

Pension Application for Peter Shufelt

S.14444, Served under Captain Steenbergh, Col. Dubois. One year he was a Sergeant and 4 years a Private.

State of New York
Albany County SS.

On this 23d day of July 1832 personally appeared before Joseph B. Moore a Judge of the County Courts of the County of Albany and State of New York, Peter Shufelt, a resident of the town of Bern in the County of Albany and State of New York aged 77 years and upwards 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 and served as herein stated.

He entered the said service at the town of Rhinebeck in the County of Dutchess in the State of New York, where he then resided, in the Spring of the year 1776, and enlisted or joined Captain Steenbergh's company in Colonel Dubois (1) Regiment, and immediately marched to West Point, and from there to Stoney Point, and was engaged in building forts, and marching from one place to another along the lines until the spring of the next year 1777, or at least one year, when he was discharged. That in the next year or the year after he again entered the said service in Capt. John E. Pinkney's (2) Company in Colonel Dubois Regiment Elias VanBenschoten (3) was a major in the said Regiment, and did duty as a private soldier until the close of the war, that during this time he was at West Point, and at various forts and places sometimes doing garrison duty at others building forts, that he belonged to the forces that were kept in the Highlands to guard that section of the country during three or four years of the latter part of the war, that they frequently marched from West Point to other places in the Highlands and down the river, and back from year to year until the termination of the Revy War, That he frequently saw Genl Washington, (4) Genl Greene, Genl Putman, Genl Sullivan & Genl Arnold.

That his recollection is very poor and he can not possibly recollect all the places he was in and the particular services he performed – But that he well knows that he was almost the whole of the time in the service of the United States during the Revolutionary War. That he was at the engagement, when Fort Montgomery (5) was taken, and he at one time received a wound on his leg by a musket ball from the British, and thinks it was at or near West Point, that he received a written discharge from Captain Pinkney which was burnt up at a time when his house was burnt in Rhinebeck in Dutchess County, a few years after the close of the war— That he has no documentary evidence, nor does he know of any person he can procure to testify to his service—That he resides 20 miles from the City of Albany, where the Courts of Record are held for the County of Albany, that he is very infirm and decrepit and that it is wholly impossible for him to go that distance to attend the court.

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. (Signed) Peter Shufelt

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid before m. J.B. Moore Judge of Albany County Courts.

Letter dated January 9, 1931.

You are advised that it appears from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim S.14444, that Peter Shufelt was born April 18, 1755 in Rhinebeck, Dutchess County, New York.

While residing in Rhinebeck, New York, he enlisted in the spring of 1776 and served one year as sergeant in Captain Steenbergh's company, Colonel Dubois' New York Regiment. He enlisted in the spring of 1777 and served as private in Captain John E. Pinkney's or John Eidney's (he could not remember under which captain he served), Colonel Dubois' regiment. (6) He was at the taking of Fort Montgomery; was wounded in the leg by a musket ball and served until the close of the war.

He moved from Rhinebeck to Claverack, Columbia County, New York, and from there to Saratoga County, New York where he lived for forty years.

He was allowed pension on his application executed July 23, 1832, at which time he was living in Berne, Albany County, New York.

He died May 29, 1834.

There are no data as to family.

End Notes—S.14444—Peter Shufelt, Shoefelt or Zufelt

1. There is no record of a Steenbergh or VanSteenbergh serving as an officer in Colonel Lewis DuBois' Fifth New York Continental Regiment. There is no record of Peter serving in this regiment in any capacity. Colonel Dubois resigned as Colonel of the regiment on December 22, 1779. The Fifth New York was also in the Sullivan-Clinton Campaign which Peter does not mention. On July 16, 1776, Colonel Morris Graham was ordered to raise a regiment of Dutchess County Militia to serve until December 31, 1776 unless sooner discharged. Officers were selected and for the Seventh Company John VanSteenbergh was appointed the captain. Unfortunately there are no muster rolls of the enlisted men for this regiment but this could be the Steenbergh he was referring to. If they served in the same area as Colonel DuBois it is possible that he could have had the overall command in the area. Peter stated when he entered the service he lived in the Town of Rhinebeck in Dutchess County which would put him in Colonel Petrus TenBroeck's First Regiment of Dutchess County Militia. When TenBroeck was promoted to brigadier general of the Dutchess County Militia, Lieutenant Colonel Morris Graham was promoted to Colonel, Peter should have served in Captain Jacobus Kip's Fifth Company which was also known as the Rhinebeck Precinct Company. The other company officers were First Lieutenant Everterdus Bogardus, Second Lieutenant Jacob Tremper and Ensign Benjamin VanSteenberg. Again Petrus' name was not found among the surviving muster or pay rolls.
2. John E. Pinkney or Pinckney did not serve in Colonel DuBois' Regiment in any capacity. Pinckney applied for a pension, No. R.8259, which was rejected. Peter had also given testimony in favor of Pinckney's service. Unfortunately no record of John as serving as he stated was found.
3. Elias VanBenschoten or Bunschoten was appointed Captain of the first company on November 21, 1776 in Colonel Peter Gansevoort's Third New York Continental Regiment VanBenschoten served in this regiment until May of 1778. He was appointed major on April 22, 1779, in Lieutenant Colonel Commandant Albert Pawling's Regiment of New York State Levies. Elias was appointed major on July 1, 1780, in Colonel Lewis DuBois' Regiment of New York State Levies. Shufelt and Pinckney were not found in Pawling's or Dubois' Regiment. Peter nor John give any service other than serving in and around the West Point area, also known as the "Highlands".
4. Commander-in-Chief General George Washington, Major General Nathaniel Greene, Major General Israel Putnam, Major General John Sullivan and Major General Benedict Arnold all of the Continental Army.
5. The Battle of Fort Montgomery, N.Y. was on October 6, 1777.

6. Another point that didn't help in their proof as serving in Colonel DuBois' Regiment was that after Colonel DuBois resigned Lieutenant Colonel Jacobus Bruyn commanded the Fifth New York until July 1, 1780 when Marinus Willett was appointed the lieutenant colonel commandant of the Fifth New York. Bruyn was transferred to the Third New York in July of 1780 to replace Willett. Shufelt's application was approved and Pinckney's was rejected, but neither one actually had any real proof other than what testimony they had procured.