

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of James Shields W6027

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia }
County of Augusta } SS.

On this the first day of October 1845 personally appeared before the subscriber one of the Commonwealth Justices of the Peace for the said County of Augusta, Rachel Shields a resident of said County aged about eighty two 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 7, 1838, entitled "an act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows:" That she is the widow of James Shields who was a private in the Virginia Line on Continental establishment, in the war of the revolution, that she has no personal knowledge of the service performed by the said James Shields, but from information derived from him, and from other sources, she verily believes, that the said James Shields enlisted with Captain Thomas Bell of Col Wm. Graysons [William Grayson's] Regiment of the Virginia Continental Line in the spring of 1777 to serve for the period of three years and that he performed the service he engaged for, that she has always understood and believes, that he was with the american army in New Jersey in the year 1778, and was present and cooperated with said army, in the attack made on Stony Point [NY] in the year 1779 [15 July].

She farther declares that she was married to the said James Shields on the 10th day of March 1786 by the Revd Archibald Scott, that her husband, the aforesaid James Shields died on the 2nd day of December 1801; that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the first day of January, seventeen hundred and ninety four, viz, at the time above stated.
Rachel herXmark Shields

I do certify that the persons whose names are mentioned in the accts enclosed were enlisted by me (viz: David Chambers on the 17th James Shields & James Wilson on the 28th of March 1777) to serve for the term of three years in the Regt. of Infantry commanded by Colo. Wm Grayson.

I do farther certify that the deficiency of pay mentioned in their discharge (enclosed) was nothing more than the nominal sums in paper money, as credited in their accounts.

Given under my hand this 8th of May 1783. Tho. Bell, Capt. Colo. Grayson's Reg't.
[A copy.]

Virginia } This day William McCutchen [pension application W1888] a
Augusta County. SS } resident of the County of Augusta appeared before me a Justice of
the peace in and for the County aforesaid, and after being duly sworn according to law, doth on
oath say, that he was personally acquainted with James Shields the husband of Rachel Shields of
Augusta County, during the war of the revolution, that he saw the said James Shields in the
American Army in the year 1778 in the state of New Jersey at a place called Middlebrook, where
the Regt to which the said Shields (which was a Virginia Regt.) was stationed, that the said
Shields was at the taking of the fort called Stony point, and under the command, as well as he
now recollects, of Capt. Thomas Bell of the Virginia Continental Line, but to what Regt. he was
attached he cannot say. that he knows the said James Shields was in the service before he the
said McCutchen was (who served as a waggoner one year) and that the said James Shields did
not return to his residence in the County of Augusta for a year or more after he the said
McCutchen returned, and that he is certain the said James Shields was an enlisted soldier, and
he believes for three years. That the said James Shields after his return from the army married
as he has always understood and believed with Rachel Anderson, now Rachel Shields, his widow
residing in Augusta County, that the said James Shields departed this life as near as he can
recollect in the year 1801 that he is not able to say in whose or what the number of the Regt.
was in which said James Shields served. Given under my hand this 4th day of October 1845.

William McCutchen X