

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Lewis Shelley W4513                      Rosanna Shelley                      PA  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Pennsylvania } Ss:  
Lancaster County }

On this 9th day of January AD 1843 Personally appeared before me, Emanuel Schaeffer, one of the associate Judges of the court of Common Pleas in and for the county of Lancaster, Rosanna Shelly, a resident of the city of Lancaster in the county and state aforesaid, aged 85 years and upwards, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July 4, 1836.

To the best of declarants recollection my husband Lewis Shelly, joined the Army of the revolution in the year 1777 (shortly after we were married) as Bugleman in Armongs [sic: Charles Armand's] Legion of the Borough of York, he belonged to Captain Stark's [sic: John Sharp] Company and his Major was [George] Shaffner – this Legion was raised in York Borough – they joined the Legion during the revolutionary war – my husband returned to the Borough of York in the year 1783 when he and Leonard Bumgardner [Leonard Baumgartner (Baumgartel) BLWt1305-100] (who joined the Legion at the same time that my husband did) and both belonged to one Company and were discharged together.

She further states that she was married to the said Lewis Shelly on the third day of January AD 1777 and that her husband the aforesaid Lewis Shelly died on the seventh day of July AD 1787 and that she was married to him prior to his leaving the service – we were married in York County by a Justice long since dead.  
Rosanna herXmark Shelly

State of Pennsylvania }                      On the twenty fifth day of February Anno Domini one thousand eight  
York County SS.                      }                      hundred and thirty eight personally appeared before Jacob Gessner a  
Justice of the Peace in & for the Borough of York in said County of York  
Leonard Baumgardner a resident of the said Borough of York who being duly sworn according to law deposed & saith as follows. That he was taken prisoner at the battle of [blank; see endnote] and marched by a guard to Winchester in Virginia where he remained untill he was regularly exchanged & being desirous of remaining in the United States, he enlisted in the service of the United States in Captain Shorbs [sic: Sharp's] Company that he then became acquainted with Lewis Shelly late of the Borough of York aforesaid deceased who was a Soldier of the Revolution belonging to Armong's legion under Major Shaffner and attached to Cap'n Shorbs Company and was enlisted sometime before deponent was enlisted deponent further says that Lewis Shelly belonged to Armongs legion Cap'n Shorbs Company & was Bugleman of said Company when he deponent enlisted at Winchester Virginia where they remained from the time he enlisted untill they were marched to the Borough of York Pennsylvania sometime in the month of [blank] and discharged in the month of November 1783, that they had enlisted for three years and detained as he deponent was informed by the Officers for during the war, that they deponent & Lewis Shelly were discharged at the time that all the Legion was discharged at the Borough of York Pennsylvania and deponent says he is a Pensioner of the Untied States

State of Pennsylvania } Ss:  
Lancaster County }

On this 9th day of January AD 1843 Personally appeared before Emanuel Schaeffer One of the Associate Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for said County John Gonter [pension application W11059] a soldier and pensioner of the United States, who being first sworn according to law, doth say, that he had a personal knowledge of the military services of Lewis Shelly (trumpeter) in the Revolutionary war and they are as follows viz:

In the year 1778 I enlisted under Captain John Hublely whose company marched to Shamokin,

after remaining there during the winter, we returned to Lancaster, and was regularly discharged in 1779.

Shortly after my discharge in 1779 I went to the Borough of York, and there joined Armond's Legion, under Captain Sharpe (or Shorpe) a company of Dragoons, and remained in service for about two years and after many skirmishes with the enemy fatiguing marches and bearing a full share of the hardships which were sustained by the soldiers I was regularly discharged.

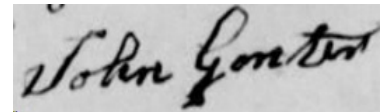
Shortly after joining Armonds Legion, I became acquainted with Lewis Shelly, the trumpeter of our Company (Sharpe's) he was the trumpeter of our company, until we were discharged, which was not less than two years.

The said Lewis Shelly served faithfully during the two years as the trumpeter of said company of Dragoons Colonel Armond's corps consisted of two companies of Infantry Three companies of Dragoons and one company of Grenadiers.

During this campaign I often seen the wife of Lewis Shelly the present applicant, in the Legion with her husband, she was with the Legion during the whole Campaign, I seen her almost every day during the two years. [see endnote]

Deponent further states that Rossanna Shelly is the widow of Lewis Shelly, who died on the seventh day of July AD 1787.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year above mentioned.



State of Pennsylvania } Ss:  
Lancaster County }

On this 18th day of March AD 1843 Personally appeared before me George Musser an Alderman duly Commissioned in and for the City of Lancaster, Elizabeth Swartzwalter a resident of the Borough of Columbia in the County and State aforesaid, aged 83 and upwards, who being first sworn according to law, depose and says as follows.

I am the Sister or Rossanna Shelley, (widow of Lewis Shelley a soldier of the revolution deceased – my father's name was John Lindy he resided in the Borough of York (now dead about sixty years). my sister Rossanna was the eldest of my father's children, and I was next eldest. I was last July eighty three years of age. I was present at the solemnization of my sister Rossanna's marriage to the aforesaid Lewis Shelley – my partner was Jacob Myers (now deceased) of the Borough of York, we had gone from York to Hanover in York County and stoped at a tavern kept by Powell Metzgar – the ceremony was performed by a Justice of the Peace of said village by the name of — Schlegal – (both Metzgar and Schlegal have died some years ago). My sister (Rossanna) and Lewis Shelley where married in the year 1777 – it was but a short time after Independence was declared. It was early in the Spring of that year (1777) that they where married – my sister gave birth to a male child the following year (1778 – it was born in Camp. Shortly after his marriage to my sister, he joined Armands Legion and my sister went with the army. She travelled in a baggage wagon – it was well on to two years when she returned with her child, to York. Further Deponent saith not.

Elizabeth herXmark Swartzwalter

#### NOTES:

It was not unusual for wives and other “camp followers” to accompany the troops.

It is likely that Leonard Baumgartner was one of the Hessian soldiers captured at Saratoga on 17 Oct 1777 and kept at Albemarle Barracks near Charlottesville VA until February 1781, when they were transferred to Winchester. Alternatively, Baumgartner may have been captured at Yorktown on 19 Oct 1781.

A letter dated 5 June 1843 states that the first child of Lewis and Rosanna Shelley was born in camp and named Lewis Shelley, and that he died at four or five years of age.

On 5 June 1843 John Leonard stated that Rosanna Shelley died on the morning of 29 May 1843 leaving the following two children: “Elizabeth intermarried with Jacob Ehler who resides with his wife in

Church Street in the City of Lancaster – and Jacob Shelley resides in Monagen Township York County.” John Leonard also stated that the family record shows that Elizabeth Shelley was born on 20 April 1784, and Jacob Shelley was born on 6 June 1786.