

Pension Application for Silas Reed

W.24737 (Widow: Bethiah)

State of New York

Ontario County SS.

On this fourth day of August in the year 1832 personally appeared before me Chester Loomis, a Judge of the County Courts of the County of Ontario aforesaid Silas Reed a resident of the town of Gorham in the said county, and state aged seventy four years 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, he being unable from bodily infirmity to attend the sitting of the County Court.

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

In the month of February in the year 1776 he volunteered to serve for the term of two months in a company of Militia of the State of New York commanded by Captain Childs—Lieut Lloyd, and Ensign Shaw, and was forthwith marched with the said company of Militia from Amenia In the County of Dutchess in the State of New York to the City of new York where the company to which he belonged was annexed to a regiment of militia then in service commanded by Colonel Humphrey.

About two weeks after, the said company crossed to Long Island and was stationed at Newtown till the expiration of the said term of the said term of two months. The said company labored while so stationed in constructing a fortification on the East River at a place called Horns Hook.

The said company at the expiration of the said term proceeded to Poughkeepsie, and being dismissed the said Silas Reed saith that he then returned to Amenia in the County of Dutchess aforesaid.

In the latter part of September of the same year (1776) he again volunteered to serve in a company of Militia, at Norwalk in the County of Fairfield in the State of Connecticut as a substitute in place of his brother-in-law Matthew Fitch. The said Company was stationed at that place to guard the same against the enemy—about three months during which period he the said Silas Reed saith that he served therein as a soldier—but that he has forgotten the names of the commanding officer of the said company—nor can he now recollect their names—but hath the impression that one of the said officers was named—Botsford—at the expiration of the said term the said Silas Reed was dismissed and returned to Amenia aforesaid.

He further saith that soon after such return and in the month of December 1776 he again volunteered to serve as a soldier in a company of militia commanded by Captain William Chamberlain, and Lieut, Reuben Doty – and was marched a short distance below White Plains in West Chester County in West Chester County in the WestChester County in the State of New York—and stationed at Wards House, for about three months performing during that period an arduous and hazardous period of Military service and was then dismissed.

In the autumn of 1777 he was again called into military service in a company under the command of the said Capt William Chamberlain and marched to Fishkill and from thence to the Highlands.

The said company was stationed at Rhinebeck when the British Fleet returned after burning Esopus. The said Silas Reed saith that he served at that time about three weeks when he was again dismissed.

He further saith that he was called into service as he thinks in the spring of 1778—under Col. Zephaniah Platt and served at Amenia aforesaid one month and was during that time employed in building a jail in which to confine Tories.

The said Silas Reed further saith that he was at various other times called into military service—on sudden alarms—or for short expeditions against the enemy in the war of the Revolution and that according to the best of his recollection and belief the whole time in which he was—actually engaged in military service could not have been less than one year.

1st The said Silas Reed further saith that he was born in the town of Norwalk in the County of Fairfield and State of Connecticut on 16th day of March 1758.

2nd That he has no record of his age except a memorandum—thereof in his family Bible.

3rd That he resided at Amenia, in the County of Dutchess in the State of New York when called into service as aforesaid—that since the Revolutionary War he has lived six years at Pawlet in the State of Vermont—One year at Hillsdale in the County of Columbia and State of new York—seven years at Coxsackie in the same state—and for the last thirty five years in the town of Gorham in the County of Ontario where he now resides.

4th That he entered the service as a volunteer, but served about othree months at Norwalk in Connecticut as a substitute for Matthew Fitch.

5th That he knew no regular officers with the troops where he served.

6th That he never received any written Discharge from Service.

7th That he knows of no person living whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his said service and that he is well known to Capt Henry Green and Jonathan Pratt of the town of Gorham aforesaid who can as he believes 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 is onto on the pension roll of any state. (Signed) Silas Reed.

Sworn and subscribed to this 4th day of August 1832 before me. Chester Loomis, one of the Judges of the County Courts of the County of Ontario aforesaid.

Letter in folder dated August 5, 1938, written in response to a letter of inquiry.

Reference is made to your letter in which you request the Revolutionary War record of Silas Reed of Connecticut and New York, whose daughter, you state, married Matthew Fitch.

The data which follow are found in the papers on file in pension claim, W.24737, based upon service of Silas Reed in the Revolutionary War.

Silas Reed was born March 16, 1758 in Norwalk, Fairfield County, Connecticut; the names of his parents are not shown.

While a resident of Amenia, Dutchess County, New York, he enlisted in February 1776 and served two months in Captain Childs' company, Colonel Humphrey's New York regiment. He enlisted in September 1776, in Norwalk, Connecticut, and served three months under command of one Botsford, rank of that officer not given; this service was rendered as substitute for his brother-in-law, Matthew Fitch. He returned to Amenia, New York, enlisted in December 1776, and served three months in Captain William Chamberlain's New York company; he enlisted in the fall of 1777 and served three weeks in the same company. He enlisted in the spring of 1778 and served one month in Captain Zepaniah Platt's New York company; he served also at various times on other short tours and alarms, in all about four months, a part of the time under Captain Doty and under Colonel Colby Chamberlain in the New York troops. He served as private and sergeant.

After the Revolutionary War, Silas Reed resided in Pawlet, Vermont, for six years, in Hillsdale, Columbia County, New York, for one year, in Coxsackie, New York, for seven years, and moved about 1797, to Gorham, Ontario County, New York.

Silas Reed was allowed pension on his application executed August 4, 1832, at which time he resided in Gorham, New York. He died there November 12, 1833.

Silas Reed married November 26, 1782 in Amenia, Dutchess County, New York, Bethia Hurd (her maiden name) of that vicinity. They were married by a Minister of the Gospel.

Bethia Reed, the soldier's widow, was allowed pension on her application executed November 21, 1838, at which time she was aged seventy-nine years. She did not state the date and place of her birth, not the names of her parents. She resided in Greece, Monroe County, New York, in 1838.

In 1838, Seneca Reed, son of Silas Reed and his wife, Bethiah, was a resident of Parma, Monroe County, New York, aged fifty-three years. He married the daughter of Elijah Murray, her name not given; her father served from Massachusetts in the Revolutionary War and died in 1817 in Canandaigua, Ontario County, New York.

In 1838, Betsey Sutherland was a resident of Livingston County, Michigan, aged seventy-one years. She stated then that she was present at the marriage of Silas Reed and Bethian Hurd in Amenia, New York, but did not state any relationship to the soldier's family.

One Solomon Sutherland was an associate Judge of the Circuit Court for Livingston County, Michigan in 1838.