

# **WILLIAM SHARP, SR.**

**3 Jul 1742 – 12 Mar 1833**

**Private, CPT William Kincaid; Colonel Samson Matthews & Spy for Warwick's Fort, VA**

William Sharp/Sharpe was born around 1740 at Beverly Manor. He was the son of John (1714-1749) & Margery Sharp (1718-1750), also spelled Sharpe. In 1749 William's father, John Sharp, was killed by Indians. It is said that the following year his mother, Margery, was also killed by Indians, leaving William and three younger siblings. It is known that William was bound as an orphaned apprentice to John Anderson, a tanner, of Beverly Manor, Augusta Parish in February 1750. In the year 1769, William married Mary Meeks, daughter of John Meeks (1706-1761) and Ann Meeks. John and his wife Ann, were killed during an Indian raid in 1761, leaving five children.

William Sharp, Sr was a pioneer settler of Pocahontas County and was the first to open up a permanent homestead in the Huntersville vicinity. This was located a few yards from the intersection of the Dunmore and Huntersville road. It is thought Wm Sharp had likely been living in the county prior to 1769 to be so familiar with the Greenbrier property he was granted, where he located his permanent homestead about 1773.

He served in the Rev War as a scout, spy and soldier against the Indians and the British. His affidavit in 1832 stated he did four short tours of service totaling over two years and six months. These includes an expedition against the Indians on the Muskingham River in the fall of 1764 until March 1765; his service as an Indian spy during the summer of 1773 and summer of 1774; and he served as a scout and messenger from the summer of 1774 to December 1774. Records from the American Daughters of the Revolution state that William Sharp served as a private and fifer in Capt. Lewis Pelham's Company, Colonel Parker's Virginia regiment in 1778. William was again drafted in January 1781 and was in a skirmish against the British at Portsmouth, Virginia. He was discharged there in April 1781. William Sharp's Declaration, September 4th, 1832: Age 92; was drafted in 1781 in the Company of Capt. William Kinkead; James Trimble was Ensign, Regiment of Col. Sampson Mathews. In 1774 he was drafted in the Company of Capt. Andrew Lockridge in an expedition against the Indians. He and William Mann were sent by Col. Andrew Lewis with a message to Governor Dunmore, then at Fort Pitt, and only returned the day after the battle. In 1764 he volunteered under Capt. Charles Lewis on an expedition against the Indians on Muskingham River. Lieutenant McClenachan belonged to Captain Lewis' Company. Declarant remembers Colonels Field and McNeel. He states he served also as Indian spy in 1773. ~ Cackley's Chronicles of the Scot-Irish Settlements in VA.

The will of William Sharp Sr. dated Nov 18, 1826 and probated in Pocahontas County in the May court of 1833, lists wife Mary Sharp and ten children: John Sharp, James Sharp, William Sharp, Andrew Sharp, Jane Sharp McCollum, Rachael Sharp Griffin, Rebecca Sharp Waddle and Margaret Sharp Kelly, two deceased: Nancy Sharp Moore and Mary Sharp Grimes.

This bio contains bits and pieces from various historical documents.

Revolutionary War Benefits Applications,

R.9429 ~ 1832 & 1834

Last Will & Testament of William Sharp, Sr., probated Mar 1833, Pocahontas Co, WV

Bio: William Sharp, Sr. - Pocahontas County Pioneer "Lest We Forget" by Rebecca Ann Sharp. Contributed for use in USGenWeb Archives by Becky Sharp

From Jrigdon: Find a Grave ID 48604325

William was born at the Beverly Manor plantation. His father was killed their by Indians in 1749. His mother also supposed to killed by Indians there but exact year isn't known. Court records show William and his siblings were orphans. William married Mary Francis Meek who's parents John and Ann were also killed by Indians at Calfpasture, Beverly Manor, in 1761.

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William and Mary Sharp are more than likely buried in the Old Huntersville Cemetery, known to be one of the oldest cemeteries in Pocahontas County, WV. This is where they were living when they died. This cemetery is said to be in very poor condition and reportedly have had old tombstones removed and thrown over the ridge.


