

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Matthias Shults (Shutts) W8714 Didamah f35VA
Transcribed by Will Graves 2/14/12

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Kentucky County of Ohio: Sct.

On this 7th day of January 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the County Court of said County now sitting Matthias Shults, a resident of the County of Ohio and State of Kentucky, aged seventy-five years past, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named Officers, and served as herein stated.

That sometime in the summer of 1776, the Reverend Charles M Thruston, a minister of the gospel at Winchester in the State of Virginia raised a company of volunteers as minute men who held themselves in readiness when called upon. That in December of that year, they were called into service and he volunteered as a substitute for Gasper Rinker, his brother-in-law, from Frederick County in said State, and joined said company under the said Captain Thruston, Lieutenant Philip Bush. He does not recollect the day of the month when he was enrolled, nor when he was marched, but recollects distinctly of joining the Army a few days after the battle of Trenton on the 25th of the month. That he rendezvoused at Winchester, and remained there a few days, until all the company joined, when he marched through Frederick and Lancaster to Philadelphia – thence up the Delaware River until they arrived opposite to Trenton where they crossed the River, and joined the troops stationed there, which was a few days after the battle, as before stated. He does not recollect who commanded at Trenton when he joined, but General Washington had gone in pursuit of the British under General Howe. That he remained a few days at Trenton, when he marched with the troops and joined Lord Starling's [Lord Sterling, a.k.a., William Alexander] Brigade, where he was stationed some distance from Morristown – at what was said to be Starling own place – but of this he does not know this fact. General Washington was at Morristown his headquarters, and the British under General Howe were encamped at Brunswick. Being then young, and now advanced in years and infirm, he does not recollect the names of the Regulars Officers stationed there. He remained there serving this winter being frequently called out on scouting parties, to intercept the British foraging parties. On one occasion, he marched with a party down to the British encampment, when a party was sent to fire on the sentinels of the enemy – when they beat to arms, and a smart skirmish ensued, when the Americans retired. Captain Thruston was wounded in his arm – and it was said that he was killed, and several others, that he saw were wounded. That he remained until the last of March, when his term of service expired, when he was discharged, and returned to Frederick, where he resided. He received a written paper, which was said to be a discharge, but he could not read writing, and does not know by whom signed which he has long since lost. He does not

recollect the day of the month when discharged, but the tour was for three months, and he served out the full time, until his officers voluntarily discharged him with the balance of the company – whom Captain Thruston did not join after he was wounded, in the skirmish as above stated.

That in the last of August or first of September 1777 he was drafted for three months in the County of Frederick and State of Virginia, where he resided – and served under Captain Robert White and Colonel William Calmes. That he rendezvoused in Winchester and marched through Frederick and Lancaster and joined the main Army under General Washington a few days after the Battle of Germantown [October 4, 1777] – and remained there during his term of service, being frequently on scouting parties. He was with the troops who marched down the River against the Hessians, and made an attack on a Fort below Philadelphia but did not meet them – but heard the cannonading between the Army and the Fort – when two of the ships of the enemy were blown up. After his return to the main Army, he served out his full time. He does not recollect the day, but he knows that he was drafted for three months, and continued until the officers voluntarily discharged him. He does not recollect whether he received a written discharge or not.

That he served about four weeks as a volunteer under Captain Nicswanger [John Nicswanger, Nisewanger, Nighwonger, Nighwanger] guarding ammunition to Fort Pier [?]-but does not recollect the year. He then resided in Frederick County, Virginia.

That he was called out by General Clark [George Rogers Clark] who commanded at the falls of the Ohio in annexed relation to the Miami Towns, and served under Captain James Rogers from that part of Kentucky which is now Nelson County, where he resided, and he believes that he served about two months. He will not be certain as to the years, but believes it was in the fall of 1782.

That he has no documentary evidence of his service – and knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service. He knows Richard Taylor of this County, who lived in Frederick at the time of the two first tours, who knows that he was drafted one of the times, and as to the belief of his service. He also believes that he can prove his service under Clark by Matthew Rogers of Indiana.

That he was born about 7 miles from Philadelphia 19th of August 1757. He has no record of his age. He left Frederick County Virginia in the fall of 1779 and landed at the falls of the Ohio, in the spring of 1780 and a few days thereafter moved out to Rogers station near where Bardstown was afterwards located. That he remained there some years, when he moved to where he now lives, in Ohio County. He does not mean, to the farm on which he now lives, but the County. That he is acquainted with Reverend Thomas Taylor and Richard Taylor of his present neighborhood, who can testify to his character for veracity, and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any state.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Matthias Shults, X his mark

[Thomas Taylor, a clergyman, and Richard Taylor gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[f p. 13]

State of Kentucky of Ohio County: Sct.

On this 7th day of January 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the County Court of said County now sitting, Richard Taylor, a resident in the said County, aged 72 years

past – who being sworn according to law, doth on his oath declare – That in the summer of 1776 he resided in Frederick County and State of Virginia and knows that in the summer of that year, the Reverend Mr. Thruston a Minister of the gospel at Winchester in said County, raised a volunteer company of minute men. That in the [indecipherable word] part of the summer, he preached what was called his farewell sermon which he believes was in June. That the company was not called into service until December of that year. That he was raised in the same neighborhood and was acquainted with Matthias Shults who now lives in this County, but who then lived in Frederick Virginia, and whose declaration for a pension was this day sworn to in his presence. That it was reputed and believed, and in which he concurs, that the said Matthias Shults when the company was called into service under said Thruston volunteered as a substitute for Gasper Rinker his brother-in-law. He knows that he was absent during the winter, and hesitates not to state his firm belief that he served the tour. He further states that he was present in August or September 1777 when the said Shults was drafted he believes for 3 months – and was absent that fall, and has no doubt but he served his tour. He also states that he heard his said declaration for a pension read, and believes that he rendered the services therein stated. This he believes, from the conversation and belief of those who lived in Frederick, and at the time the services were rendering – as well as the reputation and belief of the neighborhood where he now resides – in fact, part of the facts he knows as before stated – and has no doubt of the truth of the statement contained in said declaration.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Richard Taylor

[f p. 4: On January 7th, 1839, Didaman Shutts [sic], 77, a resident of Ohio County Kentucky filed for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of Matthias Shults, a revolutionary war pensioner; that she married him November 7, 1784 or 5 in Kentucky; that they were married by Joseph Barnett, a clergyman; that her husband died May 19, 1834 and that she remains his widow. She signed her application with her mark.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$29.76 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 8 months and 28 days service in the Virginia militia.]