

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John Sharp W4336      Frances Sharp      VA  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 24 July 2014.

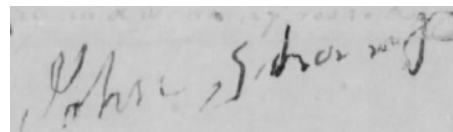
State of Virginia }  
Patrick County } Sect.

On this 15<sup>th</sup> day of November 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the justices of the County Court of Patrick now sitting John Sharp a resident of the County of Patrick and State of Virginia aged between seventy nine and eighty years [sic] who first being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of an act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated—

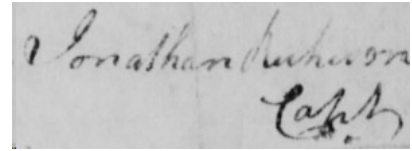
That he volunteered in the County of Bedford and State of Virginia in the company of Capt. James Poteet of said County in the early part of the year 1781 and marched to New London in said County [now in Campbell County] at which place he was compeled to remain several weeks. From New London he marched through the County of Pittsylvania to the place where he thinks Daville [sic: Danville] now is or thereabouts and joined the company of Capt. Jonathan Richardson [sic: Jonathan Richeson] in the Regiment of Colo. Charles Lynch, then across the Dan river to Gen'l. Green's [sic: Nathanael Greene's] head Quarters near Guilford Courthouse in North Carolina. That in Gen'l. Greens head Quarters he became acquainted with Gen'l. Green and with whom he fought the battle of Guilford [Battle of Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781] that in said battle he and his Captain (viz. Capt. Richardson) were about the last to leave the field when Gen'l. Greens army retreated before Lord Cornwallis. That in consequence of the fatigue of the said battle and short of provisions he had a very severe spell of sickness. That after marching some distance into the County of Chatham in North Carolina he was discharged by Capt Richardson (whose discharge is herewith filed marked A) and returned to the County Bedford in the state of Virginia where he then resided. That after remaining at home about two months he again marched with Capt. Poteet and Lieutenant James Callaway to Little York in the State of Virginia. At Little York he joined the Company of Capt. John Trigg and regiment of Colo. [St. George] Tucker. That he was also in the action at Little York [Siege of Yorktown, 28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781] and was well acquainted with Gen'l. Washington and Colo. Washington who command the Light horse [sic: see endnote]. That he saw vessels of our allies the French. That he was near enough to Lord Cornwallis when he surrendered to have touched him with his gun. [sic: see endnote] A few days after the battle of Little York he was again discharged by Capt. John Trigg and returned home. Which discharge is herewith filed marked B. That in all he served a little more than six months in his own proper person. That moreover prior to the time [illegible word] herein mentioned he hired a substitute who served a full Term, but does not recollect how long. That he was born in the County of Chesterfield in Virginia in the year of Braddocks defeat [1755] as he has been told by his parents and removed to Buckingham, from Buckingham to Bedford from whence he always enlisted as a soldier and thence to this County to wit Patrick.

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.

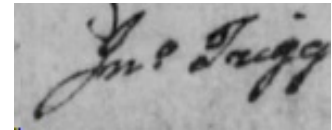


North Carolina State Chatham County 2<sup>d</sup> of april 1781

I Do hereby Surtify that John Sharp has Served a tower of Duty in my Company of Vollentears in Col. Lynches Regement And is Discharged for the Same By me

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jonathan Bushman" with a smaller signature below it.

I do hereby Certify that John Sharp a Soldier in my Comp'y. of Bedford Militia in Colo. Tuckers Ridgm't. is hereby Discharged from his Tower of Duty  
By order of Gen'l. [Robert] Lawson} 20<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1781

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John Trigg".

NOTES:

The Colo. Washington who Sharp claimed to have seen at Yorktown in October 1781 was been Lt. Col. William Washington, commander of the 3rd Reg. of Continental Light Dragoons. William Washington was not at Yorktown, however, having been captured at the Battle of Eutaw Springs SC on the previous September 8. Sharp may have recalled Col. Washington from the Battle of Guilford Courthouse.

It is incredible that Sharp was near the surrender ceremony at Yorktown on 19 October 1781 and did not hear Gen. Charles O'Hara making excuses for Cornwallis's absence, and Washington directing O'Hara to surrender the sword to his second in command, Gen. Benjamin Lincoln.

On 11 March 1841 Frances Sharp, 92, applied for a pension stating that she married John Sharp on 1 Jan 1766, and he died on 29 May 1833. On 30 July 1842 she corrected that year of death to 1834.

On 22 April 1842 Brett Stovall, 76, stated that John and Frances Sharp had five children by 1785. On 23 April 1842 David Ross, 71, stated that Robert Sharp was "some ten or Twelve years old at the date of 1781." The file includes the following statement by Ursly Nolen, said to be "a midwife of great respectability:"

State of Virginia Patrick County towit

This day Mrs Ursly Nolen aged Eighty four years appeared before me Silas Carter a Justice of the peace in and for the County of Patrick and State aforesaid and made Oath that she was and had been well acquainted with John Sharp Dec'd. pensioner and Frances Sharp his Wife from an early period of her life up to the present date, she further saith that she was well acquainted with them before their mariage in the County of Buckingham & State aforesaid She further saith that she is a near Relative to the said Frances Sharp and that they were raised close together. she does not distinctly recollect of heraing the ceremony. but she distinctly recollects that she was in company with her associates when the Old Custoum of using the heater[?] or throwing the same over them after they were gone to Bed. This deponent further saith, that the said John Sharp and Frances came and lived in her house untill after the Birth of their first son Robert Sharp She further saith that she has known them through life as man and wife, She further saith that she fully Believes that they were lawfully married  
sworn to and subscribed before me this 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1842"

On 26 May 1842 Greenville Penn at Penns Store in southeastern Patrick County stated that he "was in the habit of making out John Sharp Sn'r pension papers." At the same time and place Frederick Critz stated that John Sharp was buried at his house.