

**Pension Application for Jacob Shew**

S.22985

Pension granted \$85.33 (increase from \$83.00) per annum, commencing March 4, 1831. Certificate of pension issued 31 March 1851.

Broadalbin NY

June 4<sup>th</sup> 1849

Sir,

Sometime in the month of April last (say near the middle), I wrote to you respecting the "error" in my venerable fathers, (Jacob Shew's) certificate of pension, and haven't as yet heard from you on the subject.

The Act of 20<sup>th</sup> May 1836, as construed by B. F. Butler, appears to be direct to the point, and applicable in this case, &c, &c., as more particularly described and set forth in said communication in April last, and having waited, what we suppose to be a reasonable time for a reply, we hereby inform you that an appeal to the Secretary of War, or the Home department has been formally made out, and forwarded through the mails accordingly.

Respectfully &c. John I. Shew

Hon. J. L. Edwards Comr. of Pensions.

N. B. if the communication, above spoken of has been lost through the mails, and that you have not as yet received it, please advise me of the fact.

State of New York

County of Jefferson SS.

On this 16<sup>th</sup> day of November 1848, personally appeared before me, Jerome Whitaker, a Justice of the Peace, in and for said County of Jefferson, Godfrey Shew, aged seventy seven years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth, on his oath, depose and say that, he is brother of Jacob Shew, who was a pensioner of the United States under the Act of Congress of 15<sup>th</sup> May 1828, and has been suspended, and is now an applicant for a pension under the act of Congress of June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832, as this deponent has been informed and verily believes to be true.

That on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of June 1778, the said Jacob Shew was taken prisoner in presence of this deponent, by a party of Indians, and returned from captivity on the 17<sup>th</sup> March 1779, being St. Patrick's day.

That in the Spring season of the year 1780, the said Jacob Shew enlisted for a term of nine months in a company commanded by Capt. Garret Putman in Col. Harpers regiment, the said Jacob Shew having been previously enrolled in a Company of Militia, commanded by Capt. John Little, in Col. Fisher's regiment. That the said Jacob Shew continued in the service until the expiration of the said nine month, and then returned home.

That in the Spring season of the year 1781, the said Jacob Shew again enlisted for nine months, in Capt. Garret Putman's Company, in Col. Willet's regiment, and served therein until the expiration of the said nine months and was then discharged or dismissed from the service, and returned home.

That again, in the Spring season of the year 1782 the said Jacob Shew again enlisted for a term of nine months in a company commanded by Capt. Abner French, in Col. Willet's regiment, and again continued in the service until the expiration of said nine months, and then again returned home. And further this deponent saith not. (Signed with his mark and it is a squiggly mark!) Godfrey Shew

Sworn to and subscribed on the day and year first above written, before me. Jerome Whitaker, Justice of the Peace.

I, Jerome Whitaker the above named Justice of the Peace, do hereby certify that I am well acquainted with Godfrey Shew above named, and that he uniformly sustains an irreproachable character, and that the facts set forth by him in the foregoing affidavit are entitled to credit,--and that by reason of a trembling hand he cannot write his name. Jerome Whitaker, Justice of the Peace.

State of New York

County of Fulton SS

On this fourth day of July one thousand eight hundred and forty-eight, personally appeared in open court before the Honr. John Wells Judge in and for said County of Fulton in the Village of Johnstown. Jacob Shew, a resident of the town of Broadalbin, in the said County of Fulton and State of new York, aged eighty five years on the fifteenth day of April last, who being first duly sworn according to Law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832: That he was born in the town of Johnstown (on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of April 1763.) then the County of Tryon (since Montgomery) now Fulton County in the State of New York. That some eight years previous to the commencement of the Revolutionary War, Godfrey Shew (this applicants father)n with his family removed from Johnstown to a place called Sacondaga at that time which place is now called the Fish house in the town of Northampton, on the west branch of the Hudson's river about eighteen miles from Johnstown.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers; and served as herein stated.

That on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of June 1778, a man by the name of Solomon Woodworth, (1) a resident of Mayfield, assuming himself to be a Sergeant in Colonel Fishers regiment of Militia, while out as a spy, or on a Scout, discovered a house plundered of its contents, within about two miles of the residence of Godfrey Shew.

