

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Zedekiah Shumaker: S7480

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia and County of Amherst Sc

On this 15th day of October 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the County Court of Amherst now sitting Zedekiah Shumaker a resident of Lexington Parish in the County of Amherst and State of Virginia aged about 79 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

Who states that he is aged about 79 years that he has no record of his age that he was born (as he was told by his parents) in the County of Henrico, and removed when an infant to that part of Albemarle County now the County of Amherst where he resided until the year of 1775 when he removed to the Western part of Virginia and then he planted a crop of corn. when the Indians became troublesome he returned to Amherst and in the Autumn of the year 1776 he enlisted for two years under Lieutenant William Moore of Rockbridge County with Jno. Hogg, Jno. Finney, Sam'l Peters, William Hix and others and that he was marched to Point Pleasant (at the junction of the great Kenawha [sic: Kanawha] with the Ohio River) soon after his enlistment under the command of Capt William McKee Lieut William Moore and James Thompson and Ensign James Gilmore who were from the County of Rockbridge with the privates before named and many others. that he was stationed at the fort at that place and there served two years under the command of Capt. Matthew Arbuckle as senior officer whose subalterns were as well as I recalled Andrew Wallace Lieut. Saml Woods and ensign James McNutt. That when he arrived at said fort he there found William Pryor of the County of Amherst who had been there for some time and had served under said Arbuckle for some months at said place as a substitute for a man by the name of Frazer and that the said William Pryor after serving out Frazers time enlisted under said Arbuckle for two years and served out the time with myself at said place, and that while there Colonels Skeleran [sic: George Skillern] and Dickerson [sic: John Dickenson] came to said place in the fall of 1777 and had many men under their command. their destination was said to be against the Shawnee Towns. that whilst they were at Point Pleasant the men under their command murdered Cornstalk the Shawnee Chief, his son Nipseko [sic: Ellinipsico or Elinipsico] and another Indian who was with them in the fort. the massacre of said Indians was caused from a Lieut Gilmore being killed by some unknown Indians. That whilst said officers and men were at the fort General [Edward] Hand of the United States army came there from Pittsburg [sic: Pittsburgh PA] that said Hand made Skilleran and Dickerson abandon the expedition against the Indians. that said ordered Capt. Arbuckle and McKee to shorten the pay and daily allowance of the men under their command that when this order was put into execution, almost every man shouldered their guns and knapsacks and resolved to quit the place, when a Colo. [Samuel] McDowell interfered, and the matter was made up by him and they returned to the fort. The murder of Cornstalk so incensed the Shawnees, that they mustered all their strength, and in May of 1778 they attacked the fort at Point Pleasant killed one man Paddy Shearman and wounded James Gilmore. They besieged the fort for several days when finding they were unable to storm the fort or perish us out they killed all our stock of every kind, which they could see and supposing no one would dare leave the fort they informed the Grenadier Squaw, who was then in the fort and went out to see them that they were going to attack the forts and settlements in Greenbrier - Upon this information Capt. McKee offered that if any two men in the fort would equip themselves and follow the Indians, give the people of Greenbrier information of their danger that altho he could not discharge them, that he would so extend their furloughs as would be equal to a discharge. when two men Jno Intchminger and Jno Logan accepted the proposal, and started for Greenbrier, but they soon returned in great alarm, stating they could not pass the Indians. When they returned John Pryor a brother of William Pryor and Philip Hammond equipped themselves in Indian costume, followed the Indians, and passed them about the meadows within ten or twelve miles of Donnelleys fort [at present Frankford WV], where they arrived and gave information to the settlers. When they had been there forted but a

