

Pension Application for Matthias Shear or Mathias

W.19017 (Hannah) Married 7 October 1781 at the house of Rev'd Mr. Crouse in Albany. Matthias died the 15 June 1835.

State of New York

Wayne County SS.

Declaration. In order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed the 7th of June 1832.

On this 23d day of January 1833 personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the court of common pleas in the County of Wayne and State of New York now sitting Matthias Shears a resident of the Town of Wolcut[t] in the County of Wayne and State of New York aged 74 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 the 7th of June 1832, that he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. That he was drafted to go to half moon point to guard the stores at that place under the command of Captain Nanning Fisher in a Regiment commanded by Col. Shoonan [VanSchaick?] marched from Niskune the place of his residence County of Saratoga NY. Some time in the month of April he thinks, in the year 1776 to West Point aforesaid and staid there three weeks and was discharged, had no written discharge, this was in the Militia of the State of New York and that in the year 1776 in the month of October or November the whole Brigade to which he belonged was called out en mass to go to Fort Edward on the Hudson River General Scuyler [Schuyler] commanded the Brigade. Schoonom the Regiment and Nanning Fisher the Company to which he belonged, staid at Fort Edward three weeks and was then discharged no written discharge and returned home to Niskune and that he was then immediately drafted as a guard under Lieutenant Van Vanaraukin to watch the motions of the Tories and Indians on the Mohawk River and its vicinity, was once taken prisoner by one Capt. Myers a Tory but escaped from him and was all the time engaged in scouting until sometime in January 1777, in this campaign he was engaged three months in actual service was once three days without any kind of provisions, he was discharged in the month of January of 1777 had no written discharge, and that sometime in the forepart of June 1777 he was called out with the Bryad [Brigade] and Company and Regiment and the same officers en mass marched to Fort Edward staid there three or four weeks this declarant was drafted to go to Lake George and was put under the command of Captain Smith.

Col Schoonoon commanded the Regiment General Scuyler commanded the Brigade, where this declarant stayed until Burgoyne's men came up the lake and drove our army before them he [?] the to Fort Miller had a [?] with some British and Indians that attempted to Cross the river at that place, the day before the Battle the company that he belonged to obtained liberty to go home for three days which was 14 miles from the field of battle as soon as we heard the noise of the Battle this declarant with the company to which he belonged started for the field of battle but did not arrive in season to take an active part in it he was then discharged on or about the last of October 1777, received no written discharge in this campaign he was out on duty four months and twenty one days and that in the year 1778, he was drafted to go to Fort Edward to cut of[f] the retreat of some Indians and Tories that had committed depredations on the Mohawk River and that this claimant went with a span of horses and [?] As he expected the enemy had already escaped and that the troops would immediately return, as was in reality the case, but that his horses and wagon was pressed by Capt. Patt Smith to draw boats from Fort Edward to Lake George and he staid twn days and was then discharged and returned home cannot remember the exact time of the year that this happened. And that in the year 1779 one half of the Brigade was called out and this declarant went there and went to BallsTown Saratoga County and State aforesaid and staid there as a guard to the frontier two weeks and was then discharged and returned home to Niskune, the place of his residence.

And that he has no documentary evidence and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service.

He hereby relinquishes every [?] claim to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency of State and that he was born in the town of Dutchtown in the year 1760 County of Dutchess County and State of New York. Has no record of his age from there he removed to Niskum Saratoga County State aforesaid from thence to Clifton Park same County from thence to Schenectady same state from thence to Milton Saratoga County same state from thence Palatine Montgomery County same state from thence to Fundays Creek same county from thence to Walnut in the County of Wayne State of New York where he now resides. The names of persons who can testify to the character of this claimant are Daniel Ara, Amos Snyder & John Drake. (Signed with his mark) Mathias Shear

Sworn and Subscribed this day and year aforesaid. Cullen Foster Dep. Clerk