

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Andrew Sherburne S42275
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

Navy NH

Andrew Sherburne of Arundel in the county of York and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, clerk, upon oath makes the following declaration.

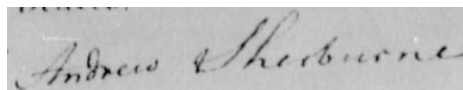
That the said Andrew Sherburne some time in the month of April, in the year of our Lord 1779 entered the continental service on board the continental sloop of war Ranger mounting eighteen guns, then laying in Portsmouth harbour in the state of Newhampshire, commanded by Thomas Simpson Esq'r. That the declarant continued and faithfully served as one of the said ship's crew until the last of May 1780 [sic: 12 May 1780], when the said ship together with the frigate Providence, and ship Queen of France of 20 guns were all captured in Charleston harbour in South Carolina, where they had for some time been blockaded by a vastly superiour British fleet. After several weeks detention, in which time the declarant had the small pox, he went in a cartel to Newport in Rhode Island, and landed in a very poor state of health, having had no medical assistance. From thence the declarant travelled home to Portsmouth, a poor sick beggar.

That the declarant never received any written discharge.

That the aforesaid imprisonment and sickness, together with two subsequent imprisonments which the declarant suffered, one in Great Britain, and the other on board the Old Jersey in New York harbour, from which he escaped at the close of the revolutionary war, has so impaired his constitution, that the declarant has been a valetudinarian since the close of said war.

That the declarant is in the fifty third year of his age, infirm, and from his reduced circumstances in life, is now in great need of assistance from his country for support. And he relinquishes his claim to every pension heretofore allowed him by the laws of the United States.

[14 April 1818]



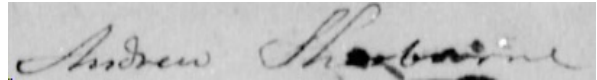
[Letters in the file indicate that Sherburne made the following application after not hearing anything about the first one.]

I Andrew Sherburne of Arundel in the county of York and Commonwealth of Massachusetts Clerk, do testify and say that I am a native citizen of the United States resident therein. That sometime in the month of April 1779 being then a lad, I entered the United States service on the continental establishment on board the Continental Ship of war Ranger, mounting 18 carriage guns, then laying in Portsmouth harbour in Newhampshire commanded by Thomas Simpson Esq'r. That shortly after I entered on board said ship she sailed and joining in company with the frigate Providence and ship Queen of France of 20 guns proceeded on a cruise in quest of the British Jamaca [sic: Jamaica] fleet, and on the banks of Newfoundland fell in with, and captured the sail of the said fleet and then returned to Boston: Several of our prizes having been recaptured – from Boston the said ship Ranger returned to Portsmouth discharged part of her crew and shipped others and immediately proceeded to Nantuckett rode [sic: Nantucket Road], rejoined her old consort and proceeded on a second cruise on the coaste of the southern states and went into Charlston harbour S.C. and after obtaining some fresh provisions water &c went cruising on the coast of Florida took several small transports of but little consequence, and were chased and driven into Charlston harbour by a vastly superior British fleet which for many weeks blocaded the harbour; in which interval the British army pressed on, and beseaged the town in every part by land. While in this town, the Ranger drawing the last water [probably “least water” i.e. best able to sail in shallow water] of any of the ship, was sent on several expeditions against batteries which, the British had erected on James's Island and on the margin of the rivers When the crewes of said ships could be no longer serviceable on board, a large propotion of the men were taken out to man the forts. After sustaining a

hard siege in all the month of may 1780 and our provisions being entirely expended, the town and shipping by capitulation were surrendered to the British abot the last of May 1780 [sic: 12 May 1780]. I have therefore served on board the aforesaid ship Ranger in the service of the United States more than nine months in continuation viz. from April 1779 until the last of May 1780 and never was formally discharged from said ship. While a prisoner in Charlston, I had the small pox and having had no medical assistance, the foundation of ill health was here laid from which I have never fully recovered

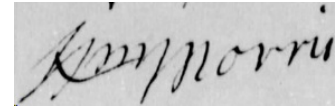
The circumstance of the ship having changed a considerable part of her crew and there being but few living, I am not able to say whether any one now surviving belonged to the said Ship all the time that I did. In the winter of 1788 I traveled to the city of New York and settled for my wages with Col. Benj'n. Walker [Benjamin Walker] and received a final settlement so called of about 73 Dollars which at that time was not worth ten dollars. I am now 53 years of age in poor health and in reduced circumstances, have no real estate and am much dependent on my friends for a living and absolutely need the assistance of my country for support.

