Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Sheppard (Shepherd) W7631 Priscilla Hay
Transcribed by Will Graves

State of Virginia King William County SS

On this 19th day of June 1839 – Personally appeared before me a Justice of the Peace for
the County aforesaid, Priscilla Hay, who was Priscilla Shepard, widow of James Shepard
deceased who was a revolutionary Soldier. She the said Priscilla a resident of the aforesaid
County (King William) aged seventy-five years on the 22nd day of August next who being first
duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain
the benefit of the provisions made by the act of Congress passed July the 7th 1838 – entitled an
act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows. That she was the widow of James Shepard
deceased a revolutionary soldier but that she is now the widow of Gideon Hay who died in 1831.
The said James Shepard was Sergeant in the Revolutionary Army of the United States, and
enlisted under Captain William Spiller of King William County Virginia for the space of three
years, which time he served faithfully, but the day, month or year she does not recollect, nor does
she know what part of the Country he marched through, nor what battles he was engaged in –
She further declares that she was married to the said James Shepard deceased a revolutionary soldier but that she is now the widow of Gideon Hay who died in 1831. The said James Shepard was Sergeant in the Revolutionary Army of the United States, and enlisted under Captain William Spiller of King William County Virginia for the space of three years, which time he served faithfully, but the day, month or year she does not recollect, nor does she know what part of the Country he marched through, nor what battles he was engaged in – She further declares that she was married to the said James Shepard deceased a revolutionary soldier but that she is now the widow of Gideon Hay who died in 1831. The said James Shepard was Sergeant in the Revolutionary Army of the United States, and enlisted under Captain William Spiller of King William County Virginia for the space of three years, which time he served faithfully, but the day, month or year she does not recollect, nor does she know what part of the Country he marched through, nor what battles he was engaged in – She further declares that she was married to the said James Shepard deceased a revolutionary soldier but that she is now the widow of Gideon Hay who died in 1831. The said James Shepard was Sergeant in the Revolutionary Army of the United States, and enlisted under Captain William Spiller of King William County Virginia for the space of three years, which time he served faithfully, but the day, month or year she does not recollect, nor does she know what part of the Country he marched through, nor what battles he was engaged in –

S/ Priscilla Hay, X her mark

Sworn to and subscribed on the day and year above written before me

S/ Wilson Cary Nelson, JP

[copy of a marriage bond dated April 15, 1785 issued in King William County Virginia to
James Shepherd and John Satterwhite conditioned upon the marriage of James Shepherd to
Priscilla Gentry daughter of John Gentry.]

This is to Certify, That it appears from a List in this Office of such Officers and Soldiers
of the Virginia State 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 26th day of May 1783 , in the name of
James Sheppard , as a Sergt. of Artillery for £84.0.10, which Certificate appears to have been
delivered to Wm Spiller and was given for services prior to the 1st January 1782.

1 Former widow
Given under my hand, at the Auditor's Office, Richmond, this 5th day of October 1838.  
S/ A. W. Morton, Clk  
AUDITOR absent

[family record:
[f. p. 13]
John Hay the son of Gideon and Presila Hay was born in the year 1797 in July the 27  
Thomas Hay was born October the 20 1799  
Richard Hay was born February the 8 1801  
James Hay was [born] September the 8 1803  
Robert Hay was born January the 10 1806  
Saley Hay was born September the 2 1808  
These are the ages of my children

[f p. 18]
James Shepherd was Mared [married] in the yeare Seventeen hundered & 86  
Mary Shepherd was Born february the 8 1787  
frances Shepherd was Borne february the 17 1789  
Nancey Shepherd was Borne Novenber the 5 1791  
Nancey Shepherd Died in the year September 31 1793 [sic]

[Facts in file: The widow died March 18, 1844 leaving two children surviving by James Shepard:  
Francis, born February 17, 1789, who married August 7, 1816, Richard S. Rice, and Catharine,  
wife of Pleasant Davis, who had a daughter Mary Davis. A note of page 41 indicates that the  
proceeds due were paid to William A. Saunders for the benefit of Catharine Davis, Francis Rice,  
Thomas Hay, John Hay, Richard B. Hay, James C. Hay, Robert Hay and Sarah Ann Hay,  
surviving children.]

[Veteran's widow's heirs were awarded a pension at the rate of $120 per annum commencing  
March 4th, 1836 and ending March 18, 1844, for her former husband's service as a Sergeant of  
artillery in the Virginia Continental line.]

The Virginia State Library has posted in its digital collection the following documents relating, I  
believe, to this veteran:

James Shepherd Serjeant in Colonel Marshall's Regiment of Artillery having Faithfully served  
three years, the term of his enlistment is hereby discharged from the said Regiment – Given  
under my hand this 22nd day of August 1780.  
By order of Colonel Edmonds  
John Mazaret  
Auditor's office May 26 1783  
Major A:  
the above is the & a True copy of a  
discharge ladged [?] in this office  
S/ B. Stark
Sir
I give to Capt. Wm Spiller a Certificate for the land due me as a Serjt in the State Artillery.
James Shepherd
To Maj. Meriweather [Meriwether] February 2th 1784

Received a Certificate for James Shepherd land Warrant the 5th of February 1784
Wm Spiller

[Handwritten note]