

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of George Shearman W6050

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 23 June 2011.

State of Virginia }

Hardy County } To Wit

On this second day of September 1835 personally appeared before me Jacob Miller a Justice of the peace for the county aforesaid, George Shearman a resident of the Upper Cove of the North mountain in the county of Hardy and State of Virginia Aged 78 years, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. that he entered the continental or Service of the United States in May 1780 at Stevenstown in Shenandoah County and marched first to Richmond under as well as he recollects a Capt'n Youst as a substitute for his brother Jacob Shearman, that after being at Richmond for some days he with about one hundred others Volunteered to enter the Cavalry under the Command of a Captain Hughes, a Lieutenant Howell. The other officers names he does not recollect of the company. The Regiment to which he was attached and belonged was commanded by a Colonel [Anthony Walton] White which was under the command of General Anthony Wayne. That he served in South Carolina and Georgia along the Savannah River. That the detachment to which he belonged had a skirmish with the indians in Georgia [probably at Sharon, 24 May 1782], that he was back and forward frequently across the Savannah River whilst in Service.

He states that his mind is very much impaired that he cannot recollect well enough to give a detailed account of all the circumstances that transpired during his service in the light Horse or Cavalry under the Command of Capt'n Hughes. His first service as well as recollected was up the James River with a detachment of Cavalry who were ordered across the James River (When Cornwallis ascended to Richmond) To take a quantity of arms (muskets and other arms) and secrete them in the James River which they did in the night and threw them in the James River and that they knocked in the heads of the rum Casks and poured the contents upon the ground, that afterwards they were marched to South Carolina where he served against the Tories under Gen'l Wayne. That he was present when seven Tories were taken in the night and hung the next day in a row.

That he received his discharge in Georgia after Cornwallis' defeat [19 Oct 1781]; but how long after he does not recollect. That he came home on foot.

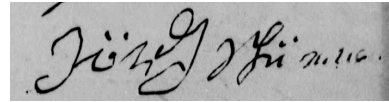
He recollects to have received some pay for his service whilst in service; but says he does not recollect of receiving the balance of his full pay or of authorising any person to received it for him afterwards. How long he entered the service for he does not recollect, if the War had lasted he recollects that he was willing to have served longer as he did not expect to be discharged when he was. He believes his term of service was to the end of the War.

That he was 19 years of age when he entered the service that he was twenty one year of age and upwards when he returned to Shenandoah County where he resided until something upwards of thirty years ago say about 34 years when he removed to the upper-Cove Run in Hardy County where he has resided ever since. And thing He recollects that when they threw the arms into the James River, that they sunk the boats in which they had crossed; and that afterwards whilst under the command of General Wayne, That General Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] was in South Carolina at or near Charlestown.

His discharge he says he lost and the record of his age having had his house burned down in which were his books and papers, since he lived in the uper Cove (about three years since) He cannot read english having been taught German The certificates given upon a former occasion are herewith appended as he believes them necessary to prove his identity

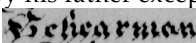
He relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity except the present, and he declares that his name is

not on the pension roll of any agency in any state or if any only upon that of the agency in the state of Virginia



State of Virginia }  
Hardy County } To Wit

This day [4 Sep 1835] John Shearman eldest son of Jacob Shearman of the County of Hardy and State of Virginia Aged 55 years on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of Jan'y last past personally appeared before me the undersigned a justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid in the state aforesaid And Being first sworn according to Law On his Oath says, that George Shearman of the cove called the upper cove of the North Mountain is the Brother of Jacob Shearman, that both Jacob & George are very old and still alive and living on cove run on the upper cove in Hardy County, that Jacob his father is deranged and has been so for at least six years past, That during his sanity he has often heard him say that his brother George Shearman entered as a substitute for him in the War of the American Revolution, that after George had entered the service as a substitute he enlisted in the Light Horse at Richmond Virginia. That he has heard him George Shearman state that he had served under Gen'l Anthony Wayne in South Carolina and Georgia States, the particulars he does not recollect that he has heard his Father and George Shearman say that the commander of his Regiment was a Colo White, and that he was in the service untill the end of the War or after Cornwallis' defeat. That he was an infant when George went into service and yet has a distant recollection of his return. That George Shearman has long complained of his knee and That he has long been afflicted, but how long he cannot recollect. That George Shearman is a man of honesty and Truth and his life has been very exemplar in that respect, and that his declarations are true and ought to be believed. He believes that George Shearman is the same whose name appears on the Army Register of the Continental line as a soldier of Cavalry. That George Shearman is now nearly 80 years of age very infirm of body and somewhat impatient when talked to. That he has not had much conversation with him for some years past

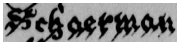
That the name of Shireman as used by his brothers is not spelled as it was orriginally, or as he himself spells it at this time; That his father and George Shearman could not write their names in english that He himself being educated in the German Tongue to this day spells his name and writes it as it was spelled and written by his father except the letter (c) That the correct manner is Shearman – in German Schearman  – That he has always understood that George Shearman was born in Shenandoah County and has always lived there and in Hardy county since his recollection. That George Shearman had his house burned since living in the Upper cove of the North Mountain. that He heard George Shearman often say that he received his discharge after the defeat of Cornwallis but how long after he does not recollect to have heard him to say he has often heard that he was gone upwards of three years till his return and that he entered for during the War.

