

Pension Application for John Shultz

R.9548 (Widow: Martha) Married in Warwick, NY, October 11, 1797 by Clergyman Deline. Her name before marriage was Martha Holly. John died in Milo October 31, 1843. Martha states that John was a private in Col. Goose VanSchaick's Regiment, and company commanded by Captain Henry Tibott.

Daniel D. T. Benedict wrote countless pages of letters trying to obtain the pension first for John and then for Martha. The claim was considered invalid due to distrust because a soldier whose service was so mentioned would not unless for some very strong controlling reason, have lived until 1842, without making application for a pension, and Mrs. Shultz declares "that no application has ever been made for a pension or annuity for and in behalf of said John Shultz". The Dep. Sec. of State (NY) stated that John Shults enlisted January 3d 1777 for the years in Capt. Hick's Company, First Regiment and was discharged January 4, 1780 and that he was a sergeant.

There apparently was a mix up of more than one John Shultz. It did not appear as if this particular John served the required 6 months service, according to the Com. of Pensions, Washington, DC. [ajberry, transcriber]

B.L.Wt.34589-160-55
State of New York
County of Yates SS.

On this sixteenth day of January in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty five personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Yates aforesaid being a court of record, now sitting John Shultz a resident of the town of Milo in the County of Yates and State of New York, aged seventy two years (72) 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 7, 1832.

That he was born (as he has been informed and believes) at Fishkill on the East Side of North River in the said State of New York, on the third day of November in the year seventeen hundred and sixty two (1762)—that at the age of nine years he removed to the town of Goshen in the county of Orange in the said State of New York about twenty miles west of North river where he continued to reside until the year seventeen hundred and eighty three (1783) when he was twenty one years of age.

That he has not now any record of his age—that his father kept a family Record in his Bible in which the time of the birth of the said John Shultz and of the other members of the family were recorded—which said Bible and family Record fell into the hands of the said John Shultz the above named claimant at the death of his father about thirty years ago, which he the said claimant kept and preserved until the month of April in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty (1830) when it was destroyed in the burning of his dwelling house in Milo in the said County of Yates.

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

That about the first of June in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy nine (1779) — the the claimant enlisted or volunteered as a private soldier in captain John Little's company in Colonel Christopher Shultz's Regiment (who was uncle to the said claimant) in the Brigade commanded by Brigadier General Haythorn, who was afterwards elected to Congress from Orange County—these officers did not belong to the Regular Continental Army—but were Militia officers where they resided—a draft was ordered to raise men to defend the frontier settlements—and the Regiment was called together by Colonel Shultz for the purpose of making the draft—but instead of a draft being made it was thought best to beat up for volunteers—whereupon he the said claimant with seventy one others enlisted or volunteered as aforesaid at Goshen aforesaid, where he then resided) for three months service—This might have been as late as the month of July—said claimant is not positive as to the precise time, but is positive that it was in the summer of the year (1779)—and thus a company was

formed, which was put under the command of the said Captain Little who resided in the town of Minisink in Orange County—Lieutenant Freegift Cooley who also resided in the said town of Minisink and Ensign John Denton who resided in said town of Goshen—and was marched under the said officers from the said town of Goshen about sixteen miles to Minisink which was then a frontier town, to meet and drive back the Indians and Tories commanded by Brandt, who were making depredations upon the frontier inhabitants, destroying their property and driving off their cattle—on arriving at Minisink found that Brandt & his party had been there a day or two before—burnt several houses and mills—plundered the inhabitants—drove away their cattle and had gone up the Delaware River—whereupon a part of Captain Little's company and others went in pursuit of the said Indians and Tories, and were gone several days—during these days the said claimant with several other soldiers were left at Minisink to guard the horses which belonged to Captain Little's company and others—in three or four days Captain Little and a remnant of his company and other returned from following the Indians and Tories and reported that they had had an engagement with Brandt and his party upon the Delaware River—that a brother of Captain Little was killed and several other. That Captain Wood was taken prisoner with several others.-

Remained at Minisink about seven weeks and then marched to a place called Peanpack on the Nervesink Creek about three miles North of Minisink where the said Captain Little's Company built a Fort afterwards called DeWitts Fort—at this place the said Captain Little was taken sick and was carried home to Minisink—and during his absence (which was three or four weeks) Captain Hardin had command of said company, when Captain Little returned and resumed the command, and after a few days marched the said company back to Goshen aforesaid where the said company was disbanded and he the said John Shultz, the claimant received a discharge in writing from the said Captain Little at Goshen aforesaid—in the fall of the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy nine (1779) after having served as a private soldier in said company as aforesaid for the full term of three months—which said discharge he kept until the month of April in the year eighteen hundred and thirty (1830) when it was destroyed by fire in the burning of his dwelling house in Milo aforesaid.

