

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Robert Shaw W6006¹

Elizabeth

fn99NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

2/8/11

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber. 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. I welcome and encourage folks to call those and any other errors to my attention.]

[fn p. 8]

State of Tennessee Sumner County: On this 4 day of July 1840 personally appeared before me one of the acting Justices of the peace in and for said County Elizabeth Shaw a resident of said .County aged eighty-five years 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 that she is the widow of Robert Shaw who was a soldier in the North Carolina line in the war of the revolution and served as follows: That her husband the said Robert Shaw Entered the service in the year 1775 as an enlisted Soldier in the regular Army for a tour of two years in Captain Smith's Company of the 4th Regiment and was discharged on the 10th of August 1777 the said Robert Shaw was then living in Guilford County North Carolina that in the year seventy-eight or seventy-nine he again entered the service in what was called the New Levies for a tour [tour] of nine months but this Declarant does not recollect whether it was as a volunteer or as a militia man neither does she recollect the names of any of the officers that he was under this tour but she was informed by her husband the said Shaw that whilst he was out in this Tour he was at the battle of Brier Creek² after this Term and he returned home to Guilford County and in the year 1780 the said Robert Shaw entered the service as a Substitute for one Moses McLain for a tour of three months as a militia man but she does not recollect his officers names but understood from him that he was at the battle of Charlotte³ and after he returned home from this Tour and remained sometime During this time the said Robert Shaw and this Declarant was married and immediately after they were married the said Robert Shaw entered the service in a light horse Company commanded by Captain Daniel Gellispie [sic, Daniel Gillespie] and that her husband was then living in Guilford County and was shortly afterwards marched to Guilford Courthouse and was at that Battle⁴ after which time the said Robert Shaw was continued in service until after Cornwallis was taken after which time he returned home. She further declares that she was married to the said Robert Shaw on the __ day of December in the year 1780 that her husband the said Robert Shaw Died on the 31st day of December 1830 and

¹ BLWt7435-160-55

² March 3, 1779 <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/briercreek.htm>

³ September 26, 1780 http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_charlotte.html

⁴ March 15, 1781 http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_guilford_courthouse.html

that she has remained a widow ever since that period as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed. She further declares that she has no Documentary Evidence in support of her claim that her family record that showed the date of her marriage and the births of her children was burnt several years ago that her first child was born on 17 July 1782.

Sworn to and subscribed before me the day and year first above written

S/ Elizabeth Shaw, X her mark

S/ S. Kirkpatrick, JP

[fn p. 6: but more legible on HeritageQuest: On September 24th, 1855 in Sumner County Tennessee, Elizabeth Shaw, 99 a resident of Sumner County Tennessee filed a claim for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of Robert Shaw; she states that she married him in the state of North Carolina [no date given]; that her name prior to her marriage was Elizabeth Hamilton; that her husband died in Sumner County [no date given]; she refers to the application she made for a pension as his widow for further documentation.]

[Note: the following summary of the information in the file is contained in a letter dated December 20, 1837 and appearing at fn p. 11]

"Robert Shaw married in December 1780, in Guilford County North Carolina, Miss Elizabeth Hamilton; they were married at her father's house. The names of her parents are not shown. The soldier was called then "Chunky Bob Shaw." Elizabeth's brother, Thomas Hamilton, was present at the marriage. No reference was made to a former marriage of the soldier.

"Elizabeth Shaw, the soldier's widow, was allowed pension on her application executed July 4th, 1840, at which time she was aged 85 years. She resided then in Sumner County, Tennessee. She died December 15, 1856.

"Robert Shaw and wife Elizabeth reared a family in Tennessee; the names of the members of their family are not designated. Elizabeth stated that her first child was born July 17, 1872, but did not state the name of said child.

"In 1851, Robert K Shaw and Ransom the Turner were present in Sumner County, Tennessee, when Elizabeth Shaw, the widow, made application there. In 1855, Isaac Grimm and Samuel McKain were residents of Sumner County, Tennessee. No relationship between these persons in the soldier's family was stated.

"In 1840, Elizabeth's brother, Thomas Hamilton, was a resident of Gallatin County, Illinois, aged 80 years. He stated he was present at the death of Robert Shaw, the soldier, also, that he served with him in the revolutionary war. Reference was made to James and Robert Hamilton, other brothers of said Elizabeth."