He also heard him say that his books and papers were burned with his house

[signed] John Shearman

State of Virginia }  
Hardy County } To Wit

This day [21 Sep 1835] Philip Shireman son of Jacob Shireman, Personally appeared before me the undersigned, a justice of the Peace in and for Hardy County in the state of Virginia and being first duly sworn according to law, on his Oath says, that he has frequently heard his father say that George Shearman substituted to take his place during the War of the Revolution; and that said George Shearman was three years gone in the Army under Gen'l Anthony Wayne. He also says, that it was always said and believed by the family of Sherman's that George Shearman had substituted in the Militia for to serve a

tour of duty for Jacob Shireman that after he had marched to Richmond he enlisted as a regular soldier in the Light Horse or Cavalry at Richmond, that he served as such in the Army commanded by Gen'l Anthony Wayne He states, that, he has often heard his uncle George Shearman himself state that he assisted in taking a band of Tories and in bringing them before Gen'l Wayne; and that after guarding them through the night, he assisted in hanging them the next day. He states that, his father who is older than his Uncle George Shearman, lived in Shenandoah County until he removed to Hardy County, where he now lives with the said Philip Shireman, and that the said Jacob Shireman is at this time not sane of mind, and has therefore no recollection of former transactions and that he has been so for six years past he is at this time about 80 years of age. He states that from a record kept by his father that his oldest brother John Shireman was born Jan'y 23<sup>rd</sup> 1780 being the same year that George Shearman went as a substitute for him into the Army. He also states that to his own knowledge Jacob and George were both unacquainted with the english language, that neither of them were capable of writing their names in english, and that in german they spelled their names Schaerman. the reason why himself and brothers spell their names Shireman at this time is that they were taught to spell and write it so at an english school when young – which is the pronunciation of the german Schaerman  He states that he has often heard George Shearman say that he served as a soldier in the state of Georgia he also states that he heard him speak of the growing of rice in that country and of the manner of cultivating the same with water

[signed] Philip Shireman

State of Virginia } To Wit  
 Hardy County }

This day being the 17<sup>th</sup> day of Oct'r in the year 1835 personally appeared Adam Shaver before me the undersigned a justice of the peace in and for the County of Hardy in the State aforesaid and first being duly sworn according to Law upon his oath declareth and say that he has known George Shearman ever since he removed from Shenandoah County to his present residence in the Uper cove of the North Mountain upwards of thirty year, that he married his daughter Rosanna, and has had frequent conversations with George Shearman relative to having served in the revolutionary war, that he has when said Shearman was in a perfect state of mind capable of recollecting the past transactions of his life frequently heard him state that he marched from Shenandoah County to Richmond as a substitute for his brother Jacob Shearman he did not before this time state under what captain he marched but that he joined the light horse at Richmond under the command of Captain Hughs & a Lieutenant by the name of Howell, that the name of his Colo. was White, and that he was commanded by Gen'l Wayne against the Tories in South, that he has heard him detail the circumstances relative to the secreting th e Arms in the James River, and sinking the boats, and that the alarm of the approach of the British was first given bo them by a woman. That he marched into south Carolina, that he was in Georgia when discharged he heard him state before he was married to his daughter of assisting in hanging the tories. That whilst said Shearmans memory served him he stated that he would not have quit the army had not the War terminated that he appeared from his conversation to have been fond of the service, he has heard him tell of Meet[?] the indians in the night with bayonets and swords the bayonets were in the possession of the infantry at some station they were at where he does not recollect, but he recollects him to have stated that they killed several of the indians, he states that Shearman is very embecile of mind at times and very impatient and irritable being childishly disposed that at some times he will not talk to any person whatever, that he has been crippled in one of his knees ever since he knew him and he often complains. he has often stated so that he thought his exposure in the Revolutionary War occasioned it having been much exposed both upon horse back and upon foot during the nights during his term of service – his impatience of disposition at this time which is evident to every person prevents the obtaining a chain of detailed circumstances relative to his term of enlistment and his services during the War of the Revolution. When solicited to do so he becomes angry and says “that he has made the application before” which was done

with a considerable difficulty having had to cross two considerable mountains to get to Court the one in Shenandoah and the other in Hardy to either of which he declares himself unable to get again, and from his age and the difficulty of the roads it is not He believes practicable. He believes from what he has learned from George Shearman and others that his term of service was for during the War, he is certain that he is the same man whose name appears on the register of the continental line, that his name is spelled there, as it was at that time or would be now pronounced from the manner of spelling it in the german tongue, except the letter (c) which precedes (h) and follows (S) He saw George Shearman write his name this time and when put into english letters, George, Sche,ar,man, the proper pronunciation of his name in the german is She-ar-man, which is now corrupted into Shireman he not being able to write it himself in english. He declared to me he did not receive his last balance of pay to his recollection, and he does not recollect having authorised any person after the War. He does not recollect to have heard him state that he was entitled to bounty Land but believes he was.

Subscribed and sworn to before me as above stated [signed] Adam Shaver

NOTES:

A size roll of noncommissioned officers and privates taken at Powhatan Courthouse VA lists the following: George Shierman/ age 22/ height 5' 2"/ planter/ born in Virginia/ residing in Shenandoah County where he enlisted as a substitute on 19 Mar 1781 for 18 months. A similar size roll taken at Albemarle Old Courthouse lists George Sherman/ age 20/ height 5' 3½"/ light hair/ grey eyes/ fair complexion/ planter/ born and residing in Shenandoah County where he enlisted as a substitute on 19 Mar 1781 for 18 months.

On 21 Feb 1845 Mary Magdalen Sherman, about 80, applied for a pension stating that as Mary Magdalen Delauder she married George Sherman (also spelled Shireman and Shierman) in Shenandoah County "about four years after his last period of service," and he died 3 June 1839.