

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Archibald Shortt: S17085

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia & County of Powhatan to wit

On this 15th day of August in the year 1832. personally appeared in open Court before Saml. Jones, B. S. Morrison, Jno. C. Porter & C. Tilden the Court of Powhatan County aforesaid now sitting, Archibald Short, a resident of the same County, aged seventy four years, 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.

I Archibald Short was born in December 1758 in the County of Chesterfield & state of Virginia, but for the last several years I have lived in the adjoining County of Powhatan. I was put on the muster roll in the year 1775, & in the year 1776, I took the oath, common at that time, by which I solemnly renounced all allegiance to King George. In the year 1777 or '78 I enlisted as a regular for three years' service under Captain Francis Smith of Chesterfield County, who was then a recruiting officer in the first Virginia regiment - but after a few weeks' service I procured a substitute. In the year 1780 about the latter part of May or the 1st of June the militia was called from Virginia to the South - at which time I substituted myself for Samuel Short of Chesterfield, & we marched under the command of Capt Archibald Walthall. We stopped at Randolph mill in [smudge] till the Henrico, Hanover & Caroline militias came up. Col. Faulkners commanded our regiment until we reached Hillsboro in North Carolina, at which place we remained until the Virginia & N. Carolina militia assembled. General [Horatio] Gates then came in from the North & we continued our march to Camden in South Carolina, where we were defeated [16 Aug 1780]. the troops rallied at Salisbury [NC] and I was brought to Hillsborough & put in the hospital, where I staid until late in September. I then got a discharge from General Gates but this I have lost. On account of my ill health I did not arrive at home until the first of December. - In the year 1781 I was called out to guard the Tuckahoe & Westham ferries on James River & remained in service a short time. In 1781, I was again called out, & served under Captain David Patterson of Chesterfield about five weeks, being at this time discharged a little time before the battle of Guilford Court House in North Carolina [15 March 1781]. I was again called out during the same summer & served under the same Captain through the seige of York - until Lord Cornwallis surrendered to our Washington [19 Oct 1781]. I then marched with the prisoners to Winchester under the command of Capt. Spencer of Charlotte County, who took the place of Capt. Patterson. - Taking the whole of my active service together, I should suppose that I was on duty for about two years - & indeed I think more. I was in service from the time of my first going out until the end of the war. It is true I was often at home, but I have no doubt that the whole of my active service amounts to more than two years. ~

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, & declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid. [signed] Archibald Shortt

16th January 1833. - Personally appeared before me, the undersigned, a Justice of the Peace for the County of Powhatan, in the State of Virginia, Archibald Short, who being duly sworn deposeth & saith that by reason of old age & the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his services, but according to the best of his recollection, he served not less that the periods mentioned below & in the following grades: In the first tour he served from 1st of June to the 1st of December in 1780 making 7 months [sic] - this was his 1st tour to the South - In this time of service, he went from home the 1st of Feby 1781 & did not return home except on furlough till the last of December - How long he staid from home at each separate time he cannot say, but when he went home it was upon furlough & he never staid more than a day or two at a time. He served more - which, however, he cannot particularly state, & is willing to limit his whole service to the two periods of 11 & 7 months, making in all 18 He served altogether as a militia man, a private. The statement about his age

in his declaration is taken from the family record, which he has seen, & which is in the possession of a brother residing now in the County of Franklin. -

He the said Short is the same who deposeth & saith also that he has no documentary evidence to establish his claim & knows of no living witness whose evidence can be procured who knows that he was a soldier of the revolution. He, therefore, suggests that as he has produced no such living witness there can be no administering of any oath by a Justice & no certificate from said Justice that the witness is credible. and again in this state of Virginia [several lines illegible] He cannot be more particular with reference to the officers of the revolution than he has already been in his declaration, nor with reference to the different continental regiments, being ignorant of such matters — In answer to one of the questions, inquiring after the names of such character in his neighbourhood as can testify as to his character, he refers to Francis C. Lowry, Major Jacob Richards, James Harkins, Basset Dogby[?]. - he [illegible word] had a discharge but this he has lost.