

Pension Application for Joseph Sheppard

S.11386

State of New York

Greene County.

On this fourth day of February 1833 personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of said County now sitting Joseph Sheppard, a resident of the town of Cairo aforesaid county, aged 63 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.

I, Joseph Sheppard entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated—In 1780 at Ancram NY in the spring enlisted as a minute man under Major Samuel Sheppard (as he was then [?] a Continental officer) whether a Major or Sergeant Major I am not able to say—do not now recollect of there being any other officers was a company of 20 or 30 commanded by this officer, continued at home only when called out to be in readiness at all times to go at a moment's notice if were called out when ever there was a nesting or collecting of the tories or any robberies committed by them. The tories were then numerous in that season [?] almost in a continuous state of alarms—we were often called out on service to scour the hills, search for tories and guard against depredations in the country around us at one time called upon to go several miles in one direction—where a depredation was feared & perhaps immediately after called on another direction where on had been [?] It was often while under command called out as aforesaid and have gone on services from one to six days—was often called out by this officer for drills and military exercise—continued under the command of his officer until the April after when I removed to Amenia NY was under the command of the officers say eleven months to which length of time I can positively swear—I cannot state the number of times I was called out nor the length of service of times was called out nor the length of service at each [?] but do swear that during the time of service of eleven months aforesaid I was continually engaged in service called out by and under command of said officers as aforesaid in the whole 11 months—for which term of eleven months while under command of said officers, I claim a pension if the law & regulations of war Dept. will allow it me for such term, if not only for the actual service as aforesaid then I hereby waive my claim to the same and claim only a pension for such actual service of six months. The services aforesaid were rendered as a private and I can swear I was during all the times commanded by said officers aforesaid—received no written but a verbal discharge.

I was after removing to Amenia, I was drafted to go to West Point to continue until relieved—served in Capt. Daniel Sheppard's company—[?] Lieut. ---- Boyd Ensign was marched down to Fort Constitution opposite West Point to garrison that fort the previous garrison in which [?] drawn in for some purpose or other Continental here on service and staid when we were relieved by Continental troops —I believe, and were discharged all in the company did not know who or what officer commanded the troops relieving us as we were drawn off before they took possession of the fort only saw them at a distance—were no other troops in the fort with Lieut? Sheppard's company, Capt . Sheppard's company was New York Militia, served on this service one month and served as a private. Was drafted aforesaid in the summer of 1781.

I know no person living by me who can prove my services—owing to the loss of memory, I cannot recollect the day of my enlistment or draft or year said nor the day that I was discharged.

I was born March 30th 1764 in Amenia Dutchess Co. NY as always informed & as I believe.

I have no record of my age except in the bible which corresponds with the above.

I was living at Ancram Columbia Co., NY when I enlisted and at said Amenia when drafted as aforesaid. After my draft as aforesaid—I resided [?] Amenia until about 40 years ago when I removed to Cairo where I have since continued to live and now reside.

I enlisted voluntarily as aforesaid [?] was drafted on second service aforesaid.

I cannot state the names of any other officers or regular or noncommissioned as the reason of old age & the consequent loss of memory. I'm unable to give any further or more particular statements than are now stated.

I have received no written discharge from any services.

I can state the names of neighbors or acquaintances in my neighbourhood to whom can [?] who will testify to my character and that belief of my services as a soldier of the Revolutionary War. Rev. Edward Rose[?] Rev. Ele De[?] Rev. Joseph Hyalt, Lemuel C. Barnet, Moses Bauer [?] Gilbert Zeoman &c.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. (Signed) Joseph Sheppard.

Sworn and Subscribed the day & year aforesaid in open court. William V. B. Harmance Cler.