

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Shanks¹ W8713

Mary Shanks

f63VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/31/12: rev'd 5/11/21

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' or 'undeciphered' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

[p 7]

State of Kentucky Madison County Sct.

On this sixth day of September 1823 personally appeared in open Court being a Court of Record and a Circuit Court for the County aforesaid, John Shanks a resident of said County aged sixty-five years on the 28th May 1823, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the act of the 18th of March 1818 and the 1st of May 1820.

That in the month of March 1779 he enlisted for the Term of eighteen months in the State of Virginia in the Company commanded by Captain Walis [probably George Wallis, also spelled George Walls] in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Buford [Abraham Buford] attached to General Scott's [Brig. Genl. Charles Scott's] brigade on the line of Virginia and Continental establishment; that in October 1779 he was transferred from Colonel Buford's Regiment to the Regiment commanded by Colonel Heith [William Heth] and went to Charleston South Carolina and was taken prisoner [Charleston South Carolina fell to the British on May 12, 1780] and taken on board of a man of war, and taken to the West Indies and continued a prisoner until the close of the Revolutionary war.

S/ John Shanks, X his mark

A Schedule of the property belonging to the above named John Shanks, to wit:

Two mares and one colt worth	\$65.00
Two cows worth	10.00
One Wagon worth	20.00
One Sow and shoats twelve in all	<u>8.00</u>
	\$103.00

By occupation he is a farmer and unable to do much manual labour, His family consist of his wife aged about 52 years, and she is unhealthy, – and unable to contribute much to her own or family's support.

John Shanks, X his mark

And it is ordered by said Court to be certified that it appears to said Court that the property of said Shanks is only worth \$103.

It is also ordered to be certified that William Stoker and George Tennell whose Affidavits are annexed as to the facts of said Shanks' services are witnesses of credibility – And he

¹ BLWt53749-160-55

solemnly swore that he John Shanks was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that he has not since that time by gift, sale or in any manner whatever disposed of his property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring himself within the provision of an act of Congress entitled “an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war” passed on the 18th day of March 1818, and that he has not nor has any person in trust for me any property, or securities, contracts or debts due to him nor has he any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed and by him subscribed September 6, 1823
Sworn and subscribed before made

S/ James Clark, Circuit Judge

[p 8]

The Deposition of Wm Stoker² being of lawful age and duly sworn according to law taken at my house on this 30th day of August 1823 and for the following purpose

This Deponent saith that he was well acquainted with John Shanks who is now here present before him, at the time of taking of this Deposition, and well knows of and recollects that said John Shanks was a private soldier in the line of the Revolutionary War and that he served for the some time in Colonel Buford's Regiment of infantry and in Captain George Wales company of said Regiment, and that he knows that said Shanks was at Petersburg in Virginia taken from said Regiment and put in Colonel William Heith's Regiment of infantry and was marched in with said Heith's Regiment towards the South and he understood to Charleston, where he understood they were all taken prisoners. This Deponent says he belonged himself to Captain Wales company in Buford's Regiment, and knows and well recollects this said John Shanks to be the same man and until he the said Shanks was transferred to Colonel Heith's Regiment, and this Deponent still continued in Buford's Regiment until after his defeat [Battle of the Waxhaws, May 29, 1780] and further this Deponent sayeth not as witness his hand this day above written.

S/ Wm Stoker

the above Deposition was signed before me and duly sworn to according to law. Given under my hand and seal this 30th day of August 1823

S/ Wm Reid, JP

[p 9]

The Affidavit of George Tennell³ of lawful age who being sworn this 5th day of September 1823 in Richmond saith

That he was well acquainted with John Shanks who is now present, in the Revolutionary War; and that said Shanks was a private for some time in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Buford, and in Captain George Wales company and that afterwards said Shanks was transferred to Colonel Heath's Regiment of infantry and was marched from Petersburg Virginia towards Charleston South Carolina. He also states that he knows that said Shanks served more than nine months, during the revolutionary War at one time and commenced this service in March 1779 as this affiant was with Shanks in the service a part of the time.

S/George Tennell

Subscribed and sworn to before me as one of the acting Justices of the peace for Madison County Kentucky this 5th September 1823

S/ William Kirby, JP

[Note: The above documents were certified copies of records in the clerk of court's file.]

