year. also Joseph Painter & Jacob Teaker enlisted from the same county & one Abram Miller and about two weeks or thereabout from the date stated above the time of enlistment ____ Novr. Seventeen hundred & seventy nine we started for head quarters on Ohio and on arriving at the Monongahaley river we built a boat. Flat bottom, to carry the recruits with provisions... which occupied a month or thereabout. We then descended the river until we arrived at falls of Ohio then Joined the Army under General Clark. deponent was attached to Colonel Montgomery's Regiment and marched down the river to the Mouth of the Ohio. Six miles below the Mouth of that river a place was selected to build a Fort

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and the work commenced the Indians about that time committed some depredations in the neighborhood and General Clark with the Principal part of the Army marched off in pursuit of them leaving Colonel Lewis with a detachment to proceed to build & complete the fortification which was done. deponent was among those who _____ ained and assisted to the completion of the work & the fort was called after Lewis Fort Lewis and which was the place of rendezvous for Captain Keller to whose company deponent was attached & remained during the term of his services. When Deponants term of Service for which he enlisted was about to expire he was prevailed on by Cap't Keller & his fellow soldiers to continue which he consented too for another year and served out the two years. during the term deponent was in no engagement but was several times on scouting parties which was often sent out to drive off the savages & keep peace -

quietude with the settlers. General Clark frequently was at the fort in staffing & restaffing in pursuit of the _____. A detachment was sent from the fort against Fort Detroit (?) deponent remained at those times with others to defend the Fort and during one of those excursions the Indians surrounded the fort 700 strong said to be and the Fort manned at the time with forty men only. occasionally a gun fired from the fort when the enemy was discovered which continued three days and nights. When General Clark with his forces arrived in the neighborhood the Indians abandoned their assaults against the Fort. Deponent is unable to state the dates of any of the excursions made or the points directed as it was a frontier country except those already named, yet he was called out several times in _____ or scouting parties some short time previous to the end of deponants service of two years Cap't. Keller with a soldier named Armstrong went to the boat landing. Half mile or about below the Fort discovered some Indian sign step into a boat & intending to pass across the river to make further e_ umination (?)

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when they were both shot by the Indians. Cap't Keller through the upper lip just under the nose the bullet falling into the back of his neck lodged. Armstrong was wounded in the right shoulder. The soldier from the fort hearing the gun ran down & carried them to the Fort. the Indians had fled. they both recovered from their wounds but Capt. Keller determined to return home as his voice & articulation was much disordered and endeavored to prevail on deponent at the end of his term of service aforesaid to remain & go with him as he should necessarily have to remain some longer to make preparations on quitting the services: but deponent being anxious to return objected to waiting was discharged at the falls of Ohio by Col. Montgomery and returned home to his County where he enlisted. Capt Keller soon after states in Company with Armstrong who was wounded with him previously and on Cumberland Mountain were both murdered by the Indians as supposed. robbd & strippd. of their clothes.

Deponant some short time after returning home removed to Rockingham County in Virginia the adjoining County where he resided until seventeen hundred & ninety three (?) when he removed to the State of Georgia and County of Wilkes in the neighborhood where he now resides & where he has resided ever

since.

Deponant swears that he faithfully served his country as before stated two years that he is unable to prove the same by documentary testimonies so far as he knows nor has he the discharge given him...it long since having been destroyed or lost but will be enabled by Andrew Wolf a Revolutionary Soldier who resided near him during the Revolution. He knew him well before & after the services rendered and the absence of deponent whilst in service also by Christopher Poss who resided in the adjoining County was acquainted with deponent about the time and his belief and knowledge of the services rendered also by the Rev. John H. Walker, Etheldred

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Ross and John Guice, inhabitants of Lincoln County who will state their knowledge of deponent for many years the character the standing as will as deponent claims as a Revolutionary Soldier.

Deponant further swears that he was born in Pennsylvania the County he does not now recollect as he left there a child. deponents father kept no record of the childrens ages and he is only from the statement of his relations enabled to say how old he is and that not to a day. His father died whilst he was young.

