

Pension Application for George (Hans George) Sheaf or Shiff or Schiff

W.19029 (Widow: Christina or Stena) Hans George Schiff and Christina Vorbor wed 13 January 1784, Rev. Rosencrants. George died April 8, 1820. Christina died 25th September 1842. Children: George born 27 June 1788 residence Deerfield in Oneida County, Olive born 9 August 1790 residence Ellisbury in Jefferson County, Eve born May 1, 1793 now wife of Abraham Weaver residence in Deerfield in Oneida County, Coonrod (Conrad) born April 19, 1795 residence Deerfield in Oneida County, Margareta now wife of Stephen Luther was born Feb 4, 1801 residence in Clayton in Jefferson County, Mary has no record of her age, she is 42 or 43 in 1846 and resides in Ellisburg in Jefferson County.

State of New York

Oneida County SS.

On this eighteenth day of April 1818 before me Charles Wylie one of the Judges of Oneida Common Pleas, personally appeared George Sheaf aged 61 years, a resident in the Town of Deerfield in the County of Oneida and State of new York who being duly sworn does upon oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the Act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the Law & naval services of the United States in the Revolutionary War." This deponent entered the Continental Army, during the war, in May 1776—His father enlisted in March 1776 and this deponent took his place in May thereafter at Fort Stanwix—in the State of New York and served during the war. The captain under whom this deponent entered was a Captain Swartout and the fort was commanded by Colonel Peter Gansevoort. This deponent remained at Fort Stanwix about eighteen months, and was present at its siege by the British army—The troops went into winter quarters at Albany the second winter after this deponent enlisted. From Albany the troops marched to Tioga Point and joined the army under General Sullivan, and went into the Indian Country against the Indians. This deponent returned with the army and went into Winter Quarters, near Morristown New Jersey. This was in the year 1779—From Morristown the New York Troops went in the Spring to Stony Point and after marching during the summer to different posts, the Regiment to which this deponent was attached went into winter quarters at Saratoga. Colonel Gansevoort commanded the Regiment at the time they went into winter quarters.

In the course of the winter the 1st & 3d New York Regiments were consolidated into one Regiment and the command was given to Colonel VanSchaack of the 1st New York Regiment. This deponent obtained a furlough from Saratoga on account of the death of his father who had been scalped by the Indians, in the spring or last of the winter of 1781, and while on Furlough the army marched to the South, and this deponent never served them afterwards as the army was discharged at NewBurgh.

This deponent did not know where to go to join the army, and Lieut Colonel Willet who commanded at Fort Plain advised this deponent to wait until the army returned from the south which this deponent did. This is the reason of this deponent's never receiving a written discharge.

This deponent further says he is in reduced circumstances and stands in need of his country's assistance for support. This deponent has no other evidence at present in his power, than the accompanying affidavit. (Signed with his mark) George Sheaf

Sworn to & the said George Sheaf personally appeared this 18th day of April 1818 & made his mark before me. Charles Wylie one of the Judges of Oneida Com. Pleas

United States of America

State of New York

Oneida County SS.

John Finster of the Town of Schuyler County of Herkimer and State of New York, aged eighty six nearly eighty seven years who being first duly sworn according to law deposes and says that at different times during the periods of the War of the Revolution he served as a drafted Militia and minute man.

This deponent further saith that prior to the war of the Revolution and during the period of said war and for many years after the termination thereof he (this deponent) was personally and intimately acquainted with George Schiff late a pensioner of the United States and now deceased. This deponent further saith that he well remembers that the said above mentioned George Schiff served in Col. Gansevoort's Regt and that during the war said George Schiff's father was murdered by a party of Indians while in the fields at work and that this deponent was one that bore home—the lifeless body of said George Schiff's father and that George Schiff came home from the company or Regt to which he belonged on furlow as he stated. This deponent does not now recollect or remember whether said George Schiff made any effort to rejoin his company or Regiment—but well remembers that he (George Schiff) did enlist or join another company of either six or nine months men and served therein after leaving the company or Regt in which he (Schiff) formerly served [?]ged, and this deponent further saith that said George Schoff was among his neighbors and among his fellow soldiers esteemed and that he Scheff never bore the name of a deserter neither among his neighbors or among those with whom he served as a soldier as aforesaid. (Signed) John Finster.

