

Pension Application for William Shelly or Shelley

W.16721 (Widow: Molly) William Died 5th March 1806

Private, Captain Ostrom, Col. Nicholas.

State of New York

Albany County SS.

On this 28th day of April 1837, personally appeared before Gerrit L. Dox one of the Justices of the Justices Court of the City of Albany the same being a court of record—Molly Shelley a resident of the Town of Watervliet in the County of Albany and State of New York, aged twenty years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain he benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed July 21, 1836.

That she is the widow of William Shelley who was a soldier in the Revolutionary War.—That she was married to the said William Shelly in the year 1769, but she is now unable to State the month or the day of the month on which she was married.

That her aforesaid husband William Shelley died on the fifth day of March 1810 and that she has remained a widow ever since the period of his death. That she does not know of any record of her marriage now existing—that all the persons who were present at her marriage are dead. That she was married in Albany when she went for such purpose from the Town of Watervliet, when she then and has ever since resided.—One of the females who was present at here marriage was Sophia Reese. That the maiden name of the Declarant was Bowman.

That this Declarant's said husband William Shelly was in active Service during the Revolutionary War. That he was on one period or tour of Service of six months and was absent on duty during said time. That he was then at the "Highlands", as it was then and is now called.—That said service was in the militia as she believes, and was called out or drafted for such period of service—that she is now unable to state the year in which such service was rendered, but thinks that it was in the early part of the war.

That her said husband was on several other occasions or times in active Service in the Militia, in the Revolutionary War.—and as this declarant believes during every year of the Continuance of the war.—That the militia on several occasions assembled at her father's house, when about departing on tours of active duty on which occasions her husband was among them. That the Declarant recollects that he served some of the time or times under a Captain Ostrom.—but that she does not now recollect the names of other officers.—

That this Declarant cannot from old age & bodily infirmity attend court for the purpose of making this her Declaration without great danger to her health or life—and this declarant is unable to write her name. (Signed with her mark) Molly Shelley

Sworn before me this 28th April 1837. Gerrit L. Dox, Justice of the Justice Court &c.

State of New York

Albany County SS.

Isaac Groat of the Town of Watervliet in the County and State aforesaid being duly sworn doth depose & say that he is about 79 years of age and has resided since his boyhood in the said town—has known Molly Shelley who is the widow of William Shelley deceased, for a great number of years. They were married previously to the Revolutionary War. The said William Shelley was a weaver by trade.— During the Revolutionary War said Shelley & this Deponent resided in the same beat, and the said Shelley was frequently out in active service as a Soldier in the Revolutionary War.

The first tour of Military duty of said Shelley was up to the North which was as this Deponent believes in 1775. This deponent was in the same tour of service—They went up to Lake George, Col. Nicholas was the Colonel of the Regiment, but this deponent does not recollect whether the said Colonel was and Philip Schuyler was Second or a Lieutenant Colonel. Capt. Ostrom Capt. Jacob Weaver,

Lieutenant. Philip Schuyler Ensign. The expedition was in the fall of the year – they were three weeks on the ground & including the time going & returning, were out a month.

That this deponent recollects very well that the said William Shelly was absent on a tour of duty in the year 1776, down to the highlands—and that the said Shelley was respected, understood, & believes at the time to have been on such tour of military duty. One fact is particularly recollected by this Deponant that the family of said Shelley (the said Shelley being poor) were stricken of & understood to have been in necessitous circumstances by reason of the said Shelley's absence on such service.

And this deponent further says that in 1777, the militia comprising the beat to which this deponent & said Shelley belonged were called out into service, at the North & some of the militia volunteered. The part of the militia with which this deponent turned out were marched up under command of Major Jacob Schermerhorn & in the Company & under the command of Capt. Ostrom—they marched up to Fort Edward & there to Fort Ann and when at the latter place, some of the rest of the Regiment came up among which was the said William Shelley.—Burgoine was then advancing & understood to be at Skeenesborough, where the militia to which this deponent t& said Shelly belonged returned to Fort Edward, & then to Saratoga & soon afterwards came home. They went up in June & returned during harvest.—They were out about a month.—and the part of the militia and which Shelley was out about about a week less.—after remaining a short time at home engaged in harvest—they were ordered up to Saratoga again remained until Burgoine was taken.—this last tour in which said Shelly also was, was about 34 days. Col. Francis Nichols was their Colonel, Philip Schuyler Lieut Colonel and they were in Capt. Ostrom's Company.

That next year thereafter or the year 1778—the militia to which this deponent & said Shelley belonged, were again called out.—Said Shelley did not turn out with this deponent but was with a portion of the company in which a brother of this deponent was also—This deponent does not know of his own knowledge how long said Shelley was out on duty on said occasion but the call or draft was for for [sic] a half month Service.

That in the year 1779, (as the deponent believes) this deponent & said Shelley with other militia were ordered out and went to Fort Herkimer on the Mohawk River & they were all remained at said place three weeks. The service was also in Captain Ostrom's company. (Signed) Isaac Groat.

Sworn before me this 28th day of April 1837. L J. Gabee, Com. Deeds