

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Shirley W8719

Frances

f54VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

2/11/12

[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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

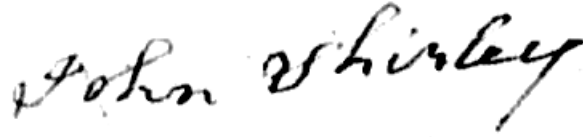
[f p. 11]

State of Kentucky Adair County Court Sct December Term 1832. On this 3rd day of December 1832 personally appeared in Open Court before the worshipful Justices of the County Court for Adair County State of Kentucky now setting John Shirley aged 72 years last April 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 7th of June 1832

That in the latter part of the year 1775 or the early part of 1776 he enlisted in the Marine service of the United States under Captain Gabriel Jones 1st Lieutenant John Kemp 2nd Lieutenant Peter Stubblefield he enlisted as aforesaid in the County of Culpeper State of Virginia marched on immediately to Hobs hole [Hobbs Hole at present Tappahannock in Essex County VA on Rappahannock River] where he went on board a vessel called and known by the name of *Venture*, from thence he sailed out [indecipherable word] upon various parts of the Ocean he continued in Constant service for the full term of his enlistment & was honorably discharged at Hobs hole Virginia by his Captain – as soon as he was discharged he immediately enlisted under Captain John Kemp for one-year Peter Stubblefield Lieutenant he marched from hobs hole where he enlisted to Culpeper County Virginia for the purpose of completing the Company there he was kept in service four months then he was marched on to join the main Army went on to his father's in Spotsylvania County Virginia when his father prevailed upon him to stay at home and permit him (his said Father) to hire a substitute in this applicant's place, he was a boy and disposed to yield to his father's request [indecipherable word] whereupon his father hired James Kemp who was excepted in lieu of this applicant & his Captain then permitted him to remain at home, he was afterwards drafted for three months and entered the service as a private soldier he does not recollect the year but it was the year of Gates defeat in which Battle this applicant was in from Beginning to end and served out his full term, was again discharged he was again drafted for three months in the year 1781 and entered the service under Captain Sanders was marched on to Little York at the surrender of Cornwallis [October 19, 1781] before he reached York was at various points on his way he served his full term for which he was drafted, & was discharged, he has lost or mislaid all his discharges so that he does not know where they are he has no documentary evidence nor does he know of any person whose Testimony he can procure who can testify to his services he was born in Spotsylvania County Virginia, he remained in Virginia until the year 1807 when he moved to and settled in the County of Adair State of Kentucky where he now lives he has no register of his Birth But from the information of his parents he was born in the month of April 1760, he hereby relinquishes every claim 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 & year aforesaid.

S/ John Shirley



[John C Estes & George Y Shirley gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[f p. 20]

State of Kentucky Adair Circuit Court: SS

June Term 1833 on 6th June 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable Benjamin Monroe Sole Judge of the Circuit Court for the Circuit Court held in the County of Adair State of Kentucky now setting John Shirley a resident of the County of Adair State of Kentucky aged seventy-three years last April who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration by way of amendment to his original files in the Adair County Court on the 3rd of December 1832 in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed 7th of June 1832.

That he enlisted as a private in the marine service in the latter part of the year 1775 or the 1st of the year 1776 for one-year under Captain Gabriel Jones,<sup>1</sup> the 1st Lieutenant was by the name of John Kemp his 2nd Lieutenant was Peter Stubblefield, he states that he immediately entered the service marched to hobs hole there went on board the ship called and known by the name of *Venture* and their sailed out he states that during the whole time for which he enlisted being one whole year he was engaged in the service of the United States in the aforesaid vessel and for the time during which the service was performed he was not employed in any civil pursuit he states that the service was mostly confined to the bays &c. When his term was fully out he was honorably discharged by his Captain, he further states that he immediately at hobs hole enlisted as a Regular Soldier for one-year under Captain John Kemp Peter Stubblefield Lieutenant that he immediately entered the service of the United States and marched on to Culpeper County Virginia for the purpose of recruiting or completing their Company – and here he begs leave to correct a mistake in his original declaration which states that he first enlisted in Culpeper where it ought to have been Spotsylvania and presumes the mistake happened by this declarant naming Culpeper as the place to which he marched, he states that he was stationed in Culpeper County four months and was dismissed and discharged at his father's as stated in his former Declaration and to which he refers for explanation.

He states that sometime thereafter to it in the year 1780 he thinks in the month of June or July he was drafted as a private militiaman in Spotsylvania Virginia for three months under Captain Thomas Minor Lieutenant John Hollowday [John Holliday or Holladay] Ensign John Chew, he was marched on to Hillsboro State of North Carolina where he was joined to Colonel George Stubblefield's Regiment General Stephens [Edward Stevens'] Brigade he was marched to various places and finally to Camden where he was engaged in the battle at that place under General Gates in which Battle [August 15-16, 1780] he was in from Beginning to the end, after that Battle and his time expired [he] was Honorably discharged by his Captain. He states that he

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<sup>1</sup> JONES, GABRIEL VA Captain of Marines, Virginia Marines

Gabriel Jones was commissioned as a Captain of Marines on 26 June 1776. [NOAR, 169] According to Stewart, 209, he was a Lieutenant of Marines at some time.