² [William Stoker S37472](#)

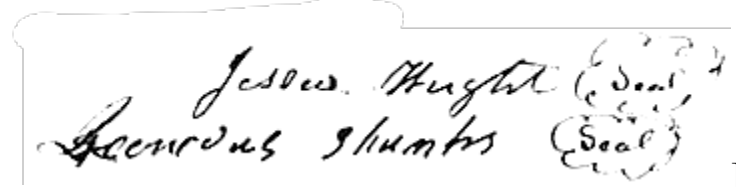
³ [George Tennell S37485](#)

[p 12: On September 12, 1842 in Madison County Kentucky, Mary Shanks made application under the 1838 act for a pension as the widow of John Shanks; that she was born in Halifax County Virginia January 17, 1769; her father then moved to Mecklenburg County Virginia and then to Granville County North Carolina; that soon after her moved to Granville County she married John Shanks on her birthday January 17, 1793; that there being no convenient clergyman in Granville County they went over the line to Mecklenburg County to be married by a preacher named William Goodin; that she and her husband moved to Kentucky in 1815 and settled in Madison County where her husband died April 5, 1829 a pensioner of the United States at the rate of \$96 per annum. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 14: On September 5, 1842 in Madison County Kentucky, John B Christopher, gave testimony that he is the younger brother of Mary Shanks; that he was born March 29, 1778 in Halifax County Virginia; that his father moved first to Mecklenburg County Virginia, then to Granville County North Carolina where at age 23 or 24, his sister married John Shanks on January 17, 1793; that his sister and John Shanks moved to Caswell County North Carolina directly after they were married; they lived there a short time and then removed to Granville County North Carolina; soon thereafter deponent moved to Madison County Kentucky where in 1815 John Shanks and deponent sister moved and lived until Shanks died in 1829.

]

[p 5: On September 8, 1856 in Madison County Kentucky, Mary Shanks, 85, filed for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of John Shanks. Her identity was confirmed by Jesse Wright and Leonidas Shanks. Their relationship to the widow isn't stated

]

[Facts in file: The veteran and his wife lived briefly in Caswell County North Carolina then in Granville County North Carolina before moving to Kentucky. There is reference in the file to the children and grandchildren of the veteran and his wife but none are named and identified as such. In 1856 there it was a resident named Leonidas Shanks living in Madison County Kentucky but his relationship to the family is not stated.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$8 per month commencing September 6, 1823, for service as a private for 18 months in the Virginia Continental line. His widow was pensioned at the rate of \$96 per annum commencing July 1st 1848.]

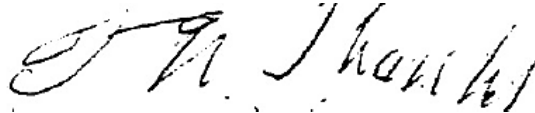
Addendum to John Shanks W8713

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. 10 May 2021.

[From [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

[illegible]

John Shanks [appeared before me] a Justice of the Peace for said County and made oath that he [illegible] in the year [illegible] in Capt George Wale Company [illegible] on Continental [illegible] Commanded by Col. Abraham Buford and then Col Heath, and he continued to serve until the 12th of May 1780 then belonging to [illegible] the siege of Charleston he was taken prisoner by the British and was taken to the West Indies and then to England where a [illegible] on board of a British man of war (Fox) and was not released until the year 1795 at which time he got back to the united states – and he has never rec'd a Land bounty for said service and he prays the Governor and Council of Virginia to grant his [undeciphered]
25 March 1822]



Kentucky Madison County Sct

George Tennell [S37485] States on Oath that he served in the Revolution during the war and was well acquainted with the above named John Shanks and knows that said Shanks enlisted for the war against great Britain in the year 1779 as he has stated in his affidavit within and that said Shanks was taken prisoner at Charleston South Carolina in the year 1780 and to the knowledge of this deponent the said Shanks did not return to the united states till after the year 1784 and he has been creibly informed since that said Shanks did not return for Sixteen years after he was taken prisoner and that said Shanks now resides in Madison County and is a honest well meaning man and deserves well of his country to the best of the knowledge of this deponent.

[27 March 1822]



NOTE: John Shanks is on a list of prisoners at Charleston who enlisted with the British in the Duke of Cumberland's Regiment and was transported to Jamaica. After the war the British transported him to Nova Scotia and granted him 100 acres. <http://revwarapps.org/b406.pdf>