

Pension Application for Henry Shults

S.14453

Private-Capt. Cook, Col. Clock

State of New York

Montgomery County SS.

On the 26th day of July in the year 1833 personally appeared before me, the Undersigned a Justice of the Peace of the Town of Palatine, County aforesaid came Valatine Woolf of the said Town County and State aforesaid who being duly sworn deposed and saith that he has been personally acquainted with Henry Shultis an applicant for a pension doth recollect that he has been a good and faithful soldier in the Revolutionary War, from the time he knew him, he believes since the year 1777, until sometime in July 1782 when this deponent with two others of this applicants brothers vizt John the Elder brother & William younger the applicant and a Black young man by name Joe, all five went in the morning about three miles from Fort Paris to a Meadow then situate next to the woods—Calculating, mowing, grass, at the same time each of the three brother had their guns with them to defend themselves if necessity should require—But first discovery made not long after. The three Shultis'e had commenced mowing the first in order, was 13 in number, Indian Warriors, near approaching all of us inside of the Inclosure, Vizt on the medow depriving all in having records to there arms, but made Prisoners of all than marching to Buck Iland [Island], there put in close confinement, when after an elapse of about two weeks, when a Capt. of the British vizt a German, came to Buck Iland, and got him clear of the Indians and afterwards kept him. This deponent, and took him for his waitor or Servant until late in fall when the said Capt. had taken him to Montreal, where and when the said Capt. had left him this deponent and a woman who he professed hath been his legal wife, until he hath left both [?] to either.

And that he this deponent, further saith, that he was kept there until Exchanged late in the fall 1783 when himself with a number of others have been transferred, and that he did not reach his place of residence in Palatine until towards the latter part of November 1783 at which time none of the Shultises had returned. That after he had left Buck Iland and went with the officer he had not heard nor seen any of his associates until between Christmas & New Year. Which this deponent perfectly remembers that the oldes Brother John, and this claimant hadth returned home to Palatine & that William the younger Brother they told hath been left sick, in the State of Masechusets [Massachusetts] and soon after their return by letter informed that he was dead.

That I have been acquainted with the said claimant before and ever since the conclusion of the war finding that that [sic] it is generally believed that he always was considered a man of truth and veracity and that himself depose and says that the said applicant is a person of credibility and to be velieved when under oath, and that he also believe shim to be aged at least 83 years and further this deponent saith not. (Signed) Vallentin Wolf.

Sworn and subscribed before me on the day and year aforesaid. Lawrence Marcellus J.P.

State of New York

Montgomery County SS.

On the sixth day of September 1832 personally appeared before me Henry Dieffendorff one of the Judges in and for the County of Montgomery & State of New York aforesaid, Henry Shultis a resident of the Town of Palatine, in the County of Montgomery and State of New York, aged eighty two years four months & about [?] days 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 vizt, in the Regiment of Militia commanded by Col. Jacob Klock & Peter Waggoner, Lieut Col. and Emediately [sic] after the commencement of the Revolutionary War, enrolled in the company of

Militia commanded by Capt. Christoph'r W. Fox, Peter Loucks, Lieut, Henry Miller 2d Lieut and Samuel VanEtten Ens'n and continued under the Capt. until the memorable Battle at Oriskany when his Capt. got seriously wounded, next to the best of this claimant's knowledge after the aforesaid battle, Lieut Miller promoted, assuming the command of said company and continued to the close of the aforesaid War as Capt. of the same beat, and company which the aforesaid battle took place on the 6th day of Aug't 1777. That this claimant also declares that conformable to the order he got himself furnished with sufficient arms, and accoutrements and always kept himself in readiness at a moment's warning from the beginning of the war until sometime latter part of July 1782 when himself and older brother & one younger, one black boy & one white servant boy aged he thinks about 8 or 9 years, named Valatine Wolf, all taken prisoners and taken to Canady by a party of Indians and there kept in captivity first on Buck Island next on Rebel Island for a considerable length of time & then removed and transferred to Montreal, and from thence transferred to Quebeck, and there exchanged & returned making from the time taken prisoner to the period of his return to his place of residence that is to say from July the latter part of July 1782 to between Christmas & New Year 1783 one year & about five months.

