

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

South Carolina Audited Accounts¹ relating to James Shanks SC3078
Audited Account No. 6890

pp19

Transcribed by Will Graves

5/25/21

[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. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' or 'undeciphered' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. 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 skills fail 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 material errors or omissions to my attention. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

[p 2]

[No.] 36

No. 42

[Book] S

Mr. James Shanks his Account of Duty as Private since the reduction of Charles Town
[Charleston South Carolina fell to the British on May 12, 1780] in the Militia Amounting to
[old South Carolina Currency] £181.0.0

Stg. [Sterling] £25.17.1 ½

Ex^d. W.R. [Examined by W. R. [identity unknown]]

J. M^c. A.G. [approved by] John McCall, Adjutant General]

[p 2]

State South Carolina Dr. [Debtor] to James Shanks

for Duty per Col. Anderson's [Robert Anderson's] Return [not extant]

£181

Stg. £25.17.1 ½

Received full Satisfaction for the above Account in Indent No. 36, S –

Test

Thos. Nicholls

S. Clerk

S/ James Shanks, X his mark

[p 5]

State of South Carolina

Abbeville District}

To the Honorable the members of the Senate and House of
Representatives of the State of South Carolina

The humble petition of James Shanks

Sheweth,

¹ The South Carolina Audited Accounts (AAs) are now available online at <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>. To find the AA for a specific person, click on the [Just take me to the search page](#) link, then enter the person's surname first in the "Full name" box followed by a comma and the person's Christian name. The "SC" file number shown on this transcript has been assigned by the administrator of this website for indexing purposes only and is not an officially recognized file number. The number behind the 'pp' indicates the number of pages in the file and the 'Audited Account No.' is the actual Account Number assigned by the South Carolina Archives.

That your petitioner sometime after the declaration of American Independence, being then quite a boy went into the Militia then under the command of Lieut. James Noble and performed a short tour of duty at a place then called Baskin's Blockhouse, near the old Boundary line, Being discharged from that tour of duty I remained at home sometime, and about the time of the Siege of Charleston [Charleston South Carolina fell to the British on May 12, 1780], I again enrolled myself in a party of Militia, who under the command of Lieut. John McGaw, marched to the Ridge where we joined the Militia under the command of Colonel McCreery [Robert McCreary or McCreery], thence we marched by the way of Granby to McCord's Ferry on the Congaree [River], from thence we marched to Simmons' Ferry the Wateree [River], and then returned by the way of Camden back to Granby and from Granby we guarded the ammunition Waggons back to the residence of General Pickens [Andrew Pickens], after the greater part of the Army under Pickens had dispersed and was again discharged. I then remained at home until sometime in the year 1780, when a small number [of] men favorable to the cause of American Independence associated themselves together, formed a Company and elected John McGaw their Captain, we then marched near Augusta and Joined the Regiment of Militia under the command of Colonel Anderson's [Robert Anderson], when the Regiment marched to Ninety Six and joined the Army under General Green [Nathaniel Greene] after the Siege [May 21-June 19, 1781]² had commenced, we there remained until the siege was raised, when we retreated under the command of General Pickens and after traversing the country back and forward for some time, near the Ridge we fell in with the rear of the Army under Colonel Kruger [John Harris Kruger], where we took several prisoners and a great number of Cattle that were driving off by the British: The next day the whole of the Militia under the command of General Pickens was discharged, and Captain McGaw's company returned home. Some few months after we were again called out, and performed a short tour of duty under Colonel Anderson in pursuit of small parties of the Enemy who were daily committing depredations on the good citizens of the Country. Some months after I again turned out in an expedition against the Indians and Tories, and under the command of Colonel Anderson, marched to Tugaloo old Town, where we killed some Indians and Tories, and returned home.³ Again we went out against the Indians; commanded by General Pickens and were joined by part of the two regiments from Georgia under the command of Colonel John Cunningham, and on our march buried the bones of a number of our friends and countrymen who had been murdered at Chota, we proceeded on from thence into the Indian country laying their villages and towns waste as we went until our provision[s] failed, We then returned and crossed the Savannah River at the Cherokee Ford, where we were then discharged; we were soon after called out again, and spent some time in the pursuit of Cunningham [the notorious Tory, William Cunningham known as "Bloody Bill" Cunningham] after he had taken Hays Station [Hayes' Station, November 19, 1781].⁴ We were again called out against the Cherokees, our headquarters was near the Cherokee Ford where we were joined by the Colonel Hammond's Regiment⁵ Colonel Farr's [William Farr's] Regiment and Colonel White's [Henry White's] Regiment. We then marched to McGary's in Georgia where we were joined by the Georgia militia and Colonel Jackson [probably Isaac Jackson of the Richmond County GA Militia] and Clark [Elijah Clark], we then marched into the Indian

² https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_ninety_six.html

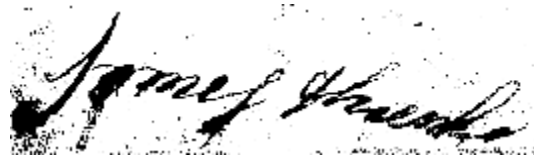
³ MIGHT be a reference to https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_indian_villages.html

⁴ https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_hayes_station.html

⁵ have either the regiment commanded by Colonel LeRoy Hammond or the regiment commanded by his nephew Colonel Samuel Hammond.

country laying it waste as we went and the Indians flying before us, until we came near Long Swamp, where the Indians finding their case desperate, sent in a flag, and a peace was made and a treaty entered into between General Pickens and the Indians which terminated the War.⁶ In short from the time I was 14 years of age until the end of the War which established our Independence, there was no expedition undertaken in this part of the Country, in which I did not have a part, and I think I have been of some service to my country.