Deponant resides as stated before in Wilkes and has been induced to apply in Lincoln County on account of the distance being six miles and to have attended Washington Wilkes County upward of twelve miles. the friend who has undertaken my business is an old friend & works grates (?). which is another movement to the who is infirm & badly calculated to get out.

Deponant futher swears his name is on no Pension Roll of any agency of any state and he hereby relinquishes all but this

his
John X Shank Sr
mark

Sworn to in Open Court
Thur(?) 27 October 1834
Garrett Andrews
J.S.C.I.C

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Department of the Interior
Bureau of Pensions
Washington, D.C. Jan. 16, 1923

Record Division
Revolutionary War Records Section
(cannot read initials)
S.31961

In reply to your request of _____, received _____
for a statement of the military history of John Shank, Sr.
a soldier of the REVOLUTIONARY WAR, you will find below the desired
information as contained in his (~~or his widow's~~) application for pen-
sion on file in the Bureau.

Dates of Enlistment or Appointment: Nov. 1779
Length of Service: 2 yrs.
Rank: Private
Officers Under Whom Service was rendered:
Captain: Abraham Keller
Colonel: Montgomery
State: Va.

Battles engaged in: no battles but many skirmishes with Indians
Residence of soldier at enlistment: Dunmore Co. (afterwards Shenandoah Co.) Va.
Date of application of Pension: Oct. 27, 1834. His cl was al.
Residence at date of application: Wilkes Co, Georgia
Age at date of application: Born in July 1761 in Penn.
Remarks: He moved to Georgia in 1790. It is not stated that
he ever married.

(Capt. Abraham Keller was a distant relative of soldiers'. Date of death not on AB.)

Respectfully,
Commissioner

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State of Georgia
Wilkes County
Personally came before me
Gideon Cooper a Justice of the
Peace in the & for said County. Andrew
Wolf of the same county who being duly sworn acc-
ording to Law deposeth and saith that he is personally
acquainted with John Shank Senior an applicant for a
pension under the act of congress of the 7th of June 1832.
and who also resides in Wilkes County & said State for the
space of forty years and upwards past. That the deponent was

residing in the State of Virginia in the county of Shenandoah when he first became acquainted or saw the said John Shank and that deponent and said John resided within a few miles of each other in the said county and state _____ aforesaid at that time. that said John Shank entered the service of his country at that time he was not intimately acquainted with him, nor did he see him when he started into the service of his country nor can deponent state the exact date but believes the time set forth by said John to be correct towit (1779).

Deponant further declares that the absence of the said John Shank, of his entering the service was notorious in the neighborhood & well remembered by the deponent and that after the return of the said John worked often together and that from that from that time to this deponent and said John have been well acquainted.

Deponant further swears that the said John Shank has uniformly born the character and now does of a correct and honest man and of his service to his country universally believed and had the said John Shank failed in serving his country it would have been known, yet yet never was doubted by his acquaintances & friends.

his
Andrew X Wolfe
mark

Sworn to & subscribed before
me this 18th day of September 1834
Gideon Cooper, J.P.

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Georgia
Wilkes County
Before me Gideon Cooper a Justice
of the Peace in & for said County personally appeared Christopher Poss who being
duly sworn according to Law deposeth and saith that he
has been well acquainted with John Shank Senior who resid.
in the said County & State aforesaid about forty five years.
That deponent knew the said John in the State of Virginia
that them said John Shank Senior is now an applicant for
a pension under the act of Congress of the 7th of June 1832. As
he understands, That deponent and the said John resided in
the same county in Virginia. That whilst the said John Shank
was in the service of his Country the deponent was frequently
in the Company of the relations of the said John. Whilst he

was gone, and his absence was spoken of by them, in such terms and so often that deponent believed from the Circumstances as fully in his services as he had see him performing yet he did not see him start nor whilst performing his duty as he went entirely out of the Section where he resides on the duty in the Service of his Country.