But independent of his prison life, previous however his mentioned as to his former services and duties which he hath performed, He this claimant considers it expedient to explain the manner he was taken Prisoner. The Inhabitants for years in succession did not consider themselves safe in consequence of the Indians and Tories lurking, around in the woods were fences alongside of the woods, that they had a considerable large piece of a meadow situate about three miles from Fort Paris before mentioned, being suspicious and afraid to be taken or murdered by the enemy delaying, mowing the same, until late in hay harvest, those took courage & went out himself and brothers all well armed, notwithstanding their depending on their defence, a considerable large party of Indians, vizt thirteen in all, obtained the advantage over them that affording them an opportunity to have recourse to their arms taken unexpectedly and forced to Canady.

This applicant further declares that in the winter 1776, he hath been ordered out to march to Caghawaga [Caughnawaga] with all the militia from Albany & Schenectady, then stayed some days, then marched to Johnstown with Genl Schuyler there causing Sr. John Johnson to surrender, to them, who had about three or four hundred men in arms, supposing either to go to Canady, as determined to do injury to the friends who were attached to the liberties of their own country, before the [they] went that he this Claimant further declares, that as early than in the year 1776 he can make appear by Copy reserved by his Capt. Vizt Capt Christoph'r W. Fox, taken from pay roll for that year that his services performed during that year, Vizt, as it stand on record the Amt £ 8..15..1 2/3 for [mere? More?] services performed, and if that much was allowed and done, in the year 1776. What ought it be for the years following in succession when more than double & some years towards the close of the war, more than triple the services, trouble, and danger, had to be encountered, and endured of the last five or six years in the war—This claimant thinks it impracticable after an Elap's of exceeding fifty years, that the poor old worn out soldier possibly can be doing justice to himself when he scarcely can no more hear nor see or recollect in giving a true description of the of the multiplication of duties performed, but the applicant further declares that he flatter himself with an opinion that he may be enabled to satisfy his Hon'r the Secretary of the War department, that his conduct from first to the close of the war has been such so as to put his case beyond all doubts.

(Written in the margin: One of our own officers, when on horse back in the woods, one of the Enemy's Indians rained his [?] back unbeknown apparently to the officer as was this claimant who was [?] Shot the Indians Seeing him falling to the ground strangling with death.)

The claimant further declares, that in addition to what has been mentioned before that he was ordered out under Capt. Fox, and went into that memorable Battle under Genl. Herkimer in the year 1777, on the 6th day of Aug't at Oriskany within about four miles from Fort Stanix [Stanwix] when Gen'l St. Leager from Canady had been encamped with his army, in besieging the fort at which battle [?] this

applicant further states and declares, that on the 19th day of Oct in the year 1780 in Battle then under the Emedient command of Col. Brown of Militia than commanded by Capt Henry Miller that he this claimant hath been ordered and directed wieht Charles Rott Dec'd to spy out to find out the direction the Common Enemy Vizt Sr. John Johnson with his incendiary crew were marching, or the way coming. The first discover made seeing an Tory Indian, situated on our side of a fence, when himself & his associate were situated Emediently on the other side of the same fence, when the Indian calling out Schaua, Schaua, Signefying, Mercy, Mercy. But notwithstanding that be this applicant had shot the Indians seeing him falling to the Ground Instantly dead, then retreating and returning to Join Col. Brown. Again when after Johnson, with his host from Canada, came marching along, Battle commenced but the enemy too Powerful, Constraint to retreat. Col. Brown fell a victim to the Enemy, he was shot dead. Emediatly at the Commencement of Battle, and Jacob Snell by what this claimant ever could learn the only one wounded where Engagement commenced, and about forty five of Col. Brown's men & Militia killed in retreating.

But this applicant again in persuit of the Enemy at the distance of about Seven or Eight miles up along the Mohawk River again same afternoon on Klock's and Failing's Flats or field, again in Battle. Also attented with the loss of some on both sides where the enemy took flight.

This applicant also saith that on the 29th day of July 1781 in Battle against a large party of Indians and Tories, always supposing about 70 in the woods near Landman's Farm, Generally called Landman's Battle, he thinks under the command of Lieut Sammons. The Indian Chief killed besides several of them wounded, he beliefs only a few of ours slightly wounded.

