

Pension Application for Thomas Sherwood

S.15637

Connecticut & New York (Continental)

State of Connecticut, County of Fairfield SS

Ridgefield—

On this third day of Aug't 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Court of Probate in the District of Danbury in the said County and State, the same being a court of record, now sitting at Ridgefield, a resident, Thomas Sherwood a resident of the said viz the said applicant Town of Ridgefield aged seventy nine years, who being first 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. Viz—

That about the first of January 1776 he enlisted into the service of the United States for two months in a company under the command of Captain Ebenezer Jones in Connecticut State Troops—that he enlisted as a private soldier and served in the City of New York for the full period of the enlistment and was verbally discharged by said Captain Jones the said company among others was ordered to New York for the defense of the same, under the apprehensions of a speedy attack of the British as they [were] about leaving the Harbor of Boston.

And this declarant further states, that in the month of April 1776, he enlisted as a private soldier in a company under the command of Captain Cornelius Steinrod, (1) (for one year) in Colonel McDougal's Regiment at this time of the New York State Troops—That said Corps was mustered for service in the City of New York, on or about the first day of May 1776 and encamped in the "Bowery" about five weeks, when I made an exchange with one Gilbert Williams belong to a company under the command of Captain Leavenworth (2)—and in Colonel Webb's Regiment, and was transferred from the company of Captain Steinrod to that of Captain Leavenworth and proceeded soon to Harlem in said State of New York—where he remained until the day previous to the Surrender of New York to the British—

Thence marched to the White Plains, halting for a few days at the "Walnuts" so called—where we remained about a month, thence to Crampond, thence crossed the Hudson River and marched to Morristown thence under the command of General Lee (3), to Basking Ridge, where said Lee was taken prisoner by a party of the enemy—Thence in a forced march of two or three days we arrived, cold and fatigued at the Delaware River and crossed over to Easton in the State of Pennsylvania—

Thence marched to a place called Newtown passing through the Moravian Settlement at Bethlehem—passed there within about a mile of the Delaware River where the detachment encamped for a few days with provision put up and canteens filled, holding ourselves in readiness for a march at a moment's notice—were called into the field and formed into a hollow square and heard read, the orders which were "death to leave the ranks" and a Prayer offered to the Throne of Grace by the Chaplain, Reverend Mr. Gano then marched to the Delaware River and immediately crossed over, exhausted and fatigued, and nearly frozen having been out in a severe storm of Hail and rain, the Regiment to which this detachment belonged, being new with the main army under General Washington (5) marched in the direction of Trenton (6) in New Jersey, and having arrived within about four miles of the town.

The Army halted and on resuming their march separated one division under Gen. Washington taking the left and the other division with whom was the detachment taking the right—the said divisions to united at said Trenton, the said division on the right having marched within about a mile of the Town were ordered to "halt" being now near daylight in the morning—heard said division remained in a State of uncertainty until the Artillery passed, then formed into Platoons and advanced rapidly upon the town and then arrived about the moment that a body of Hessian soldiers had surrendered to the division under Gen. Washington. When said Hessian prisoners were secured the division which this declarant belonged marched back to the encampment on the west side of the Delaware river and about one mile from the same, having suffered incredible hardships from the cold, and the fatigues of the march, being without shoes or clothing or food and literally marching on paths with blood—this being as this declarant believes (7) on the morning of the 26 December 1776—the troops remained encamped at this place for about three days when the encampment broke up and the troops returned to Trenton and this declarant remained at said Trenton until the first day of January 1777, and the period of his enlistment having expired viz, nine months. He was honorably discharged (verbally) and returned home.-- Said Colonel Wemple's Regiment was Connecticut State troops.

And this declarant further states that in the month of April 1777 when a party of the enemy landed at Campo and marched to Danbury (8) and there destroyed the stores, he was in the service as a volunteer followed the British from Danbury and at Ridgefield he with a few others were standing near General Wooster (9), under cover of a [?] and was unexpectedly nearly surrounded by the enemy and hastily ordered by Gen'l Wooster to "retreat as they were surrounded, and almost at the same moment, he, Gen'l Wooster rec'd a mortal wound—and

this declarant narrowly escaped having been repeatedly hit by the British bullets—the above tour occupying one week—

And further that in the month of July 1779 this declarant volunteered as a private soldier to go to Norwalk in said county for the defence of that place, performed the service in a company of Militia under Captain Gray, was on duty in said Norwalk when it was burned (10) by the enemy, and continued in said service one week.

And this declarant further states that in the month of January 1779 while the army of General Putnam (11) consisting of "Poor" Parsons and Huntington's Brigade (12) was encamped at Redding in said County of Fairfield he was employed as a superintendent of teams and served in that capacity for three months and was discharged on the last of March 1779—

And this declarant states that prior to the last term of service viz, in October 1777 he was at Crumpond in the State of New York, and that he went as a volunteer in a company of Militia, under the command of Lieutenant Hawley in Colonel Cook's (13) Regiment, to the defence of Fort Montgomery (14) on the Hudson River and was on duty on the east bank of the River when said Fort was taken by the British under Gen'l Clinton (15) , that soon after said troops marched to Fishkill and encamped for a short period, when they marched down the River to the place of their former encampment opposite the fort, and finding all the Barracks destroyed, they were dismissed, and this declarant returned home, having served in this term half a month.