The said Solomon Woodworth repaired immediately to the residence of the said Godfrey Shew, and informed him and family of what he had discovered and that he by his authority as a non-commissioned officer, ordered all who were able to bear arms in defence of their country to turn out in militia service immediately, expecting the enemy to attack them the approaching night, the night was spent by a regular order of keeping garrison (by the said Solomon Woodworth, Godfrey Shew & his sons to wit: Stephen Shew, John Shew, Godfrey Shew Jr. & this applicant), according to the rules and regulations of armies in time of war. On the morning following June 3<sup>rd</sup>, (2) all the above named persons turned out, on scouts in one direction, one party some considerable distance ahead of the other for the purpose of ascertaining where the enemy might be. A party of Indians and Tories, about one hundred in number lay in ambush, and the foremost party was taken prisoners. They immediately repaired to the residence of said Godfrey Shew, and then took the other party who had returned to the house at the approach of the enemy.—The said party had previously taken prisoners whose names were John Putman, Christopher Morris, Robert Martin, Harmanus Salisbury, John Reece & David Harris. The names of those taken at the residence of the said Godfrey Shew, and those last described as being taken while the party lay in ambush, were said Godfrey Shew, Solomon Woodworth, John Shew, Stephen Shew and this applicant. After some consultation, the party plundered the house & barns of their contents, and after destroying all the buildings by fire &c. set out for Canada down the west branch of the Hudson or Sacondaga river by the way of Lakes George & Champlain. Arriving at an Indian village called Caughnawaga, about nine miles above Montreal, crossed the river, and went down to Montreal, and part of our number was given up as prisoners of war, and the others taken with the Indians to their northern settlements. Solomon Woodworth made his escape the first night after being taken. The names of those persons given up as prisoners of war were Robert Martin, David Harris, Godfrey Shew, Stephen Shew, and this applicant. The summer season was spent in close confinement on a ship at Montreal, and Quebec, from thence to Halifax, and there exchanged and about the first of December was sent to Boston and there set at liberty. After thus being set at liberty and arriving at Sudbury, about twenty miles from Boston, this applicant was taken sick with the small pox, and by order of Asahel Wheeler then Chairman of the Select men of Sudbury, medical aid was procured, and all assistance, requisite, was provided until in the early part of March following when, on the 17<sup>th</sup> being what is commonly called St. Patrick's day, this applicant returned to Johnstown where his mother & her younger children had designed to go, at the time of their separation when taken prisoner, in company with others as above stated.

The summer season passed away (to wit 1779.) without any particular engagement in regular service, until the fall season, when the applicant went out as a substitute about four weeks for Michael Gollinger, (3) who was an exempt in Capt. Giles Fonda's (4) Company. Col. Fisher's regiment, for the purpose of keeping garrison in Minden, going out on scouts, &c, &c.

1780. Enlisted in Capt. Garret Putman's (5) Company at Johnstown in the Spring season of the year, Col. Harpers regt for nine months. Soon after having enlisted, was ordered to go to Fort Plain, for the purpose of keeping garrison, going on scouts &c. until about the first of August when by a special order from said Capt. Putman was ordered to go to Johnstown & join a company commanded by Capt. John Little, (6) for the express purpose of exploring the frontier settlements, woods, mountains, rivers &c. &c. until some time in the fall season of the same year, when he was ordered by said Capt. Little to return to said Capt. Putman's company, which was then stationed at Fort Plain.

1781. (7) Again enlisted in Capt. Garret Putman's Company for nine months, under Col. Willett, in the Spring season of the year; was mustered, or enrolled, and joined said Capt. Putman's Company at Fort Hunter. Soon after went to Fort Plain to guard the Fort, go out on Scouts &c, &c. And on the arrival of several boats, (up the Mohawk river, bound for Fort Stanwix,) loaded with provisions for the Army, went on shore to look out for enemy some distance ahead of the boats; the object of which was to guard the boats, so that they might arrive in safety at Fort Stanwix. Soon after returned to Fort Plain, with the boats in company with said Capt. Putman, and several others, members of his company. That again in the summer season of the same year, was ordered by Capt. Putman to go to Fort Stanwix, in company with several others, soldiers, (this applicant being then a Corporal,) for the express purpose of guarding the Fort, when in about ten days after arriving at Fort Stanwix, said Fort was evacuated, and all its contents removed to Schenectada, in boats down the Mohawk river.

