

Pension Application for John Shaft

S.6081

Private, Captain Whiteside, Col. Warner. Died Sept. 2, 1835

Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

State of New York

Madison County SS.

On this eighth day of October in the year of our Lord 1832 personally appeared in open court before the judges of the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Madison in the State of New York now sitting being a court of Record. John Shaft, born in the year 1744 in Germany, formerly a resident of Newtown of Lenox in the said County of Madison from which he was sent to the poor house of the said county where he now resides, aged eighty eight years, and 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 after stated, that is to say about the time of the capture of Gen. Burgoyne, at Cambridge in Washington County in the year 1776 or 1777 he entered the said service as a volunteer under Major McCracken in the Regiment commanded by Col. Warren, under Gen. Schuyler and that he continued in the said service more than one year after the said capture of Gen. Burgoyne, when he was discharged at Easton in the County of Washington in said State. The exact time he served he cannot state but it was at least twelve months, that he received his pay from one John Whiteside who acted as Captain and paid him in the year 1779 but he does not know whether said Whiteside was a Captain in the Militia or in the regular army. And this applicant further states that to the best of his recollection the time he served was not less than three seasons, that is from the time he enlisted as above stated till that time he was paid as above mentioned. That at the time Burgoyne was captured he lay with his regiment north of the British Army but within hearing distance. That the year after Burgoyne's capture he was marched with Col. Warren and Governor Clinton northward of Crown Point.

That he has lived in the State of New York ever since he was 19 years of age & in Cambridge in Washington county above 50 years, then he removed to Lenox in Madison County and continued there till he was sent to the Poor House aforesaid.

That in consequence of failure of memory he would refer to the depositions of John and Thomas Whiteside made on a former declaration of this applicant for a pension, and which he is advised by a letter from the pension office of August 27th 1832 are on file in said office with the rest of his papers.

That Sylvanus Seeber one of the Judges of this court, and Ichabod Amidon are acquainted with him and can testify to his veracity & their belief of his said services as a soldier of the Revolutionary Army.

That he has no documentary evidence and that he knows of no person who can testify or whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services, and that he never had any but a verbal discharge.

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. He has no record of his age. (Signed with his mark) John Shaft.

Sworn and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid. A. S. Sloan, Clk