

Pension Application for Richard Sharp

R.9426

State of New York
Wayne County SS.

On this second day of October A.D. 1832, personally appeared in open court, before the Court of Common Pleas in and for the County of Wayne and state of New York, now setting, Richard Sharp a resident of Wolcott in the County of Wayne and State of New York, aged 72 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 7th, 1832:--That he entered the service under the following named officers, and served as herein stated:--That about the month of August AD 1775 then being in his thirteenth year of age as he believes, at the town of St. Croix in the County of Albany in the State of New York he enlisted into the service of his country and entered said service in the company of Captain John McRacken (1) as he believes and Lieutenant . . . Martin in the Regiment of New York State Troops commanded by Major Gansevoort (2) and Adjutant John Tillman (3) in the army of Gen. Montgomery destined against Canada--That he was mustered at Albany--that at this place he was taken from the ranks to serve a waiter to Lieutenant Martin that he marched with said company from Albany to Ticonderoga from thence to Crown Point - from thence to St. Johns from thence La Prairie--from thence to Longale, from thence to Montreall and was there when that place was taken, from thence to Quebeck & was there and took part in the battle in which the American troops were defeated and Gen. Montgomery (4) killed, from thence he returned home having served a term of five months and twelve days that VanSchaack of Albany was the Colonel of said regiment but did not march with said regiment in this expedition. He further declares that in the Winter of the year 1777 the militia company to which he belonged was divided into three divisions called classes & each class was required to furnish one man to serve nine months, that he was selected by one of said classes and marched to Fort Edward and entered said service under the command of John Chipman (5) who at that time commanded at said Fort--That he continued to serve in said Fort until about the time that Gen. Burgoin's army (6) came from Canada when he marched to Bennington in the State of Vermont and was in the Battle of Bennington on the 16th of August (7) of the same year, that he marched under the command of Captain John Chipman, from Bennington he marched to Saratoga and was there at the time Gen. Burgoine's army was taken. From thence he was discharged and returned home having served a term of nine months and a few days over. He further declares that afterwards in the month of July but in what year he does not remember he again entered said service as a substitute for his brother Peter Sharp in the company commanded by Captain - - - Ball. (8) That he was stationed & continued to serve as a ferryman at West Point for a term of one month and a half when he was discharged and returned home to St. Croix aforesaid.

That whilst in said service he saw and knew the following named officers, to wit, Gen. Gates, Gen. Warner, Gen. Arnold, Gen. Starks, Gen. Montgomery & others--that he has not the proof of any living witness to said services & cannot procure it.

1st Born at Claverack Albany County now Columbia New York in the year 1760.

2nd has a record of his age at Claverack

3^d living at St. Croix removed then to Geneseo thence to Rochester thence to western N. York.

4th stated above.

5th [?] in the above declaration Genls Stark, Ward, Putman, Gates, & Arnold.

6th received no discharge.

7th Aaron Decker, Elias Y. Morison, Daniel Roe Jr.

He hereby relinquishes all claim whatever to a pension except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any State or territory. (Signed with his mark) Richard Sharp

Sworn & subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open court. John L. Cuyler, Clerk

State of New York
Wayne County SS.

Richard Sharp a resident of the town of Wolcott in the said county personally appeared before me the undersigned First Judge of the said county and being by me duly sworn deposeth and saith that he is the same person named in and who made the annexed Declaration under the act of Congress of the 7th June 1832--that the same was made before the Court of Common Pleas of the county aforesaid, on the second day of October 1832--and this deponent further deposeth and saith, that he was born in the month of April in the year 1760, and was 73 years old in April 1833 that he enlisted according to the best of his recollection in the month of July 1775, but it might have been in the month of August 1775, into the New York State Troops, for the term of five months, under the officers named in his said declaration, the name of the Captain being John McCracken, he believes (& not "McRacken" as spelled in said declaration) and that he served the whole of the said term of five months and the further term of twelve days, under said Captain McCracken in the Regiment mentioned in his declaration and that