1782. In the Spring season of the year, enlisted in a company commanded by Capt. Abner French, (8) Col. Willet for nine months at Johnstown. From thence to Fort House, then in Palatine, to guard the fort, go on scouts, &c, &c, and spent said nine months by guarding the different Forts along the Mohawk river as far up as Herkimer, and also at, and about Johnstown. The service thus rendered was in the capacity of a Corporal.

The sequel will exhibit more particularly the several engagements and battles in which he was engaged, and descriptive answers to the several interrogatories prescribed by the War Department, but prior to entering into those particulars, a more definite description must be given about the manner of entering the service in Col. Hazen's regiment, commanded by Col. Antle, for which a pension or pay had been allowed under the act of 1828. That some time in the fall season of the year 1782, while serving as above stated in Capt. French's company in Col. Willet's regt. there was a regt. of the Continental line, came up the Mohawk river as far as Caughnawaga, commanded by Lt. Col. Antle, (9) of which Hazen was the Colonel commandant, and as they were strangers to the surrounding country; this applicant was detached from Capt. French's company and by mutual consent of the officers placed under the command of Colonel Antle for the express purpose of assisting his regt in sending out scouting parties, that they might serve to advantage in exploring the frontier settlements.—That Col. Antle with his regt. remained in and about Johnstown, until after the close of the year 1782, and as far into the year '83 as the time when the news was fast circulating that peace was declared, which was some time in the winter or spring season. That this applicant remained in said regt. until after the time had expired for which he enlisted in Capt. French's Company, and that about the time when Col. Antle was about to leave Johnstown with his regiment, this applicant received a discharge from Col. Antles regt, signed either by himself or Capt. Lloyd, (10) and was immediately enrolled in Capt. Little's Company of Militia because Capt. French's company had served out the time for which they had engaged, and were all discharged from the service, and returned to their respective places of abode:--Therefore, whatever is found on file in the claim under the Act of 1828, or any communication having been sent to the Pension Office, since that time which might differ from the above statement was not designed to fraud, or deceive the department, or government of the United States, but was sincerely believed that said Act of 1828, both in letter and spirit embraced such a claim.

That in the year 1781, summer season, while going the second time to Fort Stanwix, as previously described, the party was fired at by a small party of Indians who fell in their way, and after a few shots were exchanged, the enemy fled, with their wounded and one man on our side was also wounded.

That soon after the evacuation of Fort Stanwix (11) Col. Willet gave authority to Lt. Solomon Woodworth (12) to select out of his regiment or from the militia a company of men to be at his command for the purpose of ranging the frontier settlements, to make discoveries &c. &c. A company of forty men being soon selected, they set out in a northeasterly direction, and after traversing the woods a distance of some ten miles, a party of Indians and Tories lay in ambush said to be eighty in number, and that in less than a minute after the firing commenced, twenty-five men were killed and lay dead on the field of battle. A few men made their escape after the firing ceased, at the time of taking the remainder prisoners, by being swifter on foot than the Indians; this applicant having been one of that number, after having been through the midst of the firing when bullets flew in every direction around him. After the burial of the dead the next day, and the fatigue of the battle had passed away, this applicant returned to the company from which he had been taken.

Again in the fall season of the same year a battle was waged near Johnstown between a party of Indians and Tories, about four hundred in number and Colonel Willet with his regt. and many others. This applicant being out with a scouting party the same day, consisting of twelve in number viz: Capt. Little, John Eikler, John Brothers, Peter Yost, Henry Shew, this applicant & others whose names are forgotten; on hearing the firing, turned their course towards Johnstown and came in as a reinforcement before the battle was over. This is what is commonly called the Hall battle. (13)

Having thus served through a war of suffering and hardships & privations to establish a Republican form of government &c, &c, he now hereby claims a pension for services rendered, as set forth in the foregoing declaration, and particularly requests that for services rendered in the capacity of a Corporal shall be first computer, and the remainder of the time filled up with that of a private soldier, and that of having been a prisoner of war.

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, but that he had been pensioned under the Act of 1828, and has been suspended.

#### Interrogatories.

Question I. Where & in what year were you born?

Answer. On the 15<sup>th</sup> April 1763 at Johnstown.

