

Pension Application for William Shankland

W.19015 (Widow: Margaret) Married William August 19, 1790. He died 17th April 1850.
Private, Captain McKeen, Col. Campbell, 24 months in the New York Line.
State of New York
County of Madison SS.

On this eighth day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred thirty two, personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Madison now sitting William Shankland a resident of the Town of Cazenovia County of Madison, State of New York, aged seventy one years the fifteenth day of August next, 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 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. That he was born in the Town of Cherry Valley in the County of Tryon (now Otsego) on the fifteenth day of August, in the year 1762. That about the 10th of June of the year 1776 he entered the service as a volunteer under Capt. Robert McKean and that his Col. name was Samuel Campbell who commanded the Regiment a part of the time and part of the time it was commanded by Col. Clyde. That he remained in the service until & during the following Autumn & Winter & was principally engaged on scouting parties, & as Indian Spy, that during the above mentioned time of service, which according to the best of his recollection continued about eight months, he was stationed at Cherry Valley & other parts of the County of Tryon.

In the year 1777 as early as the first of May he again entered the service at Cherry Valley aforesaid under command of Capt. & Colonels as above mentioned & continued in said company until about the first of January 1778, during this year's service he assisted in erecting a fort at Cherry Valley which was called Fort Alden after Colonel Alden of the Continental Army who arrived there with a part of his Regiment, during the time said fort was erecting he said that Col. Ichabod Alden of the Regular Army arrived at the Fort about the month of June in the year 1777 & immediately completed & took command of the said Fort, he said that Capt. Ballard who belonged to Col. Alden's Regiment arrived at Cherry Valley with his company of Continentals a few days before the arrival of Col. Alden; he said that said Fort was ordered to be erected by Genl LaFayette while at Johnstown on the Mohawk River, he said that some of the inhabitants of Cherry Valley waited upon LaFayette with a map of the country & solicited him to send them a reinforcement of Regulars & to erect said fort which he directed to be done accordingly.

In the year 1778, as early as the first of July he entered as a volunteer into the company of Capt. Ballard who belonged to Col. Alden's Regiment & was at Cherry-Valley at the time the Indians & Tories attacked & Burned the settlement, he said that Col. Alden was killed by the Indians at that time & he helped to bury him, that the attack was made by the Indians on the 11th day of November 1778. That he remained in Capt. Ballard's Company until the Regiment to which it belonged joined Genl James Clinton at the head of Lake Sago or Otsego about the first of July 1779, applicant says he accompanied Capt. Ballard who took the Command of Col. Alden's Regiment (after the death of Alden) till he joined Genl. Clinton at the head of Lake Sago or Otsego at which time & place he left said company & returned to his father's family in Cherry Valley & removed with them to Princetown near Schenectady City on the Mohawk River.

In the year 1779 about the first of August he volunteered at New Lebanon about 15 miles east of the City of Albany together a party of Indians who had attacked a settlement near Johnstown on the Mohawk, he went at this time as far as Albany where the men