[fn p. 59: in a letter postmarked South Union Logan Ct [County] Ky, and dated January 18, 1841, an man whose name appears to be John Rankin⁵ [last two letters are unclear] responded to a request to give information about what he knew of the marriage and services of the veteran. After confining the details of the marriage, he stated as to the services of the veteran the following:

"As to the war service of Robert Shaw I at all times through the Revolution understood

⁵ I could not find in the federal pension documents a claim filed by a man by this name or any similar name that I could think of who claimed service from Guilford County North Carolina in a militia unit sent to Charleston at the time of the fall of Charleston.

that in the first part of the war he was an enlisted soldier, but in what Corps under what officers or for what length of time he served I do not know or how many enlistments he entered into I never understood. But universal report in the bounds of my acquaintance testified that he was frequently in the war. I know that he took an active part under the Militia officers of Guilford County against the Tories in Randolph and other adjacent counties. In the month of March 1780 I volunteered to serve a three months tour in Charleston said Shaw was in the same company which was commanded by Captain William Bethel, the Regiment was commanded by Colonel Brannon the Brigade General William Caswell. After marching and countermarching on the British lines in hearing of the siege in order to keep the Tories from flocking to the British on the 12th of May Charleston was surrendered and we returned home in June with Shaw in company. N. B. the claimant's brothers, James, Thomas and Robert Hamilton if alive can give a better statement of the things in question than above."



[fn p. 64: very faint document]

State of North Carolina Guilford County

This day came William Ryan⁶ before me Daniel Hobbs one of the acting justices of the peace in and for said County and made oath that he the said William Ryan served with him Robert Shaw as a soldier under Colonel Daniel Gillespie in the American service when the British came in this state and he served with him several tours [tours] under Gillespie in the Horse in 1781 & 1782 the length of time he served in all I cannot recollect but we served in 82 a good deal I well recollect for and those 2 years we was called on very often for service for by the time we would get home we was called out again the British and Tories was in the South part of the State and we had to go whenever we was called on and as to his service in the regular Army I cannot say anything about that only I heard that he was Enlisted one year or more in the regular service and often I heard [indecipherable word or words] stated as a fact of his service in the war & as respects his being married I cannot say as to my own knowledge though I have seen them together as man and wife after he married a woman by the name of Elizabeth Hamilton further this Deponent saith not.



[fn p. 64-5: Thomas Cummings⁷ also gave a supporting affidavit but a substantial portion of it is illegibly faint so I did not attempt to transcribe it. He appears to state that he served one tour of 3 months under Gillespie with Robert Shaw.



⁶ [William Ryan S7436](#)

⁷ [Thomas Cummings \(Cumming\) S6780](#)

[fn p. 70]

State of Illinois Gallatin County: On this Day personally appeared before me Isaac N. Barker an acting justice of the peace in and for Gallatin and State aforesaid Thomas Hamilton ⁸a resident of said County and Pensioner of the United States aged 80 years and made oath in due form of law that he was well acquainted with Robert Shaw and Elizabeth Shaw his wife and that the said Elizabeth Stahl is a sister to this affiant and that the first acquaintance that this affiant had with said Robert Shaw was in the year 1778 and that the said Robert Shaw was a soldier in the war of the Revolution – that he served his first tour as a Regular soldier for 2 years which was in the early part of the war as he was informed by the said Robert Shaw and that the said Robert Shaw then lived in Gilfort [sic] County North Carolina and that in the latter part of the year 1780 the said Robert Shaw entered the service with this affiant as a volunteer in Captain Daniel Gillespie's light horse company and that he continued in service with this affiant and under the said Captain Gillespie until after Cornwallis was taken and that they were at the Battle of Guilford Court house together this affiant further states that the said Robert Shaw was also at the Battle of Charlotte and at warbs lane [sic, Walkup's or Wahab's Plantation]⁹. He further states that the said Robert Shaw and Elizabeth his wife was legally married on the __ day of December in the year 1780 which marriage was in the presence of this affiant and that it was in Guilford County North Carolina and that the squire who married them was by the name of Adam Lackey he further states that the said Robert Shaw after moving to the State of Tennessee died in the year 1830. Sworn to and subscribed before me this the 24th day of July 1840.

