

Pension Application for Samuel Shelly

W.24942 (Widow: Rebecca) Married in the Reformed Dutch Church of Schenectada by Reverend Barent Vrooman on October 24, 1773.

Captain Bradt, Col. Wemple NY Line
State of New York
County of Schenectada

On this thirtieth day of November 1837 personally appeared before John Titus one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for said County of Schenectada Rebecca Shelly a resident of the Town of Glenville in the county of Schenectada aforesaid and State of New York, aged seventy seven years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress, passed July 4, 1836. That she is the widow of Samuel Shelly who was a Sergeant in the company of Rangers "raised for scouting parties to range the woods", commanded by Captain John A. Bradt in the army of the revolution also a private in the company of Militia in the District of Schenectada as particularized in the depositions annexed.

She further declares that she was married to the said Samuel Shelly on the twenty fourth day of October, in the year seventeen hundred and seventy three; that her husband, the aforesaid Samuel Shelly, died on the 31st day of December 1809 and that she has remained a widow ever since that period, as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereunto annexed. (Signed with her mark)
Rebecca Shelly

Sworn to, and subscribed, on the day and year above written before me, said Judge and I certify that said Rebecca Shelly cannot write her name but makes her mark owing to the want of education and that by reason of bodily infirmity she is unable to attend Court. John Titus. Judge &c.

And the said Rebecca Shelly being further duly sworn saith, that her maiden name was Rebecca Lydius. That she was married on the twenty fourth day of October in the year 1773 as aforesaid by the Reverend Barent Vrooman then pastor of the Reformed Dutch Church in Schenectada, aforesaid, at the house of John Denny, a relative of this declarant—and that the following are the names of persons who were present during the performance of the marriage ceremony, viz, Jellis VanVorst, Alice McNutt, Joseph Kinsella, David Kittle & his wife & said John Denny & his wife—and that every one of the afore named individuals have long since departed this life—that she this declarant at the time of her marriage as aforesaid resided in Schenectada aforesaid, and continued to reside there during said war of the revolution.

And this Declarant further saith, that the first recollection she has of the service of her said husband Samuel Shelly is that he enlisted about a year after her marriage as aforesaid in a company of artificers or fatigue men commanded by one Captain Jacob Vrooman, and served in such company for more than six months at Ticonderoga and was engaged during said term of six months in building gondolas and boats, as she this declarant was informed at the time thereof by her said husband and verily believes to be true.

This declarant further saith, that some time in the latter part of the summer of the year 1776, her said husband Samuel Shelly enlisted in a company commanded by Captain John A. Bradt—which company was called a company of Rangers, then raised for the Continental service in the County of Albany, to which the District of Schenectada was then attached—The term of Enlistments in said company were for a period not excluding the duration of said war of the revolution, or so long as the provincial Congress or the Legislature of said State should appoint—That said Samuel enlisted for such term in said company of Captain John A. Bradt aforesaid & that said Samuel Shelly continued to serve in said company pursuant to said enlistment for a period of not less than one year—when he was taken sick at Albany and was placed in the hospital there. After remaining there sometime or for about three weeks, his friends brought him to Schenectada to receive the attentions of this declarant (his wife).

Shortly after, as this declarant has been informed & verily believes, the fact to be, the Company of said John A. Bradt was disbanded & the members of said company having enlisted for during the war, were transferred to the Continental Army. Said Samuel Shelly in consequence of his continued sickness when his company was broken up was not required to join the Continental Army. But although too unwell to do military duty himself, he felt such great anxiety for the success of the American Cause that he procured one Donelly to serve as his substitute and said Connelly did serve until near the end of the War when he died.

And this Declarant further saith that previous and doubtless subsequent to his enlistment in said company of Captain John A. Bradt, said Samuel Shelly was enrolled in the company of militia in said district of Schenectada commanded by Captain Thomas B. Banker with the Regiment of Colonel Abraham Wemple but on what particular occasions, or in what particular expeditions, said Samuel Shelly served in said company of Captain Thomas B. Banker this declarant cannot specify. This declarant remembers however, that in the beginning of the year 1776, when Sir John Johnson and his tenants & dependants & the Tories in his interest at Johnstown in the County of Tryon, were called upon to surrender, her said husband, Samuel Shelly proceeded with the militia from Schenectada aforesaid to said town of Johnstown, under command as she believes of said Captain Banker & served or was on duty on this occasion for the term of about ten days. In this expedition said Samuel Shelly & one Pembleton together with two others constituted the party entrusted with the flag of truce used on the occasion. This Declarant also remembers that said Samuel Shelly when in the company of said Banker served in an expedition to Skeenesborough for the term of more than one month; and that immediately after this service said Samuel Shelly did not return to Schenectada but continued on duty in the army of the United States until the summer of that year which was 1776 if this Declarant remembers right—But this Declarant can give no particulars of this last named service. This Declarant can only say that for the years 1775, 1776, 1777, 1778, and 1779 and until said Shelly became sick he was constantly on duty as a soldier and in the service of the United States with an intermission of not more than six months which time principally occurred in the winter season. That after the expiration of said five years, this Declarant & her said husband moved away from Schenectada to Seabrook in Connecticut State—While here during the remaining years of the war he was for a greater part of the time too unwell to do military duty, and in consequence he hired substitutes & paid them although by reason of such sickness, he was not bound to do so—but he occasionally served in several scouting parties each of a few days duration, but she this Declarant cannot specify or recollect, if she was ever informed by her said husband—and particulars of said services last named except one. She this Declarant saw at a distance the conflagration of New London, & her husband on viewing it, suddenly took his arms & accoutrements and hastened to join the American troops, & did not return until the fourth day there after. (Signed with her mark) Rebecca Shelly

Subscribed & sworn before me this 1st Dec 1837. John Titus. Judge of the Court of Common Pleas for the County of Schenectada.