few days the Indians surrounded and attacked said fort and a dreadful conflict ensued. It so happened at the time the Indians attacked said fort, that Capt Matthew Arbuckle was in Greenbrier on a visit to his family. he and a Capt Lewis, hearing that the Indians had arrived, and also hearing the firing at Donnelleys fort, they raised a company of men, forced their way into said fort and drove off the Indians. This defeat compelled them to abandon their expedition being dreadfully worsted, their ammuniion expended, they returned to their towns. It was during this expedition of the Indians that Genl Clarke [sic: George Rogers Clark] passed by Point Pleasant on an expedition against a place then called the Opost, but now Vincennes- that during the autumn of 1778 a man by the name of Morgan who had been a prisoner among the Indians for many years was in the fort with an Indian Squaw who was his wife. Morgans father had offered a reward of \$300 to any man who would bring his son to him. This reward induced Capt Arbuckle to place Morgan in irons and put him under guard in order that he might convey him to his father. when said Morgan finding himself but slightly watched, he ran off with his wife who had been left unmolested. When this happened Capts Arbuckle and McKee fearing that he would give information to the Indians of our situation as a greater part of us would leave the fort in a few days, and the Indians in that event might waylay us on our way home, this induced the officers to leave the fort sooner than they intended, and I was discharged, with Wm Pryor aforesaid and many others about two days before my two years had ended which I think was about the 10<sup>th</sup> of October 1778 as my service commenced about the 10<sup>th</sup> of October 1776. That I have long since lost or mislaid my discharge and that he well recollects having seen the discharge of said William Pryor. The Zedekiah Shumaker further states that during the autumn of 1779 he was drafted in the Militia and served a tour of three months in and near the City of Richmond and a little below that place, that his Capt was Samuel Higginbotham, and was attached to a Regiment commanded by a Colo Christian, that the said William Pryor, Saml Paxton, Wm. Brown and others served with him during this tour. He further states that he was again drafted in the Militia and served a tour of one month or thereabouts at the Barracks at Charlottesville in Va in guarding the British prisoners at that place, that during this tour he was commanded by Capt Anthony Rucker and in company with Moses Sweeney, Wm Cook and others. that all the persons named above have since died or removed except William Pryor. That he received a regular discharge for the above tours but by whom signed he does not recollect as he has long since lost or mislaid them. that he was drafted in the County of Amherst for the above tours and that he has resided in said County ever since he came from Point Pleasant and that he still lives in said County and is known to said William Pryor, Bartlett Cash, Abram Carter, James Harrison of Rockbridge County and the Jno Davis who can testify their belief as to his services aforesaid. I hereby relinquish 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 in open court                      Zedekiah Shumaker

And the Court proceeded to propound the interrogatories prescribed by the War Department as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> Where and in what year were you born?

Answer. I was born in Hanover [sic] County Va in or about the year 1753.

2<sup>nd</sup> Have you any record of your age, if so where is it?

Answer. I have none.

3<sup>rd</sup> Where were you living when called into service, were you drafted did you volunteer or were you a substitute and if a substitute for whom?

Answer- I was living in the County of Amherst when I was enlisted by Lieut Moore, and was there living when drafted in the militia where I have lived ever since and am living there at this time.

4<sup>th</sup> 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 was enlisted first for two years, and after that term was served I was drafted and served two tours in the militia.

5<sup>th</sup> State the names of some of the regular 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?

Answer- I was with Capts Arbuckle and McKee, Lieuts Gilmore, Thompson and Moore, Ensigns McNutt and Woods at Point Pleasant, that whilst there Genls. Hand & Clarke and a Colo. McDowell of the United States troops visited that place, and that Colos Dickerson and Skilleran with many subaltern officers of the State Militia of Va also visited that place. and as to the circumstances of my service I I have related that in my declaration.

6<sup>th</sup>. Did you ever receive a discharge from the service and if so by whom was it given, and what has become of it?

Answer- I received discharges for all my services. I think the discharge for my two years services was signed by Capt Arbuckle, but that the other discharges have long since been lost.

7<sup>th</sup> State the names of the persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your service as a Soldier of the Revolution?

Answer- I am known to the Rev'd Jno Davis Wm. Pryor, Abram Carter and Bartlett Cash who can testify their belief of my services.

NOTE: Compare the pension application of William Pryor S8979.