

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of William Shope W6054                      Elizabeth Shope                      VA  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 21 May 2021.

State of Virginia S.S.

On this 16<sup>th</sup> day of April 1839, personally appeared before the County Court of the County of Jefferson and state aforesaid, Elisabeth Shope a resident of Charles town in the said County and state, in the eighty first year of her age, 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<sup>th</sup> 1838 entitled “An act providing half pay and pensions to certain widows” – That she is the widow of William Shope, who was a Sergeant of Cavalry of the Virginia Continental line during the Revolutionary war, that at the time of his enlistment he resided in Shepherdstown, Berkeley County, Virginia, now Jefferson County, in the said State, where he enlisted for the period of three years, after the expiration of which period he returned to Martinsburg in the County of Berkeley Virginia, whence he went again to the war as a Substitute – whilst a Substitute he again enlisted or was changed to the Horse or Dragoons commanded by Col. William Washington, and remained during the war. He was at the battle of Cowpens [17 Jan 1781], Eutaw Springs [8 Sep 1781] and York Town [Siege of Yorktown, 28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781]. the said Elisabeth further says that she has no documentary evidence in support of her claim or shewing the services of said William except the certificate of Jas E. Heath Auditor of Virginia, accompanying this declaration.

She further declares that she was married to the said William Shope on the eighteenth day of December one thousand seven hundred and eighty five, the aforesaid William Shope died on the twenty second day of December one thousand eight hundred and five – that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the war, but the marriage took place previous to the first day of January seventeen hundred and ninety four, viz at the time above stated. Sworn to and subscribed, on the day & year above written  
[signed] Elizaeth Sope [sic]

This is to Certify, That it appears from a List in this Office of such Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia Continental Line, during the Revolutionary War, as settled their Accounts, and received Certificates for the balance of their Full Pay, according to an Act of Assembly, passed the November Session, 1781, that a Certificate issued on the 20th day of December 1784, in the name of William Shoup as a Sergeant of Cavalry for £144.8.0, which Certificate appears to have been delivered to John Bartlett and was given for services prior to the 1st January, 1782.

Given under my hand at the Auditor’s Office, Richmond, this 31st day of January 1839.  
Jas E. Heath AUDITOR.

Lanesville O, May 1, 1839

W. C. Worthington, Esq.

Dr. Sir, Yours of 24th ult. in reference to the widow Shope was recd. on 28th and on the same day sent to Mr. Anderson. He has just called upon me, and states that he was at work at Benj. Strother’s [possibly Benjamin Strother R97] near Charlestown, Va. in the Summer of 1800, when Col. Wm Washington, a relative of Strother’s, came to Strother’s on a visit. In conversation the name of Wm Shope was mentioned, when Col. Washington expressed a wish to see him, if he was the same Wm Shope who had served as an officer of Light Dragoons under him. Mr. Anderson does not recollect whether Col. Washington named the office he had filled or not. Mr. Shope was sent for and the next day walked out to Mr. Strother’s. At a distance of probably a hundred yard Col. Washington saw him approaching and remarked that there was Shope, that he knew his walk. Mr. Anderson was present when they met and they saluted each other as old acquaintances. At parting Col. Washington presented Shope (who was poor) with more than Forty Dollars in Specie. In speaking of Mr Shope, Col Washington remarked that he (Shope)

had saved his (Washington's) life at the battle of the Cowpens. Washington's horse being shot under him Shope helped him to mount his own horse from which he had dismounted when he saw his commander's danger. Col. Washington stated also that Shope was in the battle at Santee. From the deportment and conversation of both while they were together, Mr. Anderson had no doubt of their having served together as stated.

Mr. Anderson became acquainted with Mr. Shope and his wife, Elizabeth, formerly Elizabeth Barney daughter of [blank] Barney of Baltimore, in the year 1787, he believes, and they were then living together as man and wife in Charlestown, Va. where they continued to reside as such until the death of Shope, about the year 1805. The widow continued to reside in Charlestown up to the time Mr. Anderson left Charlestown, three years ago, and he supposed she still resides there, and he is satisfied she has not married since Mr Shope's death. As to Mrs Shope having been a Miss Barney, Mr. Anderson says he knew Mr. Barney well and frequently heard him speak of his daughter's marriage & that he often was the bearer of messages between them. The above are the principal facts spoken of by Mr. Anderson, and more I suppose than are important, but I preferred to give the narrative very much as he gave it to me.

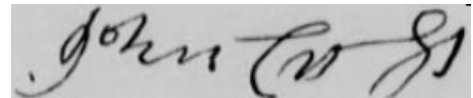
Very Respectfully/  
Uriah Parke

W. C. Worthington Esq  
Charlestown, Jeffn. Co. Va

[Contents of this letter were certified as accurate by James Anderson.]

