

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Shands S7492

f26VA

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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Virginia to wit

This 6th day of December in the year 1832 William Shands Sr aged seventy-five years appeared in open Court before the Justices of the County Court of Sussex being a Court of record who being duly sworn made the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of an act of Congress passed the 7th day of June 1832.

He states that he entered the service of the United States as a volunteer under Captain George Rives [George Reeves?] who commanded a company of men called minute men, Nathaniel Dunn was Lieutenant & William Dunn Ensign in the said Company. The company stayed some time at Sussex Courthouse and was then ordered to York Town where Colonel Carrington at that time commanded. He was in service two months & then discharged. The second time he went into service he was drafted and went in Captain Lawrence Smith's Company Benjamin Roberts was Lieutenant & Samuel Jones Ensign. He was orderly Sergeant of the company. The Regiment was commanded by Colonel David Mason. The company was marched to Williamsburg and from thence to York Town where General Nelson he thinks then commanded. He thinks he was in service two months. He was discharged at York Town. The third time he was ordered into service he joined the Army just below Petersburg and was marched to that place where there was an attack [April 25, 1781] made on the American forces commanded by General Muhlenberg by the British forces under General Philips [William Phillips]. He then marched with the Army through Chesterfield County and crossed James River at Tuckahoe and marched from thence to Richmond where the division of the Army he was in was joined by the forces under the command of General Lafayette who received the forces and took the command of the Troops. The Army marched from Richmond to Bottom's Bridge. He here employed a substitute who was received by the officers in his place and he was discharged. He thinks he was in service five weeks and his substitute he calculates served the balance of the tour. The tours then being about six weeks or two months.

He was called into service a fourth time and went into service in Captain Thomas Newsum's Company. The company marched to Broadwater Bridge in Isle of Wight [County] and from thence to Smithfield. The Regiment was in he thinks was commanded by Colonel Lawson. He was in service one month & was discharged at Smithfield.

The last time he was in service he volunteered under Captain Thomas Edmunds of Sussex who commanded a Troop of Cavalry. He went with a part of the Company to the County of Brunswick to press horses for the use of the Army and carried the horses to Swans Point on James River where he was discharged by Colonel Lawrence Smith a few days before the surrender [October 19, 1781] of the British Army to General Washington. He declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any state or territory in the United States and that he hereby

relinquishes all claim to a pension or annuity except the one for which he is now an applicant.

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

1<sup>st</sup> Where and in what year were you born?

Answer I was born in Sussex County in Virginia in the year 1757

2<sup>nd</sup> Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Answer. I have at my residence

3<sup>rd</sup> Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Answer. I was living in Sussex County Virginia

4<sup>th</sup> How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Answer. I first volunteered under Captain George Rives and was afterwards drafted several times and the last time I volunteered under Captain Thomas Edmunds

5<sup>th</sup> State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Ans.

6<sup>th</sup> Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Ans. I never received a written discharge that I recollect. It was not customary to give written discharges to the militia of that species of troops being very frequently called into service for short periods I served every tour war which I was required to serve and 2 others as a volunteer as I have before stated.

Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ William Shands, Sr.



[Thomas B Creath, a Minister of the Gospel, gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Sussex County to wit

Personally appeared before the undersigned a Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid William Shands Sr who being duly sworn deposed & saith that by reason of old age, and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades, for five months as a private – for two months as first Sergeant – and for such service I claim a pension. Given under my hand this 19th day of February 1833

S/ Wm Parham, JP

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$26.66 commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private and Sergeant in the Virginia militia for 7 months.]