II. Have you any record of your age?

Ans. My father recorded it in his bible and it was destroyed by fire June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1778, the day we were taken prisoners. My sons Godfrey recorded it in a Bible some forty years ago, and has it now in his possession in Jefferson Co.

III. Where were you living when called into service?

Ans. Sacondaga. After that, resided in Johnstown at the several times of going into the service as more particularly described in the foregoing application.

IV. Where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Ans. Johnstown, Montgomery Co. NY

Northampton, Montgomery Co. NY

Leray, Jefferson County and now in Broadalbin, Fulton Co. NY.

V. How were you called into service?

Ans. First, by being ordered into, by Solomon Woodworth a noncommissioned officer. Second, a substitute for Michael Gollinger. Third, by and agreement with a class, termed enlisted, at Johnstown for 7 months at three different periods to wit, 1780, '81, & '82, as set forth in the foregoing declaration.

VI. State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served; such continental regiments as you can recollect &c.

Ans. Col. Frederick Fisher, Lt. Col. Veeder (14), Col. Gansevoort (15), Lt. Col. Willet, Col. Harper, Lt. Col. Antle, Major VanBenscouter (16), Fink (17), Eisenlord (18), Capt. Lloyd, Lt Martin, Capt. Sacket (19), Capt. Little, Capt. Fonda, Capt. Bennett (20), Capt. Van Slyck (21), Vrooman (22), Tierce (23).

VII. Did you ever receive a discharge.

I think I had some kind of a discharge from Lt. Col. Antle or Capt. Lloyd, if so, it has been mislaid or lost.  
(Signed) Jacob Shew

Sworn to and subscribed this 4<sup>th</sup> day of July A.D. 1848. A. S. Wait, Clerk

Letter of inquiry dated March 4, 1939 in the pension folder.

The data which follow were obtained from papers on file in claim for pension, S.22985, based upon the service of Jacob Shew in the Revolutionary War.

Jacob Shew was born April 15, 1763 in Johnstown, New York. He was the son of Godfrey Shew, name of his mother not stated. Godfrey Shew moved his family from Johnstown, to Sacondaga, New York.

While living in Sacondaga, New York, June 2, 1778, Jacob Shew, with his father Godfrey Shew (24), and brothers, Stephen, John, and Godfrey, Junior, were ordered out by Sergeant Solomon Woodworth of Colonel Fisher's New York Regiment, on an alarm in pursuit of Indians; they were captured by Indians, their home was burned and their mother was driven back to Johnstown. Godfrey Shew and his sons, Stephen and Jacob Shew were carried to Canada and held on a prison ship at Montreal, at Quebec, and at Halifax, about December, 31, Jacob Shew was sent to Boston, and there exchanged, on reaching Sudbury, he had small pox, and did not reach Johnstown until March 17, 1779, where his mother was still living.

Jacob Shew volunteered in the fall of 1779, served four weeks in Captain Giles Fonda's company, Colonel Fisher's regiment; he enlisted in the spring of 1780, served nine months in Captains Garret Putnam's and John Little's companies, part of the time in Colonel Harper's regiment; he enlisted in the spring of 1781, served nine months as corporal in Captain Garret Putnam's company, Colonel Willet's regiment; he enlisted in the spring of 1782, served as corporal in Captains Abner French's and P. Tearse's companies, Colonel Marinus Willet's regiment, was transferred to Colonel Hazen's regiment, and served therein until the close of the war. He was out in frequent alarms, and much of his duty was in guarding the forts along the Mohawk River.

The soldier, Jacob Shew (25), was allowed pension on his application executed August 22, 1828, at which time he was living in Northampton, Montgomery County, New York. He was later in life allowed pension under the Act of June 7, 1832. He was living in 1848 in Broadalbin, New York. He died January 23, 1853.

The soldier's sons, Godfrey Shew was living in 1848 in Jefferson County, New York, soldiers' son, John I. Shew, was living in 1849 in Broadalbin, New York.

Godfrey Shew, brother of the soldier, was seventy-seven years old in 1848.

Reference was made to one Henry Shew, but no relationship to the family is given.