And further, that in the year 1779 (in the fall) he was in the service of the United States for two months in a company of drafted Militia under the command of Captain Daniel Godfrey.—Said company being stationed for a part of the above period at [?] farms in the county of Fairfield and the remainder employed in guarding the coast from Stratford to Fairfield and that he served in said company as a Private and was honorably discharged.—

And this declarant further states, that in the year 1781 (as he believes) knows it was the same that the French Fleet arrived in America, he performed two tours of service in a company of drafted Militia as a private soldier and the company to which he belonged, was stationed at Horseneck Watching the movements of the enemy, that while there a person was taken up on suspicion of being a Spy, and this declarant with two or three others was sent to guard said suspected person, and deliver him safely to the head quarters of the American Army then lying in the vicinity of West Point—That they faithfully performed said duty and returned to Horseneck and this declarant was soon after discharged—having served in the two drafts one month and a half—He states that he cannot at this late period recollect the names of the officers of his company or Regiment and knows of no person now living by whom he can prove such service and has no documentary evidence in relation thereto—

Her further states that in the same year viz 1781, he was drafted and served half a month in the town of Fairfield, in a Serjeants guard (Militia) but does not recollect the name of the Sergeant nor does he know of any person living by whom he can prove such service. Neither has he any documentary evidence relating to it.

That he was born in the Town of Fairfield aforesaid, on the 24 May 1753—has no record of his age, but depends on the information received from his parents.—That he lived in Redding and Ridgefield in said county at the same period when he entered service as aforesaid, that subsequent to the war of the Revolution he has resided in the Town of Ridgefield aforesaid and still resides in the same place—That has no written or documentary evidence of his services, other than that transmitted herewith. That he is acquainted with Levi Mondor and Jesse Reading and others who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution—

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name if not on the pension roll of the agency of any State—

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. (Signed) Thomas Sherwood.

Attest, Edward Leizler, Clerk

Letter of reply requesting information, dated January 17, 1938.

The data which follow are shown in the papers on file in pension claim, S.15637, based upon service of Thomas Sherwood in the Revolutionary War.

Thomas Sherwood was born May 24, 1753, in Fairfield County, Connecticut; the names of his parents are not shown. He resided in the towns of Redding and Ridgefield, both in Fairfield County, Connecticut, during the period of the Revolutionary War.

Thomas Sherwood enlisted in January 1776, and served two months as a private in Captain Ebenezer Jones' Connecticut Company, engaged in the defense of New York City. He enlisted between the first and middle of April 1776, and served five weeks as a private in Captain Cornelius Steinrod's company, Colonel McDougal's regiment of New York troops, camped in the "Bowery" in New York City, then joined Captain Leavenworth's company, Colonel Charles Webb's Connecticut regiment, was with the troops at White Plains, marched through New Jersey, crossed the Delaware River with the main army under General Washington, suffered the incredible hardships of the winter, and was discharged January 1, 1777. He volunteered in April 1777, when Danbury was

burned, and was so close to General Wooster when he was mortally wounded at Ridgefield, that he was hit by British bullets, length of this service one ; in the fall of 1777, he served one half a month under Lieutenant Hawley and Colonel Cook in the Connecticut troops at Fort Montgomery, From January 1, 1779, he served three months as superintendent of teams, Generals Parsons and Huntington's Brigades; he volunteered in July 1779, and served one week in Captain Gray's company, in the defense of Norwalk; he enlisted in the fall of 1779, and served two months as a private in Captain Daniel Godfrey's Connecticut company. In 1781, he served several tours as private in the Connecticut troops, amounting to all to about two months, engaged in Horseneck and Fairfield, Connecticut, officers' names not given.

After the Revolutionary War, Thomas Sherwood resided in Ridgefield, Connecticut.

Thomas Sherwood was allowed pension on his application executed August 3, 1832, at which time he resided in Ridgefield, Connecticut. He died November 25, 1838.

No reference was made to wife or children of the above noted soldier.

Zalton Sherwood was a resident of Ridgefield, Connecticut, in 1832, aged then sixty years; no relationship between him and Thomas Sherwood was stated.

End Notes—S.15637—Thomas Sherwood

1. Cornelius Steinrod (Steenrod etc.) was appointed Captain on April 27, 1776 in Colonel Alexander McDougal's First New York Continental Regiment. There no known muster roll for this company, but there is a payment receipt with several names along with signatures or "his mark" for November of 1776 of men who received payment. Sherwood's name is not on this list. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 65, folder 2, National Archives, Washington D.C.
2. Eli Leavenworth was appointed captain on January 31, 1776 in Colonel Charles Webb's Nineteenth Continental (Infantry) Regiment.
3. Major General Charles Lee was taken prisoner at Basking Ridge, N.J., on December 13, 1776. He was exchanged on May 6, 1778.
4. Reverend John Gano, Chaplain of Colonel Webb's Regiment. He was appointed on January 1, 1665. Reverend Gano remained with the regiment until he was appointed Chaplain on November 21, 1776 in Colonel Lewis Dubois' Fifth New York Continental Regiment.
5. General and Commander-in-Chief General George Washington.
6. The Battle of Trenton, N.J. was fought on December 26, 1776. Sherwood's description of the hardships in this expedition and in particular "being without shoes or clothing or food and literally marching on paths with blood" is accurate. It should be noted that detachments of the First and Third New York Line (which were continental regiments) were in this battle.
7. Danbury, Connecticut was raided and burned on April 25, to April 27, 1777.
8. The Battle of Ridgefield, Connecticut was on April 27, 1777.
9. Brigadier General David Wooster died of his wounds on May 2, 1777.
10. Norwalk, Connecticut was burned on July 12, 1779.
11. Israel Putnam was appointed Major General on June 19, 1775.
12. Brigadier General Samuel H. Parsons (appointed on August 9, 1776) and Major General Jedediah Huntington (appointed on May 12, 1777).
13. Possibly Colonel Thaddeus Cook of the Connecticut Militia.
14. Fort Montgomery, N.Y. was captured on October 6, 1777.
15. Brigadier General James Clinton.