Next this claimant declares that on the 25th day of October 1781 in the same year he hath been engaged in Johnstown Battle then Emediently under the command of Col. Marinus Willett, which happened to prove a seareous contest, Maj'r Ross who had the command of his Incendieries, Vizt Tories and Indians and probably some regular British Troops from Canady, first took our field piece Magazine and all, after Col. Willet hath been in persuit in following the enemy into the woods, finding himself with all of us constraint to retreat to the Village of Johnstown, while the other part, about one halfe of Col. Willets Men including Militia and all, came out, after send by Col. Willet in taking the enemy by surprise both ways, but the one party too slow and Col. Willet too precesited, [persisted?] entering into the woods when Col. Willet again marching to the field of Battle. Retaking our Cannon in gaining the victory, powder magazine blown up by Maj'r Ross's men and the enemy put to flight, day after this claimant again with Col. Willet went in persuit of the enemy vizt Maj'r Ross and did not overtake them until they had been crossing the West Canada Creek at least at the distance of fifty miles, the way the[y] went, our Indians there killed Capt. Butler, across the creek & some others before coming up to the Creek, many prisoners taken the same Battle at Johnstown a number of lifes lost, and considerable many prisoners taken from both sides.

That this claimant further declares that he hath been drafted on many and on different occasions. To Herkimer, Fort Stanwix, impossible to describe. And this claimant also declares that as he beliefs in the year 1780 called out to join Col. Willet to take battle at Turlough now Town of Sharon County of Schoharie, but not in time battle had Emediently previous to our Militia arriving, there putting the enemy to flight leaving their encampment finding a number of dead bodies, one young boy by the name of Dieffendorff, his scalp taken off but living and taken along on our return.

This claimant also declares that he went to Cherryvalle, with the Militia at the time the when the most cruel, murder, barbarous, butchering, committed, been perpetrated on Men, Women & Children, and even on the Mother & unborn child.

And further this claimant declares that he hath resided about a short mile from Fort Paris, where the Inhabitants generally after the year 1776, removed into, and from that time until prohibited by and until taken prisoners guarding and watching at the Fort and at a moderate calculation for two months annually so that he considers himself entitled, being allowed as to one term only, and that from

the commencement to the close, and finally until after the close of the war, Vizt until his return to his place of residence, which was in December emediently before New Year, after his imprisonouslife, as aforesaid, in the year 1783. That he was born in the Town of Palatine then County of Tryon now County of Montgomery, State aforesaid where he hath resided previous to, during, and ever since, the Revolutionary War, only with the exception, after taken prisoner & while kept as such until his return.

And this applicant lastly declares that 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 whatever to his knowledge, and further this applicant saith not, only that he declares that he omitted one more trip, vizt that he went with Gen'l VanRensselaer & Col. John Harper, to Fort Schuyler in protecting and guarding Capt Sam'l Gray with his company of Batteauxmen, and Batteau with provision to Fort Stanix—when the common enemy passing by down the Mohawk River to Minden, about 40 miles, there laying waste to houses & killing many destroying chiefly all the inhabitants whole town of Mindenthen part of the Town of Canajoharie, shile boats safely conducted to Fort Stanwix. (Signed with his mark) Henry Shults

Sworn and subscribed before me this 6th day of Sept. 1832. Henry J. Dievendorff a Judge of the Court of common Pleas in and for said County.

Letter in file dated March 17, 1931

You are advised that it appears from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim, S.14453, that Henry Shults (the name also appears as Shultis) was born April 1, 1750, in Palatine, Tryon (later Montgomery) County, New York.

While residing in Palatine, New York he enlisted and served at various times on short tours from 1775 until July, 1782, about three years nine months and twenty days actual military service, as a private under Captains Christopher W. Fox, Henry Miller, House, and Kayser, Colonels Klock, Brown, Willett, and John Harper. He was in the battles of Oriskany, Stone Arabia, Klock's Field, Landman's and Johnstown. In July 1782, he with two brothers, John, older, and William, younger than himself and two servants, one white and one black, were captured by the Indians, while working in a meadow about three miles from Fort Paris, carried to Canada and held for one year and five months.

He was allowed pension on his application executed September 6, 1832, while residing in Palatine, New York.

It is not stated that soldier was ever married.

There are no claims for pension on file on account of the services of the above named John and William Shults.