Subscribed and sworn in open court before me this 13th day of January 1847. P. Nedly, V. Chancellor of the Court.

Letter in file dated November 18, 1933, replying to a request for information.

Reference is made to your letter in which you request information in regard to George Schieff, private in Tryon County Militia, Colonel Bellinger's New York Regiment, War of the Revolution; George Schieff, private in Tryon County Militia in May 1769; Peter Scheff, private in Tryon County Militia in August, 1763.

This office has no record of service rendered prior to the War of the Revolution, hence no record of the service of George Schieff in May 1769 and no record of the service of Peter Scheff in August 1763.

Revolutionary War data furnished by this office are obtained from claims made to the United States for pension and bounty land based upon military service of soldiers in that war. A search of the records fails to show such claims on file on account of the service of any Peter Scheff, the surname searched under various spellings.

In regard to your statement relative to pension claims, S.23644 and R.17772 the papers on said claims afford no information pertaining to the above named soldiers.

The record of George Sheaf (Shiff, Schiff) is furnished herein, as found in pension claim, W.19029, based upon his service in the Revolutionary War. This is the history of the only soldier of that name (surname searched under similar spellings (that is found in the Revolutionary files of this office.

The date and place of birth of George Sheaf, Shiff or Schiff (also referred to as Hans George) are not shown in the claim, nor are the names of his parents stated.

His father enlisted in March 1776 and served until in May 1776, when he (George Sheaf) took his place at Fort Stanwix and served in Captain Swarthout's company, Colonel Peter Gansevoort's Third New York regiment, was in the siege of Fort Stanwix and in Sullivan's Indian Expedition; afterwards in Colonel VanSchaick's New York regiment. His father, while at work in the field, was scalped by the Indians and died in the spring of 1781; George Sheaf was granted a furlough to go home on account of the death of his father, and while at home, his regiment marched to "the South", he could not rejoin them. He enlisted in 1782 and served seven months and twenty-eight days as corporal in Captain Abner French's company, Colonel Marinus Willett's New York Regiment.

George Sheaf was allowed pension on his application executed, April 18, 1818, then sixty-one years of age and living in Deerfield, Oneida County, New York. He died at Deerfield, April 9, 1820.

The soldier, George Seaf, married January 13, 1784, near Little Falls, Christina (Lina or Stena) Vorbos. It is stated that she remarried after the death of her husband, George Sheaf; but there are no details of this marriage. She died September 23 or 25, 1842 in Deerfield, New York.

The following is a list of the children of George Sheaf and his wife, Chrisina, as appears in the claim. George born June 27, 1788, Olive born August 9, 1790, Eve born May 1, 1793, Coonrod or Conrad born April 19, 1795, Margret or Margareta born February 4, 1801, Mary date of birth not given. The above noted children were all alive in 1846, with residences in that year as stated below, and were allowed the pension due their mother, on account of the service of their father in the War of the Revolution.

George Sheaf, Deerfield, New York; Olive Sheaf, Ellisburg, New York; Eve, wife of Abraham Weaver, Deerfield, New York; Coonrod or Conrad Sheaf, Deerfield, New York; Margret or Margareta, wife of Stephen Luther, Clayton, New York; Mary, who married --- Phinkester or Finster, she was about forty-two or forty-three years old in 1846, residence, Ellisburg, New York.

Mary Multer (?), sister of the soldier, George Sheaf, was in Oneida County, New York in 1818; Jacob Multer (?) stated in 1818 that he was well acquainted with George Sheaf; the relationship between Mary and Jacob Multer, not shown. Jacob Weaver in 1847 was living in Deerfield, New York, and John Finster living in 1847 in Schuyler, New York, aged eighty-six years, said that he assisted in carrying the father of the soldier, George Sheaf, to his home, when he was scalped by the Indians. It is not shown that Jacob Weaver and John Finster were related to the family of George Sheaf.