S/ Thomas Hamilton, X his mark

[fn p. 72]

State of North Carolina Secretary of State's Office

I William Hill Secretary of State in and for the State of North Carolina, do hereby certify that it appears from the musterrolls of the Continental line of this State in the revolutionary war, that Robert Shaw a private Soldier in Captain Smith's Company of the 4th Regiment which Regiment was commanded by Colonel Thomas Polk, was in the service in August 1777, that he was discharged on the 10th day of August 1777. Need of the day of his enlistment, the time for which he enlisted or the length of time he served is mentioned on the rolls.

Given under my hand this 24th day of July 1840

S/ Wm Hill

[fn p. 75]

The Deposition of Benjamin Sterritt¹⁰ a citizen of Fayette County and Tennessee being now near seventy-eight years of age and of a strong and sound mind That he was a Soldier in the Army of the revolution and served in Colonel Lee's Regiment of horse and that he is the identical same Benjamin Sterritt whose name stands on the List of pensioners of West Tennessee. That he the said Benjamin Sterritt hereby Testifies that he was well acquainted with Robert Shaw who was enlisted in the Army of Revolution in North Carolina line for the term of 3 years by Lieutenant James Sterritt and Captain John Nelson's company in Colonel Alexander Martin's Regiment. This Regiment was ordered to the North in which Robert Shaw was an acting

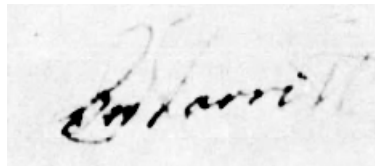
⁸ FPA S32301

⁹ Wahab's Plantation; Walkup's Plantation; Wahab's Lane; September 21, 1781 <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/wahabsp.htm> and http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_wahabs_plantation.html

¹⁰ [Benjamin Starritt NC8](#)

Sergeant in the recruiting Department and while this Regiment was in the North Robert Shaw was discharged and returned home to Guilford County North Carolina the same settlement at which he enlisted. Sometime after his return home the said Robert Shaw again enlisted for the term of nine months in [indecipherable word or words] of troops called the New Levies in the North Carolina Line – and while this same Robert Shaw was in the Line of his Duty in this nine months tour Robert Shaw and J B Sterritt were both engaged in battle against the enemy at Brier Creek and I know he served this nine months tower [tour] fully out – and afterwards J Benjamin Sterritt met with the same Robert Shaw in the Army and in Colonel Davises [sic, probably William Richardson Davie's] Regiment of horsemen and in Captain Gillespie's Company. This Army of men engaged in battle with the enemy at Wauhob's Laig [sic, Walkup's or Wahab's Plantation or Lane] in Machkinburg [Mecklenburg] County North Carolina we again engaged in Battle with the enemy at Sharlot [sic, Charlotte] in the same State & County the enemy was commanded by Lord Roden [sic, Rawdon]¹¹ and afterwards General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] engaged in battle with Lord Cornwallis at Guilford Courthouse and said Robert Shaw was there engaged in battle and acted bravely. Also the same Robert Shaw was again engaged in Battle at the Raft Swamp¹² in all the above named Battles this Soldier Robert Shaw was both brave and obedient and generally acted in the Army as and under commissioned officer. I Benjamin Sterritt do firmly believe that this same Robert Shaw as well does served his full pay for his services as any man whatever. I also know that Robert Shaw was in service until the war ended. I also do know that this same Robert Shaw whose served the above mentioned towers of Duty in the Army of the Revolution intermarried with Miss Hamilton a sister of James Hamilton of Guilford County State of North Carolina some years after this intermarriage took place I visited Robert Shaw at his own house in Sumner County Tennessee where I solve the above named man and his wife where I understood that he died and left this same woman a widow.

S/ Bn Starritt

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "B. Sterritt", written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper.

[Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of \$32.50 per annum commencing March 4th, 1843.]

¹¹ Lord Rawdon was not at the battle of Charlotte. This is probably a mistaken attempt to refer to Banastre Tarleton one of the subordinate officers under Lord Charles Cornwallis

¹² October 15, 1781 <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/littleraftsw.htm>