

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Shaffer¹ S3899

f38VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/30/12

[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 Tennessee Sullivan County: Circuit Court September Term 1832

On this 23rd [?] day of September 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable Edward Scott Judge &c now holding the Circuit Court for said County, John Shaffer a resident citizen of the County of Washington and State of Virginia aged seventy-six years past 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. That at the time he entered the service he was a citizen of Shenandoah County in the State of Virginia; and was drafted sometime in the year before Cornwallis' surrender [October 19, 1781], (the precise time not recollected) and placed under the command of Captain Jacob Benewit and was marched to Woodstock or Miller's town in said County and State, and verbally discharged after being in the service about two months. He was again drafted in the same County and state and during the same year, and marched under Captain Lawrence Snapp to Fredericksburg where he was placed under the command of Captain Joseph Hawkins. He remained at Fredericksburg nearly three months and was discharged, but has lost his discharge. That he was again drafted for three months, while he was still a resident of said County and state, but does not remember the year or month, so precisely as to state it with any degree of correctness. He was, on this occasion, placed under the command of Captain All, whose company joined the Army under the command of General Stephens [Edward Stevens], near Williamsburg and with his Army went to York Town. Before their arrival at Yorktown affiant had become sick, and was so dangerously ill, that in about two weeks after his arrival at Yorktown, he was placed in the Hospital and received a discharge from the physician of the hospital a few days before the surrender of Cornwallis. This discharge is also lost. Affiant was in actual service on this occasion about five months, and the whole period of his services was about ten months. His age is such that his recollection has become so deficient as to render him unable to state the names and dates with that accuracy he would desire.

He was born in Burks County Pennsylvania on the 10th of June 1755, and emigrated to Virginia while a boy, He lived in Shenandoah [County] until after peace was made and then moved to Wythe [County], where he lived about twenty years, & then came to Washington County Virginia, within one mile of Sullivan County Tennessee where he has resided ever since. His reason for making this declaration in Sullivan County is that he is acquainted here about that Blountville is 13 miles nearer to him than Abingdon in Virginia. Affiant has a record of his age at home, but did not know that any inquiry would be made concerning it.

¹ See N. A. Acc. No. 874 No. 050 161 Not Half Pay John Shaffer

He has no documentary evidence by which to establish the truth of his claim and knows of no person whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his service. He declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state to his knowledge.

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

S/ Johannes Shaffer



[Peter Rader and John F Johnson gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Adam Miller of McMinn County Tennessee made oath that he was acquainted with John Shaver [sic] after the Revolutionary War, and while he lived in Shenandoah County Virginia: that he was then and there reputed and believed to have been a soldier of the revolution: that he was also acquainted with him after he removed to Washington County Virginia, and lived in his neighborhood there for many years: that he has known him altogether for about 45 years: and believes him to be a man of veracity: that he was reputed and believed while he lived in his neighborhood in Washington County, to have been a soldier of the Revolution & that he concurred in that opinion.

Sworn to & subscribed in open Court this 25th September 1832

S/ W. Anderson, Clerk

S/ Adam Miller



State of Tennessee Sullivan County: This day personally came before me George Burkhart a Justice of the Peace for said County, John Shaffer, and made oath – That after performing the 1st tour of duty mentioned in his original declaration, he was placed as their stated under the command of Captain Hawkins with whom he served 2 months and a half. Affiant believes he served under Captain Hawkins nearly 3 months, but he can't positively state that he was out 2 months and a half. He was drafted, & served as a common Soldier in the neighborhood of Fredericksburg and at that place. The Troops during that time were marched over the sections of Country adjacent to Fredericksburg, and the object in continuing there was to intercept the passage of the British, who it was expected would come up the River.

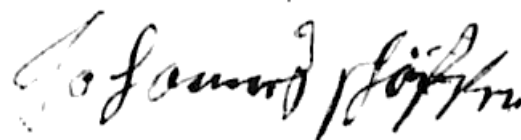
On the 3rd tour mentioned in his declaration this affiant actually served 5 months. He was drafted for but 3, but served too months longer than he was bound to do.

Affiant was acquainted with all the officers named in his declaration. He is willing to take for his services whatever allowance the country may give him.

Sworn to & subscribed before made this 20th day of May 1833

S/ George Burkhart, JP

S/ Johannes Saffer



[Was pensioned at the rate of \$31.33 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 9 months and 15 days in the Virginia militia.]