State of Virginia }  
Pocahontas County }

On this fourth day of September 1832 personally appeared before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for the county aforesaid, William Sharp a resident of the County and State aforesaid aged ninety-two 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 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named Officers and served as herein stated. That he was drafted and went into service in a company commanded by Captain William Kinhead, does not now recollect the name of his Lieutenant but recollects that his Ensigns name was James Trimble; that the Company to which he belonged was attached to a regiment Commanded by Colonel Lawson Mathews; that he entered the service in the early part of the month of January 1781 and was discharged from that tour of service in the month of April, following that he was in a skirmish with the British at Portsmouth Virginia; that he resided near where he now does when he entered the service in what was then called West Augusta that he was drafted; that he marched across the Blue Ridge and directly on to Portsmouth where he remained until he was discharged, that he has no documentary witness but supposing that John Bradshaw knows of his having performed said tour of service. He was drafted and was in the service in the summer of 1774 in a company commanded by Captain Andrew Lockridge in an expedition against the Indians that a certain William Mann and himself were sent by Col Andrew Lewis with a message to Governor Dunsmore who was then at Fort Pitt (now Pittsburg) and did not return to join the Army until the next morning after the memorable Battle at Point Pleasant that he has no documentary evidence and that he knows of no person now living whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service in said campaign. He went as a volunteer in the ninth of September 1764 under Captain Charles Lewis (the same who was killed in the battle at Point Pleasant) in an expedition against the Indians on the Muskingum River, that he was in service said tour during the fall of 1764 and did not return home until the month of March 1765. Lieutenant McCracken belonged to Captain Lewis' Company; he does not now recollect the names of any other officers that were out on said expedition except Colonel Field and McNeal that they had no engagement with the Indians that tour; that the Indians came in and gave up the prisoners they then had. He was also in service as an Indian spy during the summer of 1775 and the summer of 1774 previous to being drafted into service as before stated under Captain Lockridge of which said service as a spy he has no documentary witnesses nor does he know of any person now living whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his said service. He states that adding all his services together, those when drafted; the tour as a volunteer and the various times as an Indian Spy will exceed two years and six months. He verily relinquishes every claim whatsoever 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 before me a Justice of the Peace for the County of Pocahontas. And I do moreover certify that the said William Sharp cannot from age and bodily infirmity attend the Court.

(signed)   
Wm Sharp

  
James Sharp

State of Virginia }  
Pocahontas County } Towit

On this 31<sup>st</sup> day of December 1833 personally appeared before Joseph Moore a Justice of the Peace for said County, Mary Sharp, widow and relic of William Sharp deceased of the said County of Pocahontas and state of Virginia aged eighty three years and that the said William Sharp who died on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of March 1833 was aged ninety three years at the time of his death. Who being first duly sworn according to Law, doth make on her oath the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June the 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That her husband served as an Indian spy three months in the summer of 1776 that the nature of his services that summer was to guard Warwick's Fort situated on the head waters of Greenbrier River in what was then called West Augusta, now Pocahontas County (where the settlers had collected as a place of safety and to traverse the surrounding mountains and to watch the gaps and passages through them for the purpose of discovering the trail of the Indians should any of them be making their way toward the fort or the settlement; that during the summer of 1777 he was again engaged in spying & early in the spring of that year he went to live at his own house which was situated near the town of Huntersville and the spot where John Bradshaw now lives, in the said County of Pocahontas that early in the spring of said year the hostile Indians made an inroad into the settlement and killed three men, two by the name of Bridgers and one names Baker in consequence of which the settlers betook themselves to the House of the Husband which was strongly built and fortified for defense, the names of most of the persons who came to the house of her Husband she has forgotten. She recollects the names of four men towit: Thomas Hecklin, Ralph Stuart, Joseph Baker, and John Collum that during that summer her Husband was engaged at least six months in guarding the settlers and watching the passes of the mountains, that again in each of the summers of 1778, 1777, 1779 and 1780, her said Husband continued to act as an Indian Spy from about the first of May in each year until the first of November continuously to guard the little settlement then forming on Greenbrier River, ----- the County or mountains between the head waters of Greenbrier River and the Tygart Valley River a branch of the Monongahela River and on the head waters of Elk River that during each of said summers he was engaged in no civil pursuit except to plant a little corn or to stand guard while others worked for the purpose of making bread to subsist upon and in the summer of 1780 he was kept so constantly in service that he lost all his corn. That her said Husband had been considerably engaged in pursuing and routing the Indians before the commencement of the Revolutionary War and that she frequently heard him say that he was on his way down the Ohio River from Pittsburg and arrived at Point Pleasant soon after the celebrated Battle fought at that place commonly called Dunmore's War at which time the celebrated Logan the Indian Chief delivered his speech and she supposes it was in consequence of the service he had seen the experience he had and his undoubted courage that caused him to be more actively engaged in spying the Indians than most of the other men who were joining the settlement ; There was however a man by the name of John Davis who sometimes went with him, that the whole of his services as an Indian Spy amounts to at least the term of two years and three months. That in the month of January she thinks in the year 1781 he was either drafted or as a volunteer against the British and served a three month tour at a place called Portsmouth either under the commandment of Captain Kinkaid or Captan Hicklin. She does not now know which, that she does not know or recollect of his being in any engagement unless it was a skirmish while at Portsmouth. that her said Husband and herself were married in the year 1769 that he departed this life on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of March 1833 that she has no documentary witness by which she can prove his said services and that she knows of no one living by whom she can prove the same except John Bradshaw Esq, who she believes can testify to his services at Portsmouth; that at the time of his death he resided in the County of Pocahontas and State of Virginia where he had resided ever since before the commencement of the Revolutionary War.

She relinquishes every claim whatsoever to a pension or annuity of pension except the present and declares that the name of the said William Sharp is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

(signed) 

*CMHS*