Now Gentlemen I have endeavored to state to you some of my services, but have omitted my sufferings which indeed sometimes were great. And now in my old age, I am, from misfortune and ill health, reduced to the necessity of applying to my country for assistance. This I well hoped I never should have been reduced to the necessity of doing, but the strength of my hands have failed me I find myself incapable of gaining a support by my labor as formerly, I have a wife to support equally old and infirm with myself and a son who from sickness has two years been unable to labor. I have no landed property and indeed not much of any kind, and poverty and distress is bearing hard upon me, I would therefore hope that your Honorable body would take your petitioner's case into consideration, and grant him such relief as to you shall seem meet,⁷ and by placing him on the pension list or otherwise, grant him that relief which he conceives his services to his country so justly merit. And your petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James Shanks". The ink is dark and the handwriting is somewhat slanted and fluid.

State of South Carolina Abbeville District } Before me personally appeared George McFarling⁸ and made oath that during the Revolutionary war he was well acquainted with James Shanks, that he done duty with him in several of the expeditions mentioned in his petition, and always believed him a firm friend to his country, and further believes that the facts stated in his petition are true.

Sworn to this 23rd day of November 1825 before me

S/ John Devlin, J Q

S/ George McFarling, X his mark

[p 10]

State of South Carolina Abbeville District }

Before me personally appeared Elias Gibson and being duly Sworn, Saith that he knew and was acquainted with James Shanks during the Revolutionary War, that he was with him at the Siege of Ninety Six, though not in the same Company, that he was with him in 2 expeditions against the British and Tories under the command of General Pickens, that he was with him in the last expedition against the Cherokee Indians, and was present when the final treaty with the Cherokees was concluded by Pickens & Clarke & that was always a good soldier and a true friend to his country

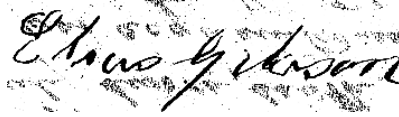
⁶ The veteran appears to be describing what is known as the Last Cherokee Campaign, September 16-October 17, 1782 https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_last_cherokee_campaign.html

⁷ In Samuel Johnson's Dictionary of 1755, the first definition of the word "meet" he gives is "Fit; proper...." Johnson noted that even at that time the word "meet" was rarely so used. It must have become fairly popular in South Carolina in the early 1800's, however, as it appears in many petitions submitted to the SC Legislature.

⁸ [George McFarlin S18119](#)

Sworn to this 20th day
of November 1826
before me
S/ Patrick Gibson, JQ

S/ Elias Gibson



[p 12]

The Committee on pensions to whom was referred the petition of James Shanks praying to be placed on the pension list,

Respectfully report,

That they have had the same under consideration and recommend to this house that the prayer of the petitioner be granted and that the said James Shanks be placed on the pension list. December 1826

S/ John McComb, Chairman

[p 14]

To the Honorable Members of the Legislature of the State of South Carolina
The Petition of Jane Shanks

Respectfully Sheweth,

That she is the Widow of James Shanks late a pensioner of this State – Her late Husband was a Soldier of the Revolution; he died the 5th of December 1828 – and had not nor has any person for him received his annuity for the year 1828; Your Petitioner therefore prays that said annuity for the year 1828 be paid him

Your Petitioner further prays that her circumstances be taken in consideration. She is poor & has to support two J male [sic ?]⁹ Children – Infirm from age & bad health. The Widow of a large family and indigent circumstances, the Widow of a Soldier of the Revolution prays that the pension allowed to her late husband be allowed to her during her life

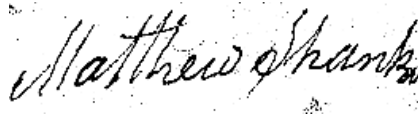
S/ Jane Shanks, X her mark

[p 15]

South Carolina Abbeville District } Personally Came and appeared before me the Subscribing Justice Matthew Shanks, who on Oath Saith James Shanks late a pensioner of this District died the fifth of December 1828 and further Saith that the property James Shanks was the owner of at his death would not be sufficient to pay the debts that he owed at that time. Sworn to this 12th November 1829 before me

S/ Samuel Young, JP

S/ Matthew Shanks



⁹ two males

[p 17]

The Committee on Pensions to whom was referred the Petition of Jane Shanks praying to be placed on the pension list

Respectfully Report

That they have considered the same and recommend that the prayer thereof be granted, and that she be allowed the Sum of Thirty dollars annually.

4 December 1829

S/ Samuel Hope, Chairman

[pp 18-19: Receipt showing the payment annually of \$30 to the widow through June 4, 1834]