<http://www.awiatsea.com/Officers/Officers%20J.html>

was again in the year 1781 drafted as a private militia man in the County of Spotsylvania State of Virginia and was put in the Company of Captain Sanders, Lieutenant John Mason, the name of the Ensign he does not recollect, he was attached to Colonel Meriwether's Regiment and marched on to several places in the State of Virginia and finally onto Little York where he joined the main Army and remained there until after the surrender of Lord Cornwallis and continued in service until his three months fully expired and was Honorably discharged by his Captain & returned home he states positively that he faithfully served as a private in the marine service one year as a regular soldier four months and as a militia man three months at one tour as above stated though in his first tour drafted as a private was appointed sergeant that the second time he was drafted he served three months as a private militia man making in the whole one year and ten months all of which services was performed with an embodied Corps called into service by Competent authority, that he was in the field, ship or garrison the whole time as before stated & never was employed in any civil pursuit during the time said service was performed and for said which service he claims a pension. He states that he does not know of any Person by whom he can prove his service nor has he any documentary evidence he having lost all his discharges and should his name not be found on the rolls for the time he was in the regular service he does not wish his other claims to be delayed on that account but will abandon that claimed; as he does not believe he ever can make proof there was several witnesses in Kentucky some years ago who could have established the fact but they were are dead 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.

Where and in what year were you born

Answer I was born in Spotsylvania in the State of Virginia in the month of April 1760 agreeable to the information of my parents which I believe to be true

2nd Have you any record of your age if so where is it

Answer I have none

3rd Where were you living when called into Service where have you lived since the revolutionary war and where do you live now

Answer I lived in Spotsylvania County State of Virginia when I was called into service each and every time and continued a citizen of that County and state until the year 1807 when I moved to the State of Kentucky stopped a few months in Mercer County came on to Adair where I have ever since resided.

How were you called into service were you drafted did you volunteer or were you a substitute and if a substitute for whom

Answer I enlisted in the Marine service for one-year as before stated and served out the full term the second time I enlisted as a regular for one-year but served but four months I was drafted the third and fourth times for three months each and served out each tour fully.

5. State the names of some of the regular or Continental officers who were with the troops where you served such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service at the battle of Camden General Gates Stevens & many other officers at York Lafayette, Washington &c &c and the General Circumstances of my services is stated in the body of the declaration as far as I recollect.

6. Did you ever receive a discharge from the service if so by whom was it given and what has become of it

Answer I received written discharges for each tour signed by my respective captains all of which I have lost

State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood who can testify to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the revolution. I am well acquainted with most of the citizens in the neighborhood and could cheerfully refer to all with whom I am acquainted for my character & veracity how many they have heard me speak of my services I do not know several of the Mr. Estes , the Reverend Chasteen H. Trabue and many others were they here would all testify to the same.  
Subscribed and sworn to the day and year aforesaid.

S/ John Shirley

[Chasteen H. Trabue, a clergyman, gave a standard supporting affidavit in which Nathan Gaither, William Owens, Alexander Miller, Robert Cravens, William McNeely, and Joseph H Coleman joined.]

[f p. 53: On June 11, 1836 the veteran filed a relinquishment of his claim for service as a Marine and as a regular soldier since could not obtain any proof of those services.]

[f p. 5: On September 22, 1843 in Adair County Kentucky, Frances Shirley, 84, filed for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of John Shirley, a pensioner at the rate of \$20 per annum for his service in the revolution; that she was married to John Shirley on the 25th of November 1782 and that her husband died March 12 1840. She signed her application with her mark.]

[f p. 33: On June 6, 1844 in Adair County Kentucky Francis G. Yates, 66, gave an affidavit in support of the widows application as to her marriage to the veteran; the veteran's death on March 12, 1840; and that the veteran and his wife raised a large family of respectable children the oldest of which is about 60. He did not state what relationship, if any he had to the widow.



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[f pp 8-9: family register:

Marriages

John Shirley and Frances Yates were married November 25, A.D. 1782

Thomas Coleman and Nancy W Shirley were married December 27 1806 [?]

George Y Shirley and Pamela Coleman were married December 18, 1807

John W Shirley & Patsey Young were married January the 26, 1809

Edmund Rogers and Polly E Shirley were married January 27, 1809

Betsy W Shirley was married November 18th, 1819

Francis A Young & Nancy Shirley were married January 11, 1829

Births

Benjamin W Shirley son of John and Frances Shirley was born October 22nd, 1797

John W Shirley was born December 28 A.D. 1787

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months in the Virginia militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]