

## **Pension Application for Hendrick Shirts**

R.9520

To whom it may concern

I certify that the bearer Hendrick Shirts has served as a Private Soldier in my company in the first New York Regiment commanded by Col G. VanSchaick—he was enlisted by Lieut. Chr Miller who at that time was one of my Lieuts. That he enlisted for three years & served out his time, which circumstance I do well remember. Given under my hand at the City of Albany this 5<sup>th</sup> day of February 1827. J. H. Wendell late Captain in the 1<sup>st</sup> N. York Regiment in the last Revolutionary War.

Declaration, Revolutionary claim, under an Act of Congress, Passed June 7<sup>th</sup> A.D. 1832.

State of Vermont

District of Georgia, SS.

Franklin County Probate Court, October 9<sup>th</sup> A.D. 1832.

Personally appeared in open Court, being the Probate Court for the County of Franklin, and a Court of Record for said County, and State of Vermont, as will appear by the first section of a Statute Law of said State, entitled “An act, constituting Probate Courts, Courts of Record,” – passed November 15<sup>th</sup>, A.D. 1821, [see 1<sup>st</sup>. section of said act,] Henry Shirts aged 73 years, resident in Swanton in said County, 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<sup>th</sup>, A.D. 1832. That he entered the Service of the United States in the year 1777 and served in the 1<sup>st</sup> N. York Regt under the following named officers—

He enlisted under Lieut. Christopher Miller (1) at Claverack State of New York his place of residence, for three years. Joined his company at Albany and served under Capt. Wandell, Lieut C. Miller afs'd and Ensign Jeremiah Miller (2) in the Regt comman'd by Col. G. VanSchaick. (3) (the two above named Millers were both dismissed soon after the battle of Monmouth for cowardice) mustered at Albany aforesaid by one Dernike, marched from thence to Fort Edward, there stationed till the Regt to which he belonged march from thence to Fort Stanwick, (4) there station'd about two months, from thence to Albany for winter Quarters. In the spring following by water down the Hudson River to White Plains, New York, there stationed some months from thence to the Jersies from thence to Pennsylvania (5) and there stationed till the British Army avacuated [sic] Philadelphia, when the Regt to which he belonged left and marched in pursuit of the enemy—came up with them at a place call'd Freehold, (6) a battle ensued, upon which A retreat was ordered, but the Americans were soon supported by the rear guard under Gen. Washington (7) and a stand was made and the enemy drove back and retreated in silence the night following, the troops suffered exceedingly in this engagement in consequence of the extreme heat. After the battle aforesaid the Regt to which he belonged proceeded to the Jersies, stayed a short time and from thence to West Point, stationed there a short time and from thence by water to Albany And from thence to Fort Stanwick (8) and there stationed about one year and six months being six months more than his first enlistment having volunteered the last six months; was At the Fort when thirty six men (9) was ambushed 27 killed and nine taken prisoners including himself but escaped from the enemy and returned back to the fort, and was discharged in May or June 1780, received his discharged at the close of his first campaign, but continued in service six months after his three years expired, he says he received an hon'd discharge from Lieut Col VanDike (10) which discharge he has lost.

He has no documentary evidence whatever.

He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity whatever except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. (Signed) Hendrick Shirts

Sworn to & Subscribed the day and year afs'd. William Bridges Judge.

I Hendrick Shirts of St. Armano S.C., late of Swanton County of Franklin and State of Vermont do testify and say that I was born in Claverack State of N.York on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of December 1759, according to my best recollection, have no record of my age. Lived at Claverack when call'd into service and continued to live in s'd Claverack till after the close of the Revolutionary war; moved from thence to St. Armano afs'd where I lived till the commencement of the last war between the United States and Great Brittan when I left the province and returned back to Claverack, where I remained till the close of the war afs'd and then returned back to s'd St. Armano where he lived till August 1832. I then removed to Swanton and from thence, the present season to Broom where I now reside.

I was call'd into service as stated in my declaration And then discharged, which discharge I have lost.

I am personally acquainted in the neighborhood of St. Armano, with the following named gentlemen who can testify to my character for veracity and their belief of my service as a soldier of the revolution viz Samuel Maynard Esqr, William Baker, John Baker Esqr, Capt. John Baker Esqr, Freligh, James Read Clergyman. (Signed) Hendrick Shirts

Sworn and Subscribed this 4<sup>th</sup> day July 1833, before me, William Bridges, Justice of the Peace.

I further certify that I am personally acquainted with the deponent and know him to be and [sic] honest Dutchman and a man of truth and veracity. William Bridges, Justice of the Peace.

End Notes—R.9520—Hendrick Shirts

1. Second Lieutenant Christopher Muller of Captain Jonathan F. Wendell's Seventh Company in Colonel Goose VanSchaick's First New York Continental Regiment.
2. Ensign Jeremiah Muller of Captain Wendell's Company. Lieutenant Muller resigned on April 20, 1780 and Ensign Muller considered supernumary was discharged in 1780. Today we would call it "downsizing". There were more officers than needed. This led to the Continental Regiments being consolidated on January 1, 1781 from five regiments to two regiments.
3. Hendrick enlisted on May 17, 1777 for during war in Colonel VanSchaick's Regiment. Hendrick was transferred to Captain John Graham's Company of Light Infantry in March of 1779 in Colonel VanSchaick's Regiment. Captain Graham was appointed Major of the regiment on March 26, 1779. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 66, folder 18, (Wendell's Company), National Archives, Washington, D.C.
4. The First New York were part of the relief column under Major General Benedict Arnold to Fort Schuyler to raise the siege of the fort. When the British having retreated and Arnold reaching Fort Schuyler by August 23, 1777, he remained briefly at the fort. Arnold returned to Saratoga taking the Massachusetts regiments that had been in the fort during the siege and left the First New York to reinforce the Third New York Continental Regiment which had also endured the siege.
5. The First New York was at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania by May 5, 1778.
6. The Battle of Monmouth, New Jersey was fought on June 28, 1778. Major General Charles Lee commenced the American Troops and who had ordered the retreat.

7. Commander-in-Chief General George Washington. Upon General Washington's arrival he ordered the American forces to Stop retreating and hold the ground upon which stood. The heat was in the 90's and humid hundreds of men dropped from heat exhaustion in both armies.
8. The First New York marched to Fort Schuyler in late November of 1778 relieve or replace the Third New York as the garrison of the fort. Colonel VanSchaick led an attack in April of 1779 on the Onondaga Village near Oneida Lake Major Graham's company was part of the expedition. There were skirmishes with major engagement taking place on April 21.
9. First Lieutenant William Scudder was sent out of Fort Schuyler on a work detail on July 23, 1779. Most of the detachment was captured not killed.
10. Hendrick was not discharged by Lieutenant Colonel Cornelius Van Dyck of the First New York. He had enlisted for the war. On January 1, 1781, the First and Third New York were consolidated. Colonel VanSchaick was the senior colonel and he remained the colonel of the First New York. Hendrick was transferred to Captain Leonard Bleecker's Company of Light Infantry in the first New York. Hendrick is listed as deserting on March 1, 1781. As a deserter his pension was rejected. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 65, folder 6 (Bleecker's Company), National Archives, Washington, D.C.