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**Profile 17 of 39: Shadrach Battles (S37713)**, a 70-year-old veteran of five major Revolutionary War battles, appeared before the General Court of Virginia to apply for his pension on May 14, 1818, under the Congressional Act. Carried in on a litter, he was too infirm to walk and unable to work. His dire need for assistance prompted Judge Archibald Stuart, himself a veteran, to chastise Congressman Hugh Nelson two years later over the long delays in receiving pensions due to bureaucratic obstacles. Battles, he said, was advanced in life and “in the lowest grade of poverty.”

A former law student and friend of Thomas Jefferson and James Madison, Stuart explained that Battles was a “man of color” who had bravely served under Clough Shelton in multiple daring operations. Judge Stuart describes Battles as Shelton’s “right-hand man” and “in all the daring acts of that most intrepid officer. (Judge Stuart was the father of Confederate General J.E.B. Stuart.)

Born in Albemarle County, Virginia, Battles first enlisted in 1777 in Amherst County in the 10th Virginia Regiment, Virginia Line, Continental Army. He served under Captain James Franklin and Lieutenant Clough Shelton (later Captain) in General George Weedon’s Brigade. On December 14, 1781, while residing in Louisa County, Virginia, he enlisted again at the age of 26, according to the size roll at Cumberland Old Courthouse, which also notes that he had previously served two years. He was described as a planter, standing 5’10¼” tall, with a yellow complexion, black hair, and yellow eyes.

He fought at Brandywine (Sept. 11, 1777), Germantown (Oct. 4, 1777), Monmouth (June 28, 1778), Savannah (Oct. 9, 1779 – Storming of the Fort), and Stony Point (July 15, 1779), serving under Clough Shelton. He was discharged in Augusta, Georgia, at the end of his service.

On October 11, 1820, he confirmed his service and requested a pension, listing his possessions as one broad axe, one oven, and one hand saw, valued at less than \$5.00. At the time, he was a resident of Albemarle County, a carpenter unable to work, and supported by the charity of his neighbors. His wife is described as 60 years old and also very infirm.