Deponant further swears that from The time or soon after the return of the said John Shank to his residence in Virginia until the present time he has been intimately acquainted with him, and never yet heard or doubted of his faithful performance of his duty as a soldier, and that James Harris who was for many years a near neighbor to Deponant has often related the occurrences of the service performed by the said Harris & John Shank together. That he believes he entered the service at the time he set-forth. And served the period as stated, towit, two years, and that he has borne the character of a man of truth & veracity & ___ does and a Revolutionary Soldier. (“that the said” is rubbed out here.)

his
Christopher Poss
Mark

Sworn to & Subscribed before
him by making his mark
the 18th day of September 1834
Gideon Cooper
J.P.

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John Shank Sr
32,583
02 U (?) Va Li__ o___
Admt private
2 year \$80
Peter Lamar Esq (?)
Lincolnton –
Ga: Bal (?)

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Georgia
Lincoln County
Personally appeared in open court
Of said county & State the Rev. John N
Walker, John Grice and Etheldred Ross
All inhabitants of said County State and all being
duly sworn deposeth and saith that they are each

of them well acquainted with John Shank Senior for many years. The Rev. Jno. H. Walker for many years. John Guice for 40 years and Etheldred Ross for twenty six years all of whom say that the said John Shank Senior has supported the character of an Honest man and a man of integrity and still continues to do so, that they believe him of the age he has set forth that he has supported the character of a Revolutionary Soldier in his neighborhood, and in which they fully concur and verily believe he has stated correctly on that subject.

John H. Walker

his

John Guice

mark

Etheldred Ross

Sworn to in open Court

This 27th October 1834

Andrews

J.S.C.N.C.

And the said Court do hereby declare their opinion after the investigation of the matter and after putting the interrogatory prescribed by the War Department that the above named applicant, was a Revolutionary Soldier and served as he stated and the Court further Certify that it appears to him that Andrew Wolfe and Christopher Poss of Wilkes County and Rev. John H. Walker, John Guice & Etheldred Ross of Lincoln County Who have deposed on behalf and signed the proceedings certificates and affidavits are creditable persons, and that their statements are certified to credit – Garrett Andrews J.S.C.N.C

State of Georgia

Lincoln County

I Eli__ Lockhart Clerk of the Inferior Court of the County

Of Lincoln do hereby certify that the foregoing

Contains the original proceedings of the said

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Court in the matter of the application of John Shank Senior for a Pension.

In testimony Whereof I have hereunto set my hand and applied (?) the seal of office

This 29th day of October 1834 –

Eli_1 Lockhart Clk

L.O.C (?)

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State of Georgia
Wilkes County

I Gideon Cooper a Justice
of the Peace in & for said County
do hereby certify that I am and have
been intimately acquainted with Andrew Wolfe and
Christopher Poss upwards of twenty years who have
testified severally (?) to the foregoing affidavits in behalf
of John Shank Senior who I have also been acquaint-
ted with about the same time and have resided in
the same neighborhood with them all that period of
time & more that they all stand fair as men of ver-
acity and truth and of unblemished characters.
I further certify that the said Andrew Wolfe
is a Revolutionary Character pensioned by the Govern-
ment of the United States and has every opportunity
of knowing the said John as set forth in his affid-
avit which I firmly believe.

In witness whereof I have hereto
set my hand this 18th of September 1832
Gideon Cooper, J.P.

State of Georgia
Wilkes County

I John H. Dyson Clerk of
The Superior Court in &
for said County & State do _____ Certify that
Gideon Cooper who has signed the foregoing
certificate & affidavits is a Justice of the
peace in & for said County & State and that
full faith & _ne_i_n is _ought to be given to all his
official acts as such and that he has said
attestations are in due form _____
by the proper officer – and that
said Andrew Wolf & Christopher
Poss are of good moral character standing.

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Testimony whereof I have hereunto set
My hand and the seal of
Said Court at my office
In Washington this
24th day of October

1834 –
John H. Dyson Clk.
SCNC