State of Ohio Fairfield County Ss. [13 Mar 1839]

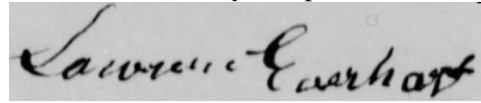
Personally appeared before me Casper Thiell, an acting justice of the peace for said County came John Cross [S39382] who being duly sworn deposed and saith: – that he deponent was a private in Captain Parsons Compay [probably William Parson R16965] of Dragoons of the Second Regiment of Virginia commanded by Colonel William Washington – and that William Shope was a Second Sarjeant in said Capt. Parsons Comp'y. Deponent & William Shope enlisted under Major Call [Richard Call VAS2165] at the same hour on James River in Virginia – the time deponent cannot precisely states but thinks it to have been about Ten years before he was married. Deponent & William Shope were both attached to Capt. Parsons Company by Major Call – continued messmates together, and both served to the end of the war. Deponent was well acquainted with William Shope during his life – recollects his death which took place in Charleston [sic] – deponent thinks about twenty years ago; and that he left a widow named Elizabeth Shope in said town. And further said deponent saith not.



Virginia/ Jefferson County, to wit,

Personally appeared before me a justice of the peace in and for the County and State aforesaid, Lawrence Everhart [S25068], of Frederick County, Maryland, who being duly sworn upon the Evangely of Almighty God deposed and saith – That he knew William Shope a member of the Regiment of Light Dragoons during the Revolutionary war, commanded by Col William Washington. That said Shope enlisted in the first place for three years. That in the month of December 1780 he was discharged by Col. Washington. He again enlisted in the year 1781. After the battle of York Town deponent went to Petersburg [sic: Petersburg VA] and the command of the new recruits was given to Deponent by Colonel Baylor [George Baylor W5966]. Among these recruits I found William Shope and he remained there until he was sent to the South to join the Regiment. He served in the first enlistment for the three years, the period for which he was enlisted. It was understood that Shope enlisted at Shepherds Town [Shepherdstown], Virginia, but of this fact this deponent has no personal knowledge. this deponent was a member of the Regiment of Col. Wm Washington and with William Shope was at the skirmish at Stony Church at Monk's Corner about thirty miles from Charleston, South Carolina [sic: Moncks Corner, 14 Apr 1780], at the surprise at Laneau's ferry on Santee river [sic: Lenud's Ferry, 6 May 1780] – the second

enlistment of Shope 1781 was for the period of the war, and he was at the battle of York Town. After being sent to the south to join the Regiment from Petersburg, this Deponent had no knowledge of the service of Shope. And further saith not. Subscribed and sworn to before me this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of April 1839.



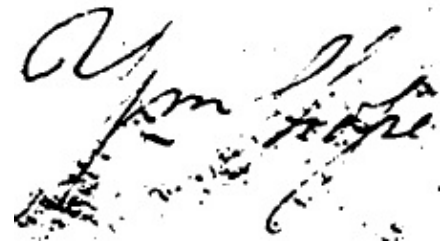
[From [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#) indexed as Shoup, Will.]

Certify that Serj't Will. Shoup Enlisted as a Soldier Three Years in Colo Baylors Dragoons June [?] 1779  
Reinlisted for the War June 5<sup>th</sup> 81 Servd as a good Soldier until the mutiny May 1783 [see endnote]

Wm Barret f[ormer]ly Capt [William Barret VAS1197]  
Baylors Dragoons  
Dec'r 20<sup>th</sup> 1784



For Value Received I do Assign to Sergt John Bartlett the full Ballance of my pay and gratuity also my  
Bounty of Land that is Due me for my Services as a Soaldier for the war witness my hand this 11 Day of  
December 1784 Wm Shope Sergeant



Sir Please to Settle my Acpt with Sergt John B[?] and you will Oblige your Hbl Sar  
To the Auditor of Public Accounts Dec'r 11 1784 William [page torn]  
Test/ Wm Robeson a Copy/ Phil Southall

NOTES:

A size roll of noncommissioned officers and privates taken at Powhatan Courthouse lists the following: William Shope/ age 19/ height 5' 6"/ light-brown hair/ fair complexion/ "will [well] made"/ saddler/ born in Pennsylvania/ living in Berkeley County where he enlisted as a substitute for 18 months.

In May 1783, about six months after the British had evacuated Charleston SC, many of the Continental Light Dragoons, impatient to return home, commandeered the horses and rode away.

On 26 Apr 1839 Sarah Isler, 74, stated that her brother, William Shope, came to Charles Town 53 years before and introduced his wife, the former Elisabeth Barnaby, whom he had married in Baltimore. The file includes a certificate showing that in Baltimore County on 13 Dec 1785 a license was issued for the marriage of William Shope and Elizabeth Barnaby.

A Treasury-Department document in the file states that the children of Elizabeth Shope received her final pension payment up to the date of her death on 13 Oct 1840.