

Pension Application for Samuel Shaw

W.16719 (Widow: Zerviah or Zuviah) Married by Rev. Joseph Fish, Pastor of the Congregational Society in North Stonington, Conn, one 16th day of April AD 1775.

Captain, Col. VanRenselaer in NY Militia. Died July 9, 1834.

Shaw, Samuel. His name appears on a list of applicants for invalid pensions returned by the District Court for the District of New York, submitted to the House of Representatives by the Secretary of War on December 31, 1794 and printed in the American State Papers, class 9, pages 146 and 172.

Rank: Lieutenant

Regt: Col. Stephen J. Schuyler's Militia.

Disability: Received a violent bruise in his leg while assisting his men in erecting a bridge, occasioned by the sliding of a large log.

When and where disabled: Oct 9, 1776 near Fort Ann.

Residence: Stephentown

Remarks: Militia

Evidence incomplete, viz: 1st no evidence of examining physicians to prove the nature and degree of disability. 2d no evidence why application was not made prior to December 11, 1788. On page 172 it is stated that there was no deposition of examining physicians produced to prove the nature and degree of his disability.

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

State of New York

County of Rensselaer SS.

On this third day of October 1832 personally appeared in open court, before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of said County now sitting, Samuel Shaw, a resident of Berlin county of Rensselaer and State of New York, aged eighty 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.

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

That in the year 1776 he resided in what was then called Little Hoosick now the Town of Berlin County of Rensselaer and State of New York—That on the twentieth of February of that year he entered the service as a first Lieutenant of the fifth company of Militia of Foot in the Sixth Regiment in the (then) County of Albany whereof Caleb Bently Esq. was the Captain—that he continued actually employed as such officer until he was promoted to a captency in the same company and as such Captain continued actively employed in the service of his country til the end of the war of the Revolution, that the time of his receiving his Captain's commission is unknown to him having lost the same but that he was a captain in 1781 he knows and thinks he was sometime previous to that year—That he was placed upon the pension list roll as an invalid pensioner under the act of Congress passed the 25th day of April 1808 as this deponent thinks and which he thinks has since been increased to something over nine dollars per month, not now being in possession of his papers the particulars of which he is unable to state. That he expects there is now some evidence in the war department relative to his services to which reference may be had—That the annexed affidavits marked A, B, C, D, E, F, are true and were taken at this time. The bear date to accompany a petition of this deponent to Congress for relief and that the reason that they are not retaken is that the deponents are, some of them, dead and those of them that are yet alive are incapable of being procured as evidencers—that the papers marked E & F hereunto annexed were papers made at the time they purport of have been made & contain as far as the facts as [page folded] even found among his [?] papers and to which reference may be had—That the annexed affidavits

marked A, B, C, D, E, F are true and were taken at the time they bear date to accompany a petition of this deponent to Congress for relief and that the reason that they are not retaken is that the deponents, some of the are dead and those of them that are yet alive are incapable of being procured as evidence— That the papers G & H hereunto annexed were papers made at the time they purport to have been made & contain as far as they go facts as they then occurred and even found among his [?] papers and are meant to bear evidence as far as they go—That during the service he was mortally engaged in Schoharry, Schenectady, Saratoga, Fort Ann, Fort George, Stillwater, and at various posts on the North River & Mohawk River and constantly when in his own neighbourhood in defending against & hunting Toryes which were then numerous & very troublesome.

To the prescribed interrogatories put by the court he answers.

1. He was born in North Carolina at a place called Lockwoods Polly of Folly in the war of 1748.
2. He had a record of his age which is burnt up with the house that contained it.
3. He lived when called into service as above stated when he was ever since lived and now lives.
4. The answer to this interrogatory he refers to his above statement.
5. He served with General Schuyler and General Morgan of the Regular Officers and with various others and with Colonel Henry K. Van Rensselaer, Majors Banker & Funday and various other officers of the Militia.
6. He did receive a 1st Lieutenants commission which is hereunto annexed and he also received a Captain's Commission which he knows he had for several years but it cannot now be found & what has become of it he does not know.
7. He is known in his present neighbourhood to John Reeve Esq. P.M. of said Town of Berlin and to Judge Jeffery [fold in paper] who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution.

For answers to the fifth Interrogatory returned annexed in the negative the applicant makes the following affidavit.

Rensselaer County SS. Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace of the County of Rensselaer aforesaid Samuel Shaw the above applicant who being duly sworn deposed and saith that by reason of old age and consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of service he performed nor the precise time he served in each grade but that he served the whole time as a Captain or Lieutenant and according to his best recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades. For three years I served as a Lieutenant and for more than two years I served as a captain and for such service I claim a pension. (Signed) Samuel Shaw

Sworn & Subscribed before me this 25th day of May 1833.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity, except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state, or (if any,) only on that of the agency of the State of New York. (Signed) Samuel Shaw

Sworn to, and subscribed, the day and year aforesaid. Archibald Bull, Clerk

Letter in folder dated November 10, 1928, written in reply to a request for information.

I advise you that from the Revolutionary War records of this bureau it appears that Samuel Shaw was born in Lockwood's Folly, North Carolina, in 1748.

While living in Little Hoosick, Albany County, New York, which was later Berlin, Rensselaer County, New York, he entered the service, February 20, 1776, having on that day been commissioned first lieutenant in Captain Caleb Bently's New York Company. He served until the close of the Revolution, three years as lieutenant and more than two years as captain and was in Colonel Stephen J. Schuyler's New York Regiment. On October 6 or 9 near Fort Ann, he received a fracture of the leg which was occasioned by slipping of a log during the construction of a bridge.

On account of the disability resulting from the above mentioned injury, he was pensioned from February 13, 1808.

He died July 9, 1834, in Berlin, New York, aged about eighty-seven years.

He married at North Stonington, Connecticut, April 16, 1775, Zuviah or Zerviah Herrick.

She was allowed pension on her application executed January 12, 1837, at which time she was a resident of Berlin, Rensselaer County, New York, aged eighty-seven years.

She died May 10, 1837, leaving a son, Samuel Shaw, who was a resident of Berlin, New York, aged about fifty-seven years.