the names of the officers and all the facts and circumstances respecting said service are true and correct as stated by him in his declaration, according to his best recollection and belief—that he was discharged by Capt. McCracken in Canada and returned home—that the discharge was not in writing & that it was in the winter when he was discharged—That he enlisted for the said period of five months and served under such enlistment, and was not enlisted or hired as a waiter, but after he was mustered at Albany he was taken from the ranks to served as waiter to Lieut. Martin—that he served as such waiter for a short time only & less than one month (and this was under his aforesaid enlistment) and then he was returned again to the ranks, and served for the term aforesaid. This deponent further deposeth and saith, that for the services mentioned in his aforesaid declaration he made an application thirteen or fourteen years ago for a Pension under the act of Congress of the 18th March 1818, and that upon that application he procured an affidavit of his brother Andrew Sharp, proving his enlistment and service for the before mentioned term of service under Capt. McCracken; which affidavit with the other papers of that application this deponent believes to be now at the War office of the United States, and to which affidavit he begs leave now to refer, in support of his present application – That his said brother Andrew is still living, he believes, and has gone from Cayuga County where formerly lived to the western part of this state to live with his grandson—that after the passing of the act of June 7, 1832 & before the time he made his declaration under the same, he went to visit his said brother Andrew to procure a new deposition or affidavit of this deponents enlistment and services aforesaid; that he found him in a state of Idiocy and imbecility of mind occasioned by old age & loss of memory, wholly unable and unfit to make a deposition; by reason of which he could not procure a new affidavit of him as he had expected to do—that this deponent knows of no person by whom he can prove any of the services mentioned in his said declaration and that he has endeavored to find & procure testimony of his services and has been unable to do so.

And this deponent further deposeth and saith that in the winter of the year 1777, but on what particular day or month he cannot now remember he went into the service from the Militia of the State of New York, in the manner stated in his said declaration, for the term of nine months, under Capt. John Chipman, and served the full term of nine months, and a few days longer, under said Capt. Chipman that he lived at the time of going into the said service at St. Croix stated in his declaration. That he served the said nine months at the places and in the manner by him set forth in his declaration and that all the facts and circumstances respecting the said services, as they are stated and set forth in his said declaration, as far as he can now recollect, true and correct, and he verily believes them to be so—that during this nine months service Genl. Burgoyne was taken or surrendered at Saratoga in October 1777—that he was present when he surrendered his sword—that Capt. Chipman had the command at Fort Edward where deponent served there and deponent does not know what regiment (if any) Capt. Chipman's Company belonged to, and does not recollect the name of the Colonel, or that there was one, over Chipman. That his nine months services ended a short time after Burgoyne was taken, but does not recollect the precise time and that he was discharged by Capt. Chipman, but not in writing.

That by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his services, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods herein before mentioned, and that he served only as a private during all his said services—that during the said terms of service herein before stated he was in actual service and was not engaged in any civil pursuit—That when this deponent was born in Claverack as stated in his said declaration the said town of Claverack was in Albany County, but it is now in Columbia County. (Signed with his mark) Richard Sharp

Subscribed and sworn this 18th day of December 1833 before me. And I certify that I am acquainted with the above deponent and believe him to be a credible witness. Wm. Sisson, First Judge of Wayne County

End Notes—R.9426—Richard Sharp.

1. Captain Joseph McCracken of Seventh Company in Colonel Goose VanSchaick's Second New York Continental Regiment for 1775. Unfortunately muster rolls for this company have not been found. McCracken and the following officers were "arranged" in this company on June 28th; Moses Martin as First Lieutenant and John Barns as Second Lieutenant.
2. Peter Gansevoort was appointed major on June 30th in place of Luca VanVeghten who declined the commission in the Second New York.
3. John Tillman was appointed adjutant on June 30th in the Second New York.
4. Major General Richard Montgomery was killed in the Storming of Quebec on December 31, 1775.
5. John Chipman was appointed First Lieutenant in Captain Simeon Smith's Company on September 16, 1776 in colonel Seth Warner's Additional Continental Regiment. Chipman was not appointed captain until about August 1, 1780 as a Captain in Warner's Regiment. The only Sharp found on the Muster Rolls of Warner's Regiment is Isaac Sharp. Richard's brother Andrew P.A. No. S.22984 also claimed to have served under Chipman in 1777. See end note on no. 4. However, Richard's name was not found on muster rolls for the levies in 1780.

6. Lieutenant General John Burgoyne with about 7,000 British Regulars, Loyalists, Indians and German Mercenaries were following the Hudson River corridor by boat and wagon in the direction of Albany which resulted in several battles and skirmishes with American troops. Burgoyne finally surrendered the remnants of his army on October 17, 1777.
7. The Battle of Bennington was fought on August 16, 1777. Brigadier General John Start commanded the American forces. Warner's Regiment and militia arrived near the second part of the battle.
8. Probably Captain Stephen Ball of the Quartermaster General's Department. Richard's name does appear as serving in Captains William Brown and John Whiteside's Companies in Colonel Lewis VanWoert's Sixteenth Regiment (Cambridge District), of the Albany County Militia.