

Pension Application for Marks Shell, Schell

S.14440

State of New York

Lewis county SS.

On this eighteenth day of September in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty two personally appeared in open Court before the judges of the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Lewis now sitting Marks Shell a resident of the Town of Harrisburg in the County of Lewis and State of New York aged seventy 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. In the year, 1778, he entered the service in the New York Militia under Captain Small (1) in the Regiment Commanded by Colonel Peter Bellinger that he resided during the year at Fort Herkimer on the Mohawk River and was in actual service at least two or three months in said year 1778.

That in the year 1779 he resided in the Fort above mentioned, and was in actual service under the above named officers in the Militia aforesaid two or three months—That he resided at Fort Herkimer during the two years above mentioned and was enrolled in the company above mentioned and was frequently called out on duty but he cannot recollect the the [sic] precise time of Service in such instance but it was at least two or three months in each year as above stated, and that he served as a volunteer.

That in the year 1780 sometime in the summer he enlisted as a volunteer in the New York Militia for Four Months under Captain Marks Diamond (2) Lieutenant Putman in the Regiment Commanded by Colonel Bellinger and served about three months when he was taken sick and left the service.

That in the year 1781 he entered the service in the Militia aforesaid in the company commanded by Captain Elsworth (3), Lieutenant Putman(4) and the Regiment before mentioned commanded by Colonel Bellinger under and enlistment for three months and served the time out was discharged some time in the fall.

All the above mentioned service was performed on or in the vicinity of the Mohawk River. That he was in a number of battles or skirmishes with the Indians and Torys [sic]; one of which was at Fort Herkimer (5); one at Shells Bush (6), Herkimer County & one at German Flats (7)—

That he resided at the time of entering the service in the Town of Herkimer (at that time Montgomery (8) County N.Y.) That he entered the service as a volunteer;

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. (Signed with his mark) Marks Shell

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. Charles P. Scovil, Clerk

End Notes—S.14440—Marks Shell

1. Captain Jacob Small's Company was part of Colonel Peter Bellinger's Fourth Regiment of Tryon County Militia. Marks or Marcus' name does not appear on captain Small's muster roll for 1779 or 1780. His father, Christian Schell's name does appear on the roll for both years as well as a John Schell or Shell. There may have been other muster rolls but so far these are the only ones found for this company. FROM: Tryon County Militia—Box 14, Manuscripts and Special Collections, New York State Library, Albany, New York. The same muster rolls were transcribed in October of 1896 in the R & P Office, War Dept., Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 72, folder 78, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
2. Captain Hans Marcus Demuth served in Colonel Lewis Dubois' Regiment of New York State Levies for 3 months. L Again Marks name does not appear on the muster roll for this company. The lieutenants for Captain Demuth's Company were William Wallace and James Butter field. The only Putman that served as a lieutenant in the levies was Victor Putman. He served as a lieutenant in Captain Isaac Bogart's Company in Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant John Harper's Regiment of New York State Levies raised for seven months service.
3. Marks name does not appear on Captain Peter Elsworth's muster roll Captain Elsworth was appointed captain in Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant Marinus Willett's Regiment of New York State Levies on April 27, 1781. Captain Elsworth was killed in an ambush near Steele's Creek on July 6, 1781. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 78, folder 173, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
4. Lieutenant Victor Putman served in Captain Garret Putman's Company in Willett's Regiment in 1781.
5. There were two major attempts to capture Forts Herkimer and Dayton. The first attempt was September 17, 1778 in a raid led by Captain William Coldwell of Butler's Rangers and Captain Joseph Brant. The second attempt was July 15, 1782 in a raid led by Captain George Singleton of the King's Royal Regiment of New York and Captain Joseph Brant.
6. On August 31, 1780, a raid by Captain Donald McDonald against Schells Bush ended in failure. Christian Schell had built a blockhouse on his farm and all his family made the blockhouse in safety except for his

youngest sons who were taken prisoner. Captain McDonald was wounded and taken prisoner and later died from his wounds.

7. He could be referring to a small raid that took place on October 29, 1780 in which Captain Demuth was wounded and captured or when they were attacked in their fields in June of 1781. His father Christian was wounded and later died of his wounds on July 8, 1781.
8. In 1778 the area was part of Tryon County. In 1784 the name Tryon was changed to Montgomery.