And in the summer of the next year, seventeen hundred and eighty (1780) he the said claimant again entered the service of the United States as a private soldier – under Captain Williams (does not recollect his Christian name)—then resided at Goshen aforesaid – Lieutenant James Denton, who also resided at Goshen—who were Militia Officers, in Colonel Hatfields Regiment who called his regimen together at Goshen for the purpose of making a draft of men to supply the garrison at West Point—but instead of making a draft, a call was made for volunteers—whereupon he the said John Shultz, the claimant above named volunteered or enlisted as a private soldier together with a sufficient number of others to make a large company of soldiers—who were put under the command of the said Captain Williams and Lieutenant James Denton and marched from Goshen aforesaid, through Chester—and through the woods about eighteen or twenty miles to West Point on the west side of North River in the State of New York where there was a Fort—On arriving at West Point the same company was commanded by Lieutenant Campbell or Camel who was a Regular Continental officer and had charge of the garrison at West Point—remained at West Point during the most of the time for three months—towards the close of this time the said claimant together with some eight or ten others of said company under the command of the said Lieutenant Denton, went down North River some thirty or forty miles and met and guarded up the river to West Point some teams which brought goods and ammunition to West Point for the use of the garrison—the British at this time were in possession of New York.—After remaining at West Point as aforesaid for the full term of three months the garrison was supplied by two other companies of soldiers and the said company to which the said claimant belonged was disbanded and verbally discharged at West Point after having served as aforesaid for the said term of three months.

In the spring of the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty one (1781) the horses and wagon of a man by the name of Gale were drafted or pressed in to the service of the United States at Goshen aforesaid and he the said Claimant went as teamster with said team and so continued about six months—went to New England after military stores and carried them to Scotch Plains in New Jersey where General Washington then was with his army—saw General Washington there—went to other places with said team for the like purpose—

That previous to the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy nine—for two or three years he the said claimant was frequently called out and went into the frontier towns as a soldier in company with others to defend the inhabitants against the Indians, but not under any enlistment.

That the time for which he claims a pension is the aforesaid three months in the year seventeen hundred and seventy nine (1779) and the said term of three months in the year seventeen hundred and eighty (1780) making in the whole six months service as a private soldier in the Revolutionary War.

That in the year seventeen hundred and eighty three (1783) he went to the City of New York where he resided two years—then returned to Warwick, Orange County and he resided there until the year 1817 when he removed to the town of Bruton in the County of Ontario, which is now in the town of Milo in the said County of Yates where he has since continued to reside and where he now resides.—

That he the said claimant has no documentary evidence—and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service as such soldier as aforesaid—That ever since he heard of the said Act of Congress he has made diligent inquiry for such evidence and believes from what he can learn that all who served with him and know him are dead—

That there is no minister of the gospel in his neighborhood who can testify as to his age, character and reputation as a soldier of the Revolution—

That he is personally known to William W. Aspell, David Briggs, George Young, Charles Roberts, George Nichols residing in the said town of Milo who can testify as to his age—his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a Revolutionary soldier.—

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to any pension or annuity whatever except he present—and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

Recapitulation—

1. He was born at Fishkill—N. York in 1762—
2. Has no record of age—had record—burnt—1830.
3. Was living when called into service at Goshen Orange County N. York and has lived since the Revolution two years in New York, thirty two years in Warwick Orange County New York—and seventeen or eighteen years where he now resides in Milo, Yates County—
4. He volunteered or enlisted in a company of Militia in 1779—for three months and in 1780 for three months more.
5. See the state-ment in the declaration.
6. Received a discharge from captain Little which was burnt in 1830—
7. The person who can certify for him are. He has no minister to certify for him—He has no documentary evidence--& knows of no living witness—He claims for six months service as a private soldier—

(Signed with his mark) John Shultz

Sworn to and subscribed in open court the day and year first aforesaid. George Shearman, Clerk