

Col. Christian Snidow

1760 - 1836

Christian Snidow, son of John and Elizabeth Helm Snidow, was born March 15, 1760 in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. He migrated with his parents to the Valley of Virginia ca. 1767-1770, settling near Little Stony Creek in 1774.

MILITARY SERVICE:

(Source: Revolutionary War Pension Application S. 17112 filed in Giles County, VA May 26, 1834 - see pages 3-5)

May 1776: Christian entered the Virginia Militia as a volunteer. He served at:

- * Fort Wood and Fort Culbertson Bottom in Greenbrier County.
- * Salem, Haw Fields & Catawba in North Carolina.
- * The Lead Mines in Wythe County.
- * Fort Snidow, Fort Preston and Fort Pearis in Montgomery County.

June 1776: He fought the Cherokee at the Battle of Long Island in June of 1776 in what is now the State of Tennessee.

March 1781: Christian fought Cornwallis' Army in North Carolina at Clapp's Mill on March 2, 1781 and at Guilford Court House on March 15, 1781.

1812: He also served in the War of 1812 as a Lieutenant Colonel in command of the 86th Regiment of the Virginia Militia.

MARRIAGE/CHILDREN: In Montgomery County (see formation timeline below), Virginia August 1784 Christian married Mary Burk (1/22/1762-5/5/1825), dau. of Captain Thomas Burk and wife, Clara Frazier. The nine children of Christian & Mary were:

- **John** (6/20/1785-7/9/1834) m. Rachel Chapman.
- **Elizabeth** (2/16/1787-6/4/1860) m. John Peck.
- **Clara** (4/23/1790-1/16/1868) m. Conrad Peters.
- **Rebecca** (5/19/1792-10/7/1851) m. Benjamin Peck.
- **Nancy** (1/9/1796-6/25/1880) m. James Harvey.
- **William Henry** (1798-10/7/1863) m. Adeline Chapman.
- **Mary Burk** (3/2/1800-2/21/1839) m. Henry Walker.
- **Sarah** (6/9/1802-12/10/1845) m. Haven Bane.
- **Christian Lewis** (8/8/1805-4/19/1843) m. Barbara Snidow.

Origin of Giles County:

- 1721 Spotsylvania Co. formed from Essex, King & Queen, and King William Counties.
- 1734 Orange Co. formed from Spotsylvania Co.
- 1745 Augusta Co. formed from Orange Co.
- 1770 Botetourt Co. formed from Augusta Co.
- 1772 Fincastle Co. formed from Botetourt Co.
- 1777 Montgomery Co. formed from Fincastle Co.
- 1806 Giles formed from parts of Montgomery, Tazewell and Monroe (now WV) counties.

OTHER CAREER NOTES: In 1793 Col. Christian built a house on the east side of New River in (present-day) Giles County and established a ferry there - a Virginia State Historical Marker on Rt. 460 between Pembroke and Ripplemead identifies the approximate location.

In March 1790 he and Jonathan Isom were recommended to serve as commissioners of the peace for Montgomery Co.** Christian was a trustee of Christiansburg (source: Virginia State Archives, Vol. XIII, Chapter 71, Section 1, pg. 585). He was appointed as road overseer in June of 1792. Christian was one of the original justices of Giles County on its formation in 1806 and was appointed sheriff of Giles in 1809.

He represented Giles County in the Virginia House of Delegates (General Assembly) during the following terms: 1811/1812, 1812/1813, 1818/1819, 1820/1821 and 1821/1822.



DEATH: Christian died September 17, 1836 and his estate is recorded in Giles County Will Book B, pages 205-207. He is buried at Horseshoe Cemetery in Pembroke, VA along with his wife Mary Burk Snidow, her parents Thomas Burk and Clara Frazier Burk, and some of Christian and Mary's children, etc.). See our Horseshoe web page. Col. Christian's obit appeared in the Oct. 14, 1836 *Richmond Whig & Public Advertiser*...



"DIED At his residence, in the county of Giles, on Sunday, the 18th day of September last, Col. Christian Snidow, in the 77th year of his age. Col. Snidow was an early pioneer in the Western wilderness. He was an officer and soldier under Col. William Preston, during the war of the Revolution, and was engaged in defence [sic, but appropriate spelling at the time] of the Virginia frontier, against the warlike and merciless attacks and depredations of the Indians and Tories. He served the county of Giles for many years in the Legislature of Virginia, with zeal, fidelity, and devotion to those whose interest he represented. He was long a member of the county Court of Giles, and as such was highly respected. As a citizen, he was much esteemed, because of his usefulness, integrity and hospitality. As a friend, he was dearly beloved. His funeral was attended by a large concourse of citizens who evinced sincere sorrow for his death, and heartfelt sympathy with his bereaved and afflicted family.

His death has produced a vacuum which cannot shortly be closed; there is none to take his place. Adieu, thou friend of freedom and of man! This community cannot, will not forget thy kindness and hospitality. Thy name and thy actions will long be remembered--and thy loss will not be more sadly and more seriously experienced and felt than by the author of this humble tribute to thy memory."

(Thank you to Tandy Shields who found Col. Christian's obit in the microform newspaper section at Virginia Tech!)



Col. Christian Snidow's headstone was broken by a falling tree a few years ago. The new headstone was dedicated in 1999 at the annual reunion attended by the S.A.R. Color Guard.

Pension Application of Christian Snidow - S17112

Transcribed & annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia

County of Giles to wit

On this the twenty sixth day of May in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty four personally appeared in open court being the county Court for the said County of Giles now sitting, Christian Snidow a resident of said the County of Giles and state of Virginia aforesaid, aged seventy four years on the 15th day of March last, 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 the 7th 1832.



Site of Battle at Guilford Courthouse - in present-day Greensboro, NC

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

He entered the service of the Virginia Militia in May 1776 *[several words illegible]* the then County of Montgomery which *[several words illegible]* under the said County of Giles *[several words illegible]* Captain James McCorkle and Lieutenant John Lucas and marched to the waters of Watauga (Holstein) in Tennessee in an expedition against the Cherokee Indians and was in the battle of the Long Island of Holstein where he *[two words illegible]* was attacked by the Indians *[word illegible]* his company was under the command of Col. Montgomery but does not distinctly recollect. He *[five lines illegible]* where they were stationed three or four weeks, *[two words illegible]* scouting throughout the adjacent country, where he was discharged in the month of August having served three months. Very shortly after he returned home (the place *[one or two words illegible]* having been in the County *[several words illegible]* called into service and being now the *[word illegible]*) he was again entered into service and marched *[word illegible]* in the first part of December of the same year 1776 to the County of Greenbrier, now Monroe [now in West Virginia], where he was stationed at Woods Fort under the command of Capt Thomas Burk, Lieutenant Henry Patton and Ensign William McMullen for the term of three months – he together with the Company to which he belonged ranged the country *[word illegible]* said fort situated on Rich Creek, *[two words illegible]* in a distance of about 100 miles. After a service of three months he was discharged at said Fort.



He was next drafted into the service in the early part of the year 1777 in the same County, and went to Calbertson's bottom in the same County (now Giles), a distance of about 20 miles, and was there stationed and served three months, under the command of Captain Thomas Burk and Lieutenant Henry Patton – During this tour of service the Company scouted and ranged the country from the said station to Paint Creek *[possibly the one in Smyth County VA]* and Cole river *[sic: possibly Coal Creek in Tazewell and Russell counties]*, defending the frontier settlers from the attacks and incursions of the Shawnee Indians. After serving three months he was discharged at said fort. He next entered the service as a volunteer and was marched from home to Barrager's fort, then and now in the County of Montgomery, and was stationed and served there three months under the command of Captain John Floyd, the father of the late Governor of Virginia, after which he was discharged.

He was next entered into service in the early part of March 1778 by Colonel William Preston, and marched to North Carolina, against the Tories acting as Lieutenant in the Company commanded by Captain John Lucas, he having been commissioned as such in said Company subsequent to his last above named tour of service. They marched to Salem in the State of North Carolina, and there met with and joined the regiment commanded by Colonel William Campbell, and from there they were marched to the Hawfields *[in Alamance County]* a distance of about twenty five or thirty miles in pursuit of the tories, Colonel Campbell having been informed that they were assembled there. Not finding the tories at the Hawfields as was expected, they were marched from there to the Catawba (a distance of about 60 or 70 miles), where it was also represented that the tories had assembled to the number of two or 300, but they also failed to find any tories here. After remaining on the Catawba and finding no tories where it was said and expected, they were marched down that river for three to four days and were then by the order of Colonel Campbell marched back to Giles – where he with his company was discharged.

He was next entered into service by Colo. William Preston in the early part of July 1778 and marched as Lieutenant with his Company to the Lead Mines *[at Fort Chiswell]* in the County of Montgomery, now Wythe, to guard them *[one line illegible]* here he remained for the space of *[?] or [?]* weeks *[word illegible]* he was ordered by Colo. Preston to march from there and *[two words illegible]* guard, with sixty men, *[word illegible]* waggons, laden with ammunition to Salem in North Carolina, which was for the use of the regiment there stationed under the command of Colo. William Campbell. An individual by the name of Burnes*[?]* was Ensign, *[several words illegible]* in the command at the Lead mines. His tour of service having expired about the time of his arrival at *[two words illegible]* his Ensign *[word illegible]* were discharged and returned home having served three months. Still acting as Lieutenant, he was again ordered into service with his company by Colo. William Preston on the 3rd day of April 1779 and stationed at Snidow's Fort on New River for the purpose of scouting the surrounding country and of defending the frontier settlement against the invasions and depredations of the Shawnee Indians. He served on this tour three months, at the expiration of which he and his Company were discharged. He was in the early part of September the same year (1779) ordered by Colo. William Preston to Preston's fort in the County of Montgomery to act

in the capacity of Lieutenant in the Company commanded by Capt. John Floyd for the purpose of guarding the fort and for the purpose last remained, and also served on this tour three months and was there discharged.



Continental Army soldier shown loading a rifle.

He was next entered into service about the month of October 1780, and by order of Colo. William Preston, marched into North Carolina for the purpose of joining Colonel William Campbell's troops. On his march to North Carolina with his Company, he met with Captain Patten near the

aforesaid Lead Mines, who took command, as Captain, of this declarant's Company. they then continued their march to Salem in North Carolina where they joined Colo. Campbell's troops. A few days after the arrival of this declarant at Salem, Colo. Campbell, with the major body of the troops, there stationed, marched to Guilford, and left this declarant in the command of thirty men to guard the Moravian Town from the attacks of the tories. He remained at Salem till the expiration of three months from the time he was called on this tour of duty, and was then, with his company, discharged and returned home, having served the full three months.

He was next ordered into service by Colo. William Preston about the 1st of February 1781. On this service he was ordered by Colonel William Preston to march, as Lieutenant, under Captain James Burns to North Carolina with the regiment commanded by said Preston for the purpose of joining the American troops at the Moravian town under the



command of General [word illegible]. They arrived at Salem on the 14th day of February, and on the day previous (the 13th) Cornwallis with his forces had left the Country and [two words illegible] Guilford. The American troops followed them and at the [word illegible] about

15 miles from Guilford Court House, the regiment commanded by Colo. Preston together with some of the North Carolina troops had an engagement with a portion of Cornwallis's army in which the Americans were defeated. On the same evening this declarant with the other part of the American troops marched to Guilford Court House where they remained three or four days, and the declarant was attached, as Lieutenant, to a Company commanded by a certain Captain Simpson, whose given name, he believes was William. He with said Company was ordered to march with said [word illegible] to the Yadkin not far from Salisbury for the purpose of defending and protecting the Country from the Tories, at which place he remained with said Company five or six weeks, and was discharged and returned home, having served three months on this tour.

He was next and lastly called into service about the first of September 1781, and was ordered by Major Joseph Cloyd to take command, as Lieutenant, of the Company at Pearis fort, on New River in Montgomery (now Giles County) in the corps of Captain Pearis who was called off to North Carolina. He remained at this fort in defence of the same and of the surrounding country for the space of two months, and was discharged. His whole term of service, as a private, was twelve months, and as Lieutenant, was twenty months. His Commission as Lieutenant, he has long since lost. He received written discharges from the most of the above named tours of service, but has lost them. From the other tours he received no written discharge, to the best of his recollection. He has no documentary evidence of his service. He, however, believes that he can adduce living evidence of the most of his service, above stated, as will appear by the subjoined affidavits. He has no record of his age. He had one but has lost it. He, however, distinctly recollects the day of his birth, as stated in said record. Of the above discharges, above alluded to, he recollects that two were signed by Colo. William Campbell. – two by Colo. Burk and one by Capt. Burnes. He does not recollect by whom the others (there having been, he thinks, one or two other written discharges) were signed. He does not recollect by whom his commission as Lieutenant was signed. He hereby relinquishes 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 and subscribed, the day and year first aforesaid.

[signed] C. Snidow

NOTES from C. Leon Harris:

The declaration is faded and largely illegible. A typed summary of Snidow's service is in the file and reads as follows:

"He enlisted, while residing in Montgomery County, Virginia, and served as follows with the Virginia troops: From sometime in May, 1776, three months as private in Captain James McCorkle's company, Colonel John Montgomery's regiment, was in an expedition against the Cherokee Indians, in the battle of Long Island of Holston, and in scouting parties; from in September, 1776, three months as private in Captain Thomas Burk's company, stationed at Woods Fort and in ranging through the country; from early in March, 1777, three months as private in Captain Thomas Burk's company, defending the frontiers from the incursions of the Shawnee Indians; in the fall of 1777, three months as private in Captain John Floyd's company; from in March, 1778, three months as lieutenant in Captain John Lucas' company, Colonel William Campbell's regiment, marched to North Carolina against the Tories; from in July, 1778, three months as lieutenant, was stationed at the Lead Mines, and marched from there to Salem, North Carolina, as guard to some wagons loaded with ammunitions; from April 3, 1779, three months as lieutenant, stationed at Snidows Fort to defend the inhabitants from the Shawnee Indians; from in September, 1779, three months as lieutenant in Captain John Floyd's company, stationed at Prestons Fort; from in October, 1780, three months as lieutenant in Captain Patton's company, Colonel William Campbell's regiment; from February 1, 1781, three months under Captains James Burns, William Simpson, and Colonel William Preston, was in an engagement below Guilford Court House; from in September, 1781, two months as lieutenant in command of Pearis Fort."