End Notes—S.229854—Jacob Shew

1. Solomon Woodworth was at this time a Sergeant in Captain Samuel Rees' or Reese, Reece, etc., Company in Colonel Frederick Visscher's or Fisher's Third Regiment of Tryon County Militia.
2. The commander of the raiding party was Lieutenant John Ross of the 34<sup>th</sup> Regiment. Ross is the same man who raided the Mohawk Valley in October of 1781 as a Major of the Second Battalion of the King's Royal Regiment of New York.
3. Michael Gallinger served as a private in Captain Jellis Fonda's Company of Exempts in Colonel Visscher's Regiment. The muster roll was misfiled in Colonel Abraham Wemple's Second Regiment of Albany County Militia. There was a Captain Jellis J. Fonda in that regiment but they are two different officers. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 77, Folder 170, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

4. Giles Fonda and Jellis Fonda are one and the same. His first name is often misspelled and or mispronounced. In the Dutch and German languages the J is pronounced as a Y but in English it is usually is written as Giles.
5. Captain Garret Putman was appointed on May 11, 1780 in Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant John Harper's Regiment of New York State Levies. The regiment was discharged on November 30, 1780.
6. John Little was a captain in Colonel Visscher's Regiment. He received his commission on March 8, 1781.
7. On April 27, 1781, Garret Putman was appointed Captain in Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant Marinus Willett's Regiment of New York State Levies.
8. Abner French was commissioned on July 24, 1781 as Captain in Colonel Commandant Willett's Regiment. Willett was appointed colonel on April 10, 1782.
9. Jacob is mistaken as to the year 1782 when Lieutenant-Colonel Edward Antill of Colonel Moses Hazen's Second Canadian Continental Regiment came up the Mohawk River. The Second Canadian actually arrived in late spring at Caughnawaga and left in early July 1781 for West Point. Captain French lived at or near Warrens Bush which is present day Town of Florida, Montgomery County, New York, and was in the area in 1781 but was not in active service in 1781.
10. Richard Lloyd was a Captain in Colonel Hazen's Regiment. Jacob's name does not appear on any of their muster rolls. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Rolls 131 and 132, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
11. It was Colonel Philip VanCortlandt's Second New York Continental that was at Fort Schuyler or Fort Stanwix from January 1, 1781 to June of the same year. A serious fire at the fort destroyed the barracks and severe flooding in May had put the fort in such a state that the Second New York could not repair the fort, and after a council of officers it was decided to abandon the fort and by mid-June all of the military stores had been removed to Fort Herkimer.
12. Woodworth and Richard Randolph Wilson were serving as Lieutenants in Captain Thomas Skinner's Company in 1781 in Lieutenant-Colonel Willett's Regiment. They were both in the Ranger Company and both of them were killed in the ambush on September 7, 1781.
13. John Eikler, John Brothers, Peter Yost, and Henry Shew all served in Captain Little's Company in Colonel Visscher's Regiment. Captain Little was wounded and Corporal Eikler was killed in the Battle of Johnstown on October 25, 1781.
14. Lieutenant-Colonel Volkert Veeder of Colonel Visscher's Regiment.
15. Peter Gansevoort, Colonel of the Third New York Continental Regiment.
16. Elias VanBenscouter served as a Major in Colonel Willett's Regiment.
17. Andrew Finck or Fink served as a Major in Willett's Regiment in 1781 and 1782.
18. John Eisenlord served as a Major in the Fourth Regiment of Tryon County Militia commanded by Colonel Peter Bellinger. Eisenlord was killed at the Battle of Oriskany on August 6, 1777.
19. Samuel Sacket was a Captain in the Fourth New York Continental Regiment. This company was stationed at Fort Johnstown from November of 1778 to about May of 1779.
20. Amos Bennett was commissioned as the Second Lieutenant in Captain Joseph Yeoman's Company in Colonel Visscher's Regiment on March 8, 1781.
21. Major Hermanus VanSlyke of Colonel Jacob Klock's Second Regiment of Tryon County Militia. He was killed at the Battle of Oriskany on August 6, 1777.
22. Captain Walter Vrooman was in Colonel Harper's Regiment in 1780.
23. Peter B. Tierce was a captain in Colonel Willett's Regiment in 1782 and 1783.
24. Godfrey and Stephen Shew both served in Captain Fonda's Company in Colonel Visscher's Regiment. Godfrey Shew Jr. was too young to serve.
25. Jacob married Hannah Putman on March 10, 1787. Hannah died on October 5, 1847. Jacob died January 23, 1853. They are buried in the Evan Mills cemetery, Town of LeRoy, Jefferson County, N.Y.