

Pension Application for John Sherman

S.7503. Brooke Co., State of Virginia, private, Captain Darling, Col. Humphrey, N. York Troops line for 2 years.

State of Virginia

County of Brooke

On this 27th day of July 1833 Personally appeared before the subscriber, one of the Justices of the Peace in the Court and the court of record in and for the county aforesaid, John Sherman a poor person supported at the public expense of said county, whom I certify from bodily infirmity is unable to attend at the court house of said county aged seventy six years past 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 7th 1832.

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

On the 28 day of June 1776, in Dutchess County in the State of New York, he voluntarily enlisted as a private Militia man with Captain John Darlin to serve to the first day of December following and that he served the full term of his said engagement, being five months and ten days, and was discharged at Fort Montgomery, in the State of New York, but did not receive a written discharge. The major of the Regiment to which declarant belonged, he did not know as he was in a separate command. The commandant of the regiment was Col. Humphrey-the adjutant—Hamilton, and General James Clinton commanded the troops at the fort. The chief employment of the troops was in building Fort Montgomery on the Highlands in York.

On the first day of May in the year 1777 Declarant again volunteered his services in Dutchess County in the State of New York, to serve in a corps called the Militia Rangers for the term of six months, and did serve the whole of said time, as a private, under the command of Captain Height, Arson Height, (brother to the Capt) was Lieutenant, Col Griffith commanded the rangers with Major VanStocken. This service was performed in Dutchess County and State of New York, and the duty was protecting the inhabitants from the British and Tories, and in guarding several villages, and in watching by paths, and thereby intercepting provisions and information from the enemy. Was discharged and was the general custom with the militia, verbally—and did not receive a written discharge.

On the first day of May in the year 1778, Declarant voluntarily entered the service as militia man, in the corps of Militia Rangers for six months under the command of Captain Sutherland and Lieutenant Haskins in the county of Dutchess aforesaid Col. Griffith continued to command the said troops. This service was performed in Dutchess County aforesaid and the duty the same as in the preceding year. Declarant having served the whole of his said engagement was verbally discharged by Col. Griffith on the first day of November, but did not receive a written discharge.

On the first day of May in the year 1779 Declarant entered the service as a private in the corps of Militia Rangers, under the command of the last named Captain Sutherland and Lieut. Haskins for the term of six months; Colonel Griffeth continued to command the Rangers in Dutchess County. Declarant faithfully served the whole of the last mentioned engagement of six months in Dutchess County aforesaid and on the first day of November was discharged by Col. Griffith and as customary, did not receive a written discharge. The duty and services was the same as stated in the preceding last mentioned six months service.

On the first day of May in the year 1780 Declarant entered the service as a private in the before mentioned corps of Militia Rangers, for the term of six months under the command of the above named Captain Sutherland and Lieut. Haskins in the said County of Dutchess and State of New York. Col. Griffeth continued to command the Regiment of Militia Rangers. Declarant served the full term of said engagement and was discharged on the first day of November by Col. Griffeth but did not receive a written discharge.

The above named corps of Militia Rangers, was raised to do duty in the former season in the absence of the regular troops, on whose going into winter quarters, the Rangers were discharged, but in the spring the Rangers were employed to do duty, in the absence of the regular soldiers. During the time declarant was in the service, as above stated, there was no regular troops or officers present with the corps in which he served.

During the above mentioned service, it was the practice of the British troops and American Tories to search the country for partisans and plunder, and a Capt. John Howard, a Tory, enlisted a company of about eighty men, in Dutchess County, and delivered them to the British in New York, and for which declarant understood, Capt. Howard received a guinea per man. It was also the practice of some persons, to buy up horses and cattle for the use of the enemy; a great part of the duty of the Regiment of militia Rangers was to intercept and prevent these recruits and supplies being carried to the enemy. Whole time twenty nine months and ten days.

The following interrogatories were put and Declarant answered to each as follows:

1st Where and in what year was you born? Answer: I was born in the then colony, now State of New York, in the month of September one thousand seven hundred and fifty six.

2nd Have you any record of your age; and if so, where is it? Answer: I have no record of my age, as the record of my age was lost in the division of my father's property.

3rd Where were you living when called into service; where have you lived since the Revolutionary War, and where do you now live? Answer: When called into service for each tour, I lived in the County of Dutchess, and State of New York, since which time I have lived in different places, and for the last fourteen years have lived in the County of Brooks and State of Virginia, the last year of which from bodily infirmity, age, and indigent circumstances, I have been supported on the poor list of said County, and continue to be so supported.

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute and if a substitute for whom? Answer: I entered the service on each engagement as a volunteer.

5th State the names of some of the regular officers &c, &c. Answer: This is answered in the foregoing declaration. There were no regular troops present where I served.

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service &c. Answered above. I never received a written discharge.

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood, and who can testify as to your character for veracity; and their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution. Answer: I am acquainted with many persons in this neighbourhood, and will particularly mention the Rev'd John Hale, and Jacob Neeswonger Jr. and Doc't

That he has no documentary evidence and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his service.

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. (Signed with his mark) John Sherman.

Sworn to, and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid. David Bugh