

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Paul Shaver S7504

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia }

Lewis County } SS.

On this 12th day of October 1833 personally appeared before me James M. Camp a Justice of the Peace in and for Lewis in the said State of Virginia Paul Shaver a resident of Lewis County in the said State of Virginia aged 74 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 of the 7th of June 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. That in the year 1776 in April of that year he was ordered out as an Indian Spie by Col. Warrick [probably Warwick] under Captain Maxwell. He spied in Randolph County (now) [then in district of West Augusta or Monongalia County] from April 1776 till November 1776, himself and John Elliott detected the Indians at three different times during that Summer which and each time they retreated without making any attack but once stole some horses and escaped with them - two of the horses belonged to Runyan. He was discharged in Nov'r. 1776, having served more than six months in service as an Indian Spie (a private) in Captain Maxwell's company of Indian Spies. Then in the Spring of 1777 in April of that year he volunteered as a private in a company of Va. Militia most of whom were drafted but declarant volunteered to make up a company under Captain Stuart for the defence of the Western Waters. When Captain Stuart's company was raised they were marched from what is now Randolph County to West's Fort in what is now Lewis County [on Hackers Creek]. There were ascertained a number of Indians in the neighborhood or distant about 30 miles on Salt Lick [sic: Saltlick Creek], some of whom in May 1777 appeared in the neighborhood of Wests Fort and killed and scalped one woman Mrs. Freeman. A few of Captain Stuart's men in pursuit came in sight wounded one Indian who got into thick woods with his fellows and prevented further pursuit. Captain Stuart with his company marched to Salt Lick Creek, the Indians had dispersed, Capt. Stuart & company returned to Wests Fort, thence to Lowther's Fort, from that place now Harrison County six miles from where Clarksburg now stands Captain Stewart detached declarant and ten others as Indian Spies to spie in what is now Lewis and Harrison till November and the returned to Westfalls Fort in Randolph [¼ mi S of present Beverly] to which place he had marched with his other men. He spied in said tract of Country till some time in Nov'r. 1777. Then went to Westfalls Fort, from thence to Warrick's Fort [Fort Warwick] where he joined his Captain & company and was in November 1777 discharged having served more than six months this tour as a private militia man and Indian Spie. He then in 1778 in the Spring with several others migrated to what is now Kentucky settled near where Louisville now stands. He was in July 1778 drafted to go a tour of three months against the Indians in Illinois County as it was then called. was marched under Captain Andrew Kincaid. The whole under Col. G. R. Clarke [sic: George Rogers Clark], did not succeed in bringing the Indians to a fight. Returned in the Fall of 1778 to Lewisville having served out his draft of three months - was discharged. Then some time in the Winter of 1778 and 1779 [sic] Col. Clarke conceived the notion of again marching against the Indians in the Illinois County as we then called it, declarant volunteered to go a tour of six months under Captain Christy. they started he thinks February or March 1779 from Louisville march to a place called Kaskaskias [sic: Kaskaskia; departed May 1778, arrived 4 Jul] there they completely surprized the garrison, he thinks took the British General or Govunor [P. F. Rastel de Rocheblave] prisoner. Here the declarant was stationed with other militia troops a short time whilst General Clarke prepared and sent some mounted men on horses taken at Kaskaskias high up the County and took as he then heard three other Indian Towns. Col. Clarke understood by some means that a large force was concentrating, he stationed his militia and others some at Kaskaskias and other towns. He soon drew in his troops to Kaskaskias and appealed to all to voluteer longer, declarant with the other troops did so. He was placed under his old Captain A. Kincaid stationed at Kaskaskias as a private militia man agreed to stay till the war settled in that quarter. Col. Clarke with some men proceded in February (1780 [sic: 1779]) as

affiant thinks up the Wabash river to Fort Vincent or Vincennes. He took that Fort which was defended by Col. Hamilton & Indians & British [Fort Sackville, 25 Feb 1779]. He declarant continued in that Illinois County as a volunteer militia (a private) under Captain Kincaid the Summer of 1780 till Nov'r. of that year when he with other militia troops were marched to Louisville and discharged in Nov'r. 1780. In this campaign he was more than eighteen months in service from Feby. or March 1777 till Nov'r. 1780 [sic: more likely May 1778 - Nov 1779]. He rec'd. a wound in battle at a place called Andersontown which had healed up (in his right leg) now again broke out and so continues to this day. He served more than two years and a half in the revolutionary war. He lives more than 30 miles from Lewis County Court House is too infirm to attend Court, has no clergyman residing near him. He knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services as a soldier of the revolution. He hereby relinquishes every 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. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

(signed) Paul hisXmark Shaver

The seven several interrogatories prescribed by the War Department were propounded to declarant to which he answered as follows Viz

1st. That he was born in what is now Pendleton County Va. in the year 1759.

2. That he has no record of his age.

3^d. That he was living in what is now Randolph County Va. that he resided in Kentucky from 1778 (except when in Illinois) till 1784 again returned to Va. Harrison County, lived there till 1816 when it became Lewis County in that part where he resided on the waters of Little Kenhawa [sic: Little Kanawha] where he now resides.

4th. That he was first ordered out as an Indian Spie in 1776, in 1777 voluteered, in 1778 drafted, in 1779 voluteered and continued as such till Nov'r. 1780, in all more than two years and nine months.

5th. He knew Col. afterwards General Geo. R. Clark, Colo. [Joseph] Crockett, Duvall, Lowther, Warrick. He saw continental and State troops regular and militia, he cannot remember the names or Nos. of regiments.

6th. He received written discharges from capt. Maxwell and Stuart, he has lost them, his other discharges were verbal.

7th. He is known in his neighborhood to David. S. Cox and Leaven Nicholas [Leaven Nichols or Nicholes, pension application S9440], they can testify to his character for veracity and their belief of his revolutionary services as a soldier of the Revolution. There are no Clergyman living ear him. He lives more than 30 miles from the Court House.

Paul hisXmark Shaver

We Leaven Nichols and David S. Cox residing in Lewis County Virginia hereby certify that we are well acquainted with Paul Shaver who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration that we believe him to be 74 years of age, that he is reputed and believed in the neighborhood where he resided to have been a soldier of the Revolution and we concur in that opinion.

Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

(signed) David S. Cox

Leaven hisXmark Nichols

Lewis County

Pauld Shaver age 74. Serv'd. 2 yrs.

John Mitchel [pension application S5761] a Magistrate of Lewis County aged 71. years - Says that after he was married which was in 1782 and after his wife had two or three children he saw Pauld Shaver for the first time. he Shaver was then a boy 16 or 17 yrs old running away from his master who lived in Pennsylvania. Has known Shaver ever since.

Henry Flisher aged 58 yrs. has known Shaver a long time. Shaver is not older than himself.

Respectfully Reported W. G Singleton Special Agent Jany 1834

NOTE: Singleton investigated a large number of fraudulent pension applications from Lewis and Harrison counties. See the pension application of David W. Sleeth (S6111) for details. A typed summary in Shaver's file states that he was dropped from the pension list in 1835 because he was too young to have served. Shaver was not found in the federal census of Lewis County in 1830 or 1840, but in Kanawha County in 1830 a Paul Shaver was 60 - 70, and in 1840 Paul

Shavers was 80 - 90. Leaven Nichols (Nicholas, Nicholes; pension application S9440) was also taken from Kanawha County to file his claim in Lewis County.