Portland July 7th 1818



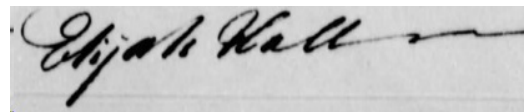
I William Morris [pension application S37261] of South Berwick in the County of York and Commonwealth of Massachusetts of lawful age certify and say That I served on board the United ship call'd the Ranger as Lieutenant commanding the marines in the revolutionary war from August A.D 1778 to May 12th A.D 1780 and I well remember that Andrew Sherburne lately a resident in Arundel in the County of York aforesaid Clerk, entered on board said ship and marines about the last of April A.D 1779 and continued to do his duty on board said Ship until she was captured at the siege of Charleston in May 1780 –

[29 Aug 1818]



I Elijah Hall of Portsmouth in the State of New Hampshire Esq'r. testify and say, that Andrew Sherburne late of Arundel in the District of Maine Clerk, who, as I understand is an applicant for a pension as having served the United States in the revolutionary war, whom I well know, entered the U.S. Ship of War Ranger, some time previous to June 1779, and continued to serve in said Ship until she was captured at Charleston South Carolina, in May 1780, which I well know having been Lieutenant of said Ship, & served as such, during that whole period.

[29 Aug 1818]



State of Ohio } Ss.
Brown County }

On this fourth day of August 1820, Personally appeared in open court being a court of Record for the said state and county of Brown, by possising the power of fine and imprisonment, Andrew Sherburne, Clerk, aged fifty four years on the 30th day of September last, resident in Bird Town-Ship in Brown county in said State. Who, being first duly sworn, according to law, doth, on his oath, declare that he served in the revolutionary as followes Vizt.

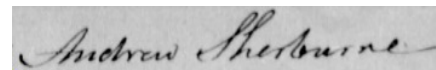
“That I the said Andrew Sherburne, sometime in the month of April 1779 did enter, or ship on bord the United States Ship of war *Ranger* mounting Eighteen six pounders, commanded by Thomas Simpson Esq'r. then lying in Portsmouth harbour in the state of New Hampshire. That shortly after the said ship put to sea, and in company with the *Providence* frigate and *Queen of France* of 20 guns, went in persute of the British Jemaca fleet with which we fell in on the banks of Newfoundland. And having captured ten sail of said fleet, made our best way to Boston where we arrived with most of our prizes the *Ranger* soon returned to Portsmouth, discharged part of her crew and shiped others, and after some

trifling repairs rejoined her old consorts in Nantuckett Road, together with the *Boston* frigate and all together put to sea and went crusing on the southern coast, and once or more put in to Chalestown harbour S.C. At length we ware all driven in to said harbour, by a vastly superior British fleet, and there blocaded untill the city of Charlestown was besieged by a division of the british army here we endured the siege untill the City and naval force surrendered to the british sometime in May 1780. I was therefore one of the said ship Ranger's crew, and continued to do my duty on board the said ship, from April 1779, to May 1780, nor was I ever formally discharged from the said ship, or service

I being at that time but a lad in my fifteenth year was a waiter to an officer [Pierce Powers, pension application W24264]. While a prisoner in Charlestown I had the small pox and having no medical assistance was left in a poor state of health. The Officers being paroled I was so fortunate as to get a passage with Mr. Powers my master to Rhode Island, from thence with much difficulty I traveled home to Portsmouth, a poor, sick, beger.

The date of my original declaration was April the fourteenth One Thousand eight hundred and eighteen. My Certificate is No. 9466.

And I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War" passed on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property or securities contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed.



