

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Joseph Shelton S7481

f18VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

2/4/12

[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 Virginia Goochland County: SS

On this 18th day of April 1833 personally appeared in open court before the Circuit Superior Court of Law and Chancery for the said County now sitting, Joseph Shelton a resident of the County aforesaid aged Seventy-two 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 act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That in the spring of the year 1779 or '80, he was drafted from the militia of the County of Louisa and State of Virginia and served a tour of two months and a half in the company of infantry from that County under Captain Byars [John Byars], at the Albemarle Barracks, as a private – Was employed in guarding the prisoners of War captured at Saratoga, – recollects distinctly the skill of the Hessian prisoners in gardening, and no event of interest – Colonel Fontaine commanded – There were state troops, and some militia at the barracks. That in the Christmas of 1780-81 it was reported that the British had invaded Virginia, and he with most of the young men of the country volunteered and became a private in Captain Phillips company of militia from Louisa County – marched to Richmond but did not reach that place till the enemy under Arnold [Benedict Arnold] had left it [indecipherable word] at Richmond for some days, till the Regiment was organized and the men were furnished with arms. M. Giles commanded the Regiment and DeCloman [sic: Christian Charles de Klauman] was Major – marched down the North side of the River and crossed at Burwell's ferry – marched thence to Cabin Point and there met with other militia following the enemy thence down the River as low as the Bay Church and after remaining there some days, returned to Petersburg and was there discharged, and in this tour he served one and a half months – when the troops formed the junction General Harrison took the command – he thinks there was some regular troops in the expedition, but he does not recollect the particulars – Was in no battle, and remembers no other event of note except hearing the enemy firing cannon on one occasion. That when Cornwallis invaded the state, he became a member of a volunteer troop of cavalry raised in the same County, and was sergeant of the company. Robert Barret was Captain and Anderson Thompson Lieutenant marched with his company to Richmond and they tendered their services to General Lafayette then there with the Army; and this was in the last of April or first of May – they were accepted and joined the Army Colonel William O Callis then under General Nelson came to meet them, and attended to their equipment and accommodation – the next day but one, the troop was dispatched over the River to Petersburg to get information of the enemy – found upon getting there that the enemy had

marched and sent back two troopers with the news, one of whom Barns [? Barnet?]¹ went over to the enemy – narrowly escaped being cut off and saw the marks of the route of a party, under Colonel Goode at Osborne's waited at Petersburg for orders – were directed to rejoin the Army and were compelled to cross James River in the County of Goochland, by the enemy having gotten between them and the Army – joined the Army at [indecipherable word or words] in Hanover – served then as scouts and patrollers with the Army in the march through several counties to the Rapidan where they formed a junction with General Wayne, thence across the country towards the point of Fork in Fluvanna [County], and there was present at the opening of the road in Louisa called the Marquis' road having interposed [indecipherable word] in the enemy and the stores of which they strove to get possession, the Army turned down the country again, and followed the British marched through Louisa under General Muhlenberg who commanded the rear guard and at the short Camp he was detailed with a file of man to carry dispatches to the Marquis then at Dandridge in Hanover – road in the night to Headquarters, handed the dispatches and returned with an answer which was handed to him by the Marquis in person – marched thence to Bottom's Bridge on the Chickahominy was frequently out in scouting and foraging parties and was twice chased by the enemies horse, in the neighborhood of Holt's Forge – on one occasion heard the firing and expected a battle – from thence marched into the neighborhood of York, where the enemy retired to the place, but from his being always on scouting duty, he did not see the main Army, or the commander in chief – and that about the time of the beginning of the siege he was discharged – that the duty of his Corps was very hard, being constantly in service, in getting information, patrolling or foraging – that he saw the regular troops under the Marquis, and many militia, that he was several times in conversation with General Lafayette, and saw all General Wayne & Muhlenberg and Colonel [what appears to be to names were marked out] and many other officers – that he was in no battle and that in this tour he served at least 4 months in his said capacity of sergeant and during the whole time furnished his own horse – that he does not recollect ever having a discharge and that he has no documentary evidence – that he can prove some part of his service by Hardin Duke and that he can procure no witness to the rest.

He answers to Question 1st in the County of Louisa State of Virginia 16 March 1761.

To Question 2nd I have seen a family register but have no record of my age

To Question 3rd in Louisa County Virginia when called into service but now in the County of Goochland

To Question 4th 1st drafted afterwards volunteered twice

To Question 5th The declaration states the full answer to this question

To Question 6th, I never received any written discharge

To Question 7th Reverend Louis Chaudoin, William Miller

He hereby relinquishes all claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state or territory.

Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Joseph Shelton



[Lewis Chaudoin, a clergyman, and William Miller gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of Virginia in Louisa County: SS

Best no that on this 11th day of May 1833 before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for the said County personally appeared Hardin Duke² a resident of the County aforesaid and a credible person and being duly sworn on his oath saith that being himself enlisted by the state of Virginia to serve at the Albemarle Barracks he continued at that place during the whole continuance of service – that sometime during that period he recollects that Joseph Shelton then of Louisa and now of Goochland County came to that place as a militia man that he does not recollect the officer under whom said Shelton served nor the length of time, he continued in service that he knows that the militia served for 2 months generally and he supposes that said Shelton served that time.

S/ Harden Duke

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Harden Duke". The letters are dark and fluid, with a distinct loop at the end of the word "Duke".

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$43.33 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private & sergeant of cavalry in the Virginia militia; 4 months for service as a private in the infantry and 4 months as sergeant in the cavalry.]

² [Harden \(Hardin\) Duke S8357](#)