

Pension Application for Peter Shafer

S.15645

State of New York

City and County of Albany SS.

On the twenty eighth day of March in the year of our Lord Eight Hundred and Thirty three, personally appeared before me Gerrit L. Dox, one of the Justices of the Justice Court in the City of Albany, Peter Shafer of the Town of Watervliet in the County of Albany who in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832—Made the following Declaration.

That he was born at sea on the 5th day of July 1753—That there is a note of his age in his family Bible but no other record—That he now resides in the Town of Watervliet in the County of Albany and has always resided there since he was eight years old. That in the fall of the year 1775 and while he resided in the said town of Watervliet he was called into the service of the United States in the war of the Revolution and entered said service as a private soldier and a volunteer Militia Man in the Militia of the State of New York.

That his officers so far as he can recollect the same, were as follows. Henry Outhoudt (1) of Watervliet aforesaid Captain, Levinus Lansing of the same Town first Lieutenant, Jacob J. Lansing Second Lieutenant, Timothy Hutton Ensign—

That the Colonel of his regiment was Francis Nichol as he believes of the County of Albany but of what Town he does not recollect Philip Schuyler was Lieutenant Colonel and Abraham Fonda Major, both of the Town of Watervliet and General Abraham Ten Broeck of the city of Albany and General but whether a brigadier or Major General he does not now recollect—

That in the year 1775 aforesaid he marched from Albany to Fort George in the State of New York to guard that fort and was there on actual duty Twenty three days and returned home and in the Spring of 1776 he was again ordered out and went to Saratoga and Fort Edward and remained there Twenty three days and then returned home and in July of the same year was again ordered out and went to Fort Edward and remained Twenty one days and in the fall of same year was again called out and went to Fort Edward and remained there twenty one days. That his officers were the same as he believes during this year—That in the year 1777 was again ordered out together with half his company as he believes and was attached to a Regiment under the command of Major Jacob Schermerhorn (2) of Schodack up to Fort Edward and on his way from Fort Edward to Fort Ann (3) met the army after the Battle at Fort Ann and returned with them to Fort Edward where he remained on duty for twenty nine days was ordered out in July of the same year went to Fort Edward and remained there and about there on duty Twenty eight days returned home and in the month of September as he believes was again ordered out and joined the northern army under command of Major General Gates (4), where he remained Thirty two days and was there at the surrender of General Burgoyne (5)

In the year 1778 was ordered out and went to Schoharie to guard the country against the disaffected or Tories and the Indians—That he was called out three different times during this year on the same Service and was out on actual duty seventy seven days in all—That during the year 1777 at the particular time he does not recollect he was appointed a orderly sergeant and acted in that capacity during his services in the succeeding years 1778, 1779, 1781 & 1782—That in 1779 he was again ordered out and went to Schoharie and remained out on actual duty during that year ninety nine days—That in 1780 he was again ordered out to Fort Hunter above Schenectady and to Schoharie four different times and was out in all during this year one hundred and five days—That in 1781 he was out to the same places in all during this year thirty nine days and in 1782, he was ordered out to Schoharie and Fort Herkimer in all sixty six days—That the above number of days since are those in which he now recollects he was actually engaged in the service and he does verily believe that the same are put down within records. That he was frequently ordered out on Scouting parties and was out for short periods at different times which are

not included in the number of days above stated—That in the above statement he has been careful to put down only such days and times as he can now recollect with certainty—That he cannot state at this late day who were all his officers that he never was in any battle but has been in skirmishing once between men under the command of Sir John Johnson and Americans under command of General Van Rensselaer (6) in the year 1782—That he never was discharged and never held any warrant or commission as sergeant that he now recollects and if he ever had any it has been lost or destroyed—That there is not to his knowledge any documentary evidence of his services. That during the time he was in the service of the United States as before stated herein he was not employed in any civil pursuit. That this Declarant is well acquainted with Isaac Groat, Henry Runkle, William Orlop, Wynart E. VanDenBergh all now living and residing in the Town of Watervliet in the County Albany and that they all or some of them were in the service of the United States with him in the war of the Revolution and are personally knowing to his services as herein detailed or a part of thereof.

That he hereby 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 and I the said Justice do hereby declare that from my knowledge of the man and the history he gives of his service—That the now named was a Revolutionary Soldier and served as he states. (Signed with his mark) Peter Shafer

Sworn & Subscribed this 28th day of March 1833 before me. Gerrit L. Dox one of the Justices of the Justice Court of the City of Albany.

End Notes—S.5645—Peter Shafer

1. Peter enlisted as a private in Captain Abraham D. Fonda's Second Company in Colonel Abraham TenBroeck's Third Regiment of Albany County Militia. Colonel TenBroeck was later appointed brigadier general of the Albany County Militia. Lieutenant-Colonel Francis Nichol as promoted to Colonel. On June 22, 1778 Philip P. Schuyler was commissioned Colonel of the Third Regiment of Albany County Militia as Colonel Nichol had resigned. Since Major Barent Staats was promoted to lieutenant-colonel, Captain Fonda was promoted to Major. First Lieutenant Henry Oothoudt was promoted to the Captaincy of the Second Company. The following were officers of this company: Levinus F. Lansing as first Lieutenant, Jacob J. Lansing as second lieutenant and Timothy Hutton as ensign. On March 4, 1780, Levinus F. Lansing was commissioned captain because Oothoudt had resigned. The following were officers of this company: Jacob J. Lansing as first lieutenant, Timothy Hutton as second lieutenant and John Shaver as ensign.
2. Second Major Jacob C. Schermerhorn of Colonel Kilian VanRensselaer's Fourth Regiment of Albany County Militia.
3. The Battle of Fort Ann was fought on July 8, 1777.
4. Major General Horatio Gates of the Continental Army.
5. Lieutenant General John Burgoyne surrendered his British and Ally forces to Gates on October 17, 1777.
6. Brigadier General Robert VanRensselaer had a battle with the forces Sir John Johnson on October 19, 1780 commonly called the battle of Klock's Field.