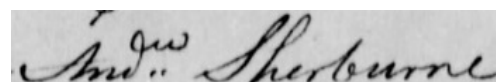
In compliance with the requisitions of government, and of the War Department, Andrew Sherburne the subscriber presents the following schedule of his property, having no real estate, or habitation of any description of my own. But at present residing in an ordinary Cabbin, in said Bird Town Ship, belonging to Mr. Adam McPherson, of whom I rent a few acres of pasture and between eight or nine acres of corn ground on which I have corn now growing; one third part of which, when grown, is to go to the said McPherson for rent.

I have in my possession one horse for which I have obligated myself to pay eighty Dollars on the 15th of September next; but have only forty Dollars of the last payment of my pension which I have deposited in the hands of a trusty friend to pay this debt with, having been under the necesety of taking the remainder to procure a plough.

The said hores (being lame) is now estimated at \$60.00 Saddle, bridle, port baggs &c \$10.50 – One Plough \$7.00 – a Cow & calf \$14, – 2 hogs \$7. – 2 1/2 yards if domestick petent Cord, \$30.00 – 9 Silver Teaspoons, \$7.00 – 1 Looking Glass, \$3.00 sundries of Glass ware, \$2.25. Ditto of Crocery ditto \$1.75 – Pewter & tin ditto, \$3.60 – Earthen \$1.00.

Castings, Tea Kettle, and frying pan, \$6.00. Shovel & tongs \$2.50. Steelyard, \$1.00 – Knives & forks, \$2.00 common spoons, \$1.00 One Spining wheel \$3.25. One cradle \$1.00 2 Trunks, \$4.00 – One traveling ditto, \$2.00 – One pine chest, \$2.00 Three Boxes, \$1.50 One pine Table, \$1.00 – 4 common kitchen chaires, \$2.00. One Wash tubb, \$1.25 – One Barrel .75 – One pail .25 One buckett .25 One hoe .75 – 2 Axes \$4.00

A two horse waggon hames left at Cincinatia for sale, but being of eastern construction was unsaleable and which I have directed to be sent to Maysville, but do not know whether it will ever come to my hands. It should be worth say \$20.00 I have also a Silver watch worth \$10.00



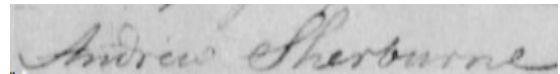
With respect to my family, it is five in number, My self, my wife, and three sons. I was fifty four years of age on the 30th of Sept'r. last past. The imprisonment and sickness alluded to in my declaration, together with two subsequent imprisonments, in each of which, I endured a long, and distressing fit of sickness – one in Mill prison in great Briton, and the other on board the *Old Jersey prison Ship* in N Y harbour, and many other hardships endured in the revolution, such as compulsion to serve on board a british man of war, shipwreck starvation &c has so wrecked my constitution, that I have been able to perform but little manual labour since. I have been under the necssety of wareing a swathe, or a lased stocking, on on my left leg, for near twenty years past, and since I came into this state (as it is not two years since I came from the District of Maine) I have had much to endure from an inflammation of the eyes (a disease common to emigrants) that it has almost disqualified me for teaching school, a business by which I have heretofore obtained a considerable part of my suport. I am frequently indisposed with an astmatick complaint and am no stranger to the rhumatism.

Betsy Sherburne, my wife, is thirty five years of age of a delicate constitution, and a considerable part of the time unable to take care of the family. John Elliot Sherburne my only son by my first marriage, is almost twenty five years of age is of a very weekly constitution frequently raises blood from his lungs never has been able to support himself has always lived with me and probably will as long as we both live

Andrew my second son was three years old on the first day of the present month

Saml. Wm. Willshire my youngest son is thirteen and a half months old.

The foregoing is respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrew Sherburne". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat slanted to the right.

NOTES:

All the above applications appear to be in Sherburne's handwriting. The file also includes letters by Sherburne.

On 9 March 1824 Sherburne applied to have his pension transferred from Ohio to New York, having moved to Oneida County.

For further details of Sherburne's life and service see his *Memoirs of Andrew Sherburne: A Pensioner of the Navy of the Revolution* published in 1831 when he was living in Augusta, Oneida County NY.