

Pension Application for Israel Shepard or Shepherd

R.9483 (Widow: Hannah)

State of New York

County of Madison SS.

On this ninth day of October 1832 personally appeared in open court before James B. Eldridge, William K. Fuller, Sylvanus Seber, Elisha Randall & Barent K. Baker, Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of the Court of Madison in the State of New York now sitting Israel Shephard a resident of the town of Eaton in said County of Madison aged eighty-six years on the first day of April last past, 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. He entered the service as a minute man at the town of Armenia in the County of Dutchess & State of New York, in a company of Militia commanded by Capt. Job Mead & in the regiment commanded by Col. Roswell Hopkins of Armenia, in the month of June 1776.—We marched to Fishkill & from there to Peekskill & remained there on guard against the ravages of the enemy—carried the inhabitants back in to the country to protect them from the enemy—he was most of the time from June until the close of the year 1776 out on patrol protecting the inhabitants against the incursions of the Tories. The guard house was about twenty rods from the residence of the said applicant in Armenia aforesaid. In the month of February 1777. Lieutenant Sherad who had been taken by the British & who was then on parole at his, the said applicants home, & in the absence of him the said applicant took a British Lieutenant & his waiter by the name of John Savage & one his, the said applicants return he & Capt. Reuben Wood, the said Sherad & one Bakers, conveyed the said British Lieutenant & his waiter to Fishkill & declared them to the Committee of Safety. John Jay, he thinks was President of the Committee of Safety—Immediately after the delivery of the said British Lieutenant & his waiter to the said committee, he the said applicant was one of a party that went on to the Pigskill mountain, in Dutchess County, under Capt. Wick & apprehended eleven Tories on their way to New York & brought them back & delivered them to the Committee of Safety at Fishkill. He returned to Armenia & immediately volunteered under Lieutenant Delavargne & marched about ten miles to Dover & took thirty six Tories & conveyed them to Poughkeepsie Jail for safe keeping, until they could be taken to Exeter (Mass)—We soon after took another Tory by the name of Joseph Mabbitt in Armenia & sent him to Poughkeepsie—In September on October 1777, he gain volunteered at the town of Armenia aforesaid, in Capt. William Backus Company in the Regiment commanded by Col. Daniel Southerland & Major Robert Freeman, for the purpose of going to [?] when within about seven miles of the Fort the same was taken by the British under Sir Henry Clinton. We then marched to Pegskill [Peekskill?] Hollow & there encamped & there joined the Continental troops, commanded by James Clinton, General George Clinton commanded the Militia at this time. James Clinton was wounded with a bayonet at Fort Montgomery—Col. Dubois was at Pigskill—From Pigskill the whole army marched to Fishkill & then encamped & drew our provisions—from there we marched to a place called Snake Hill across the River about six miles from Newberg. We lay there waiting for the British fleet to sail, which was at anchor below. When the British fleet sailed up the River, the alarm gun was fired, the whole army marched towards Esopus & before we reached that place, the enemy had arrived there & burnt the whole town. We got within about seven miles of Esopus, when we got the news that it was burnt—We then turned off & marched to Marbletown to guard the public stores—then went to Hurley to guard & protect the inhabitants—remained there until the British sailed down the River—At Hurley he saw the British spy. John Taylor hung, who swallowed the silver bullet—we then marched back to Fishkill & was then discharged & returned to Armenia.

In the fall of the year 1778, at the town or Armenia aforesaid he again entered the service as a volunteer in Capt. Job Mead's company—one Johnson was a Lieutenant of the company. We marched directly to West Point & was engaged in building fort Clinton, until about the time that winter set in,

when we were all discharged by General Washington, who visited the fort—Col. Malcolm commanded at the fort—He the said applicant then returned home to Armenia—In the years 1779 & 1780 he the said applicant was engaged most of the time in pressing teams to carry forage & provisions to the American Army at Fishkill. He went a number of times himself to Fishkill with forage & provisions. He was also employed in supplying the public stores during those two years [?] with flour, provisions & forage. He the said applicant, owing to the infirmities of age, cannot state the precise times he was in actual service, from the year 1778 to 1780—But he thinks he was in actual service as much as three years & stood as a minute man during the whole of that period. Dutchess County was much infested with Tories during the years 1776 & 77 & he the said applicant was in many expeditions which he cannot numerate, in apprehending them.

He has no documentary evidence of his service & never had any & he knows of no person living who can testify to the whole of his services, but he understands that Gideon Cath is now living, who can testify to a part of his services—

He was born at the town of Plainfield (Connecticut) on the first day of April 1746. Lived there until he near [sic] six years of age & then moved to Dutchess [Dutchess] County NY & lived there 44 years, he then moved to Fairfield Herkimer County NY & lived there about 8 years, then moved to Florida Montgomery Co., & lived there about 10 years, then moved to Schoharie NY & staid there 2 years & then moved to Springfield Otsego Co., N.Y. & staid there about one year & then moved to Eaton Madison Co., N.Y., his present place of residence.

He never received any written discharge from the service Elder David Blakeslee, Bennet Bickenell, Simon Stilwell, Andrew S. Sloan, Harvey Morris & many others are my neighbors & have known me for many years & can testify as to my character for veracity & their belief of my services as a soldier of the Revolution.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. (Signed with his mark) Israel Shepard.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year first aforesaid. A. S. Sloan, Clk

Letter in file dated March 13, 1926, replying to a request for information.

I have to advise you from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim, R.9483, it appears that Israel Shepard or Shepherd was born April 1, 1746 at Plainfield, Connecticut.

While residing at Armenia, Dutchess County, New York, he served from June 1776 at various times, as private, Corporal, and drummer, in the New York Troops, under Captains Job Mead, Reuben Wood, Wicks, Colonels Roswell Hopkins, Daniel Southerland, James Clinton, and Malcolm, until the fall of 1778; and in 1779 and 1780, hauling provisions for the army, under James Reed, Commissary, service in all amounting to more than [than] two years.

He was allowed pension on his application executed October 9, 1832, while a resident of Eaton, Madison County, New York. He died February or July 21, 1836.

Soldier married October 15, 1766, Hannah Pitcher, she was born April 23, 1746, and died September 21, 1842 at Eaton, New York.

Children—Elizabeth born September 7, 17—

Diantha born April 18, 1769

Hannah born July 17, 1771, died November 27, 1771.

The surviving children in 1842, were, Diantha, Nathan, and Samuel.

In 1836, Diantha signed by mark "Diantha Shepard"; in 1842, she was referred to as Diantha Chapin. No explanation given as to the use of both names.

In 1877, a granddaughter, Mrs. Caroling Barnet (widow of Dr. Milton Barnet) was living in Oneida, New York. The names of her parents are not given. She had a son M.C. Barnett, [Barnett spelled with one "t" previously] who was living in Oneida County, New York in 1877.

Letter from the Bureau of Pensions, dated October 21, 1896.

Replying to your request for information concerning the military record of Israel Shepard, a soldier of the Revolutionary War, you are advised that he made application for pension October 9, 1832, at which time he was 86 years of age and residing at Eaton, N.Y., and his pension was allowed for sixteen months actual service as a private and four months' actual service as a corporal in the New York Troops, Revolutionary War; a part of the time he served under Capt. Mead and Col. Hopkins. He enlisted at Armenia, N.Y.