

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Shepherd Gum R4384

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Missouri, } Sct.

County of Howard, }

On this sixth day of August, 1834, personally appeared before the County Court of the County of Howard and state of Missouri, Shepherd Gum a resident of the County and State aforesaid, aged 73 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 provision made by the act of Congress, passed June 7 1832. That he entered the military service of the United States, in the County of Rockingham, Virginia, under the command of Captain Robert Cravens, in the spring of 1779 [sic], and marched under his command to a fort in Tigers Valley [sic: Tygart Valley in present West Virginia] for the purpose of guarding the frontiers of Virginia against the incursions of the Indians. In this service I continued three months – and was discharged, or rather the whole company was disbanded.

In the fall of the year 1779 [sic: 1778] I again entered the service under the command of Captain Abraham Lincoln, and marched under him to the northwestern [sic] part of Pennsylvania, where we joined the army of General [Lachlan] McIntosh, at Fort McIntosh [at present Beaver PA], on the north west bank of the Ohio. From thence the whole command of Gen'l McIntosh (except a guard for the Garrison) marched to the head waters of the river Muskingum, where we built Fort Lawrence, on the western bank of the Tuscarora [sic: Fort Laurens on the Tuscarawas River near present Bolivar OH, completed Jan 1779], and there met a tribe of Indians with whom we made a verbal treaty & from we procured some supplies of corn. In this tour I served three months.

In the fall of 1780 I served a tour of three months under Captain George Baxter. We marched from Rockingham, and ranged in the neighborhood of Fort Smith [probably the one on James River below Richmond] to prevent the incursions and depredations of the British, who had possession of the Fort.

In the spring and summer of 1781, I served a tour of three months under Captain George Chrisman. I entered the service in Rockingham County and marched from thence to a place of rendezvous north of old James Town nothing occurred during this campaign worthy of recording.

In September 1781, I again entered the service and served a three months tour, viz: Under Captain Richard Ragan [sic: Richard Reagan] I marched from Rockingham down to the battery at Yorktown, from whence I was ordered out on a fatigue party to Burrel's ferry on James River [sic: Burwell's Ferry from Hog Island to Carter's Grove], where I assisted in putting the cannon on their carriages & hauled them up the river bluff. I was then ordered on board the Schooner Hummingbird, then loading with provision for the use of the French fleet then blockading York River. I sailed on board this schooner & delivered the stores to the French fleet. We proceeded from thence to York Town, where we arrived a few days after the surrender of Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781], where I was discharged by Captain Hague.

Between the periods of some of these tours of service, I served one campaign of twenty days under Captain William Herring in marching from Rockingham to Richmond & returning. We were marched to Richmond under the apprehension that the British were about to attack that place, which apprehension, however, proved groundless.

I also served a tour of one month, in an irregular service, against the Tories, who were embodied in the mountains on the headwaters of the South branch of the Potomac. I do not remember the name of our Captain or whether he was more than a mere leader in this volunteer service.

He knows of no living witness of his services.

To the questions directed to be propounded by the War Department he answers: –

1. He was born in the County of Orange in the State of Virginia, on the 29th day of July 1761
2. He has a record of his age, in the hand writing of his father Jacob Gum, which he here produces to the Court.
3. He was living in the County of Rockingham and State of Virginia at the several periods at which he was called into the service as aforesaid, and since the Revolutionary War has lived in Hardin County Kentucky and now lives in the County of Howard & State of Missouri.
4. He was a volunteer in every tour except the last one – and was drafted into the service for that tour.
5. In addition to the names of his Captains he states the names of General Muhlenburgh [sic: Peter Muhlenberg], Col. Naul [sic: William Nall] & Major Guy Hamilton [Gawen Hamilton] who were with the troops where he served as aforesaid.
6. He rec'd a discharge, as before stated from Captain Hague. His own discharge & that of a fellow soldier (Saml Drake [Samuel Drake]) was written on the same sheet and Drake having taken both together, I never procured mine – caring nothing about it.
7. He states the names of Thomas Burrows and Hampton L. Boon to whom he is known in his present neighborhood, and who can testify as 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 an annuity, except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any State. Shepherd Gum

[The above declaration was returned by the Pension Office for lack of detail and incorrect date of McIntosh's campaign. The following amended declaration dated 6 Aug 1834 also appears to have been rejected.]

In relation to my services as detailed in my original declaration aforesaid, I am now under the impression, from an examination of some of my old papers, and taxing my recollection to its utmost, that I entered the service of the United States under the Command of Captain Robert Cravens in the Spring of 1778, instead of the Spring of 1779 as stated in my original declaration, and that, consequently, there is the inaccuracy of one year in the detail of his first, second and third tours of service.

His recollection enables him to state in relation to the second tour of service as detailed in his original declaration, that he was rendezvoused at Harrisonburg, Virginia, and marched from thence across the South and North branches of the Potomac; we struck "Braddock's road" at Gwinns Tavern, at the foot of the Allegany [sic: Allegheny] Mountain, a short distance above Fort Cumberland [present Cumberland MD]; we followed "Braddock's road" (a large road cut out by Gen'l Braddock [1755]) across the Allegany Mountain to the foot of Laurel Hill, passing the Camp of Dunbar [Col. Thomas Dunbar at present Jumonville PA], where he had once blown up a Magazine, as we were given to understand in passing by it. Between "Dunbar Camp" and "Braddock's old battle ground" [present Braddock] we left this road, turning to the left in the direction of Devores old ferry, on the Monongohelia [sic: at present Monongahela on the river of that name] about thirty miles above Fort Pitt – now Pittsburg. From there we struck through the Country to Fort McIntosh, on the Ohio, passing Col. Neville's on the head of Shirtee Creek [sic: Chartiers Creek at McKees Rocks]. He remembers in addition to what he has stated in his original declaration, that as the army was passing from Fort McIntosh to the Tucarora (where he assisted in building Fort Lawrence) that as they were passing through some fallen timber, a body of Indians fired on the advance guard of the Army & killed a man by the name of Gaines – as I now recollect the name. In the building of Fort Lawrence, having no waggons nor teams, he remembers the men had to carry the timbers used in its construction on their shoulders across a small prairie which lays between the Tuscarora & the woods.

In his fifth tour of service under Captain Richard Ragan, he remembers that on his arrival at York Town the British were firing at the Americans who were engaged in throwing up the breast works. This

firing continued occasionally during his short stay there (before he was sent to Burrell's ferry as stated in his original declaration) and one cannon ball struck a stack of musketts, peices of which wounded two men (brothers by the name of Boyer.) The same Cannon ball cut off another mans thigh by the name of John Shannon who died directly of loss of blood – as I understood from some of my comrades. On his arrival at York Town on board the Hummingbird (as stated in his original declaration) he remembers Lord Cornwallis was in close quarters under the river bluff – the British shipping had the rigging all cut off – a great part of it had been sunk – and many horses which had been killed were thrown into the river at the wharf.

From old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service; but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than fifteen months and twenty days – and for this service he claims a pension.

[signed] Shepherd Gum