

Pension Application for Jonathan Sheppard

R.9489 (Widow: Sarah) Married October 1, 1784, Quaker Hill, Dutchess County
State of Connecticut
County of New Haven SS.

Be it known, that on this 9th day of November, eighteen hundred and thirty nine, personally appeared, in open court before the Hon. Nathaniel R. Clark, Judge of the Court of Probate for the District of New Haven, in said County and State, Mrs. Sarah Sheppard, a resident of New Haven aforesaid, lagged seventy five 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 7th 1838, granting half pay and pensions to certain widows.

That she is the widow of Jonathan Sheppard deceased who was a private and a sergeant in the war of the American Revolution, two years and eight months, as will appear by his discharge, dated Albany, September 25th 1782, signed Hennerly Wisenfelt, which discharge is hereunto appended. She has caused inquiry to be made at the Comptroller's office at Albany respecting the service of Col. Wisenfelt's regiment, and has been informed by the Deputy Comptroller, that all the papers and documents relating to Col. Wisenfelt's regiment and the Militia and Levies, raised in the State of New York, were forwarded to the Pension office at Washington some two or three years since, and that application for the information desired should be made to that office. As she does not know of any person living, who served with her husband, the aforesaid Jonathan Sheppard, or who can testify in what company he served yet, relying on the justice of her claims, she would confidently, but most respectfully refer the Department to documents now in their possession for more satisfactory proof of the service of her deceased husband the aforesaid Jonathan Sheppard. She further declares that she was married to the said Jonathan Sheppard at a place called Quaker Hill, in the town of Pawlings, in the county of Dutchess, and State of New York, on the first day of October, seventeen hundred and eighty four by Andrew Morehouse, a Justice of the Peace for said County of Dutchess, residing in said town of Pawlings; that a few years after her marriage she removed with her husband, the said Jonathan Sheppard to the city of New Haven in the State of Connecticut, where she still resides.

She further declares that her husband, the said Jonathan Sheppard, left New Haven for the Southern States on business, previous to the first day [of] January 1810, where she has reason to believe he died as the last letter which she received from him was dated March 2^d 1810, in which he requested his son to write to him, and direct his letters to Raleigh, in North Carolina, since which she has not received any thing from him, in any way or manner; and after waiting with much anxiety, and not receiving any tidings from her husband for eighteen months, her only son embarked on board a vessel at New Haven bound for the south about the first of October, 1811, intending to visit Raleigh, and find his father, the said Jonathan Sheppard, if he was still living there; but the vessel was driven on shore by a severe storm on her outward bound passage, before she arrived at her place of destination, and every soul on board perished in the sea. Thus she was deprived of her only son, and his wife was left a widow, and their infant child made fatherless. A few years after the loss of her son, as above stated, the Hon. James Hillhouse, then of New Haven, now deceased, compassionating her widowed and forlorn state, informed her that there was a young gentleman from Raleigh, North Caroling, there in Yale College, who was obliged to return home on account of ill health, and that he had engaged another young gentleman to accompany and take care of him, who would return to New Haven; and he advised her to get this young gentleman to inquire for her husband, and if he was then living to find him, and if he was not living to inquire after his property, if he left any, that she might have something to assist her in supporting herself Mr. Hillhouse kindly offering to pay the expense, if any was incurred.

On the gentleman's return, he informed her that a man by the name of Jonathan Sheppard had died in Raleigh about 1810, who was said to be from the North but that he could not find that he had left any property.

From all this she is induced to believe, and she does verily believe, that her husband the aforesaid Jonathan Sheppard, died in Raleigh in the State of North Carolina, in the year eighteen hundred and ten; and she further declares that she has remained his widow ever since that period. (Signed) Sarah Sheppard.

Sworn and subscribed before me in open court on this 7th day of November AD 1839. Nathaniel R. Clarke, Judge of the Court of Probate for the District of New Haven. Date as above.

[Sarah failed to prove her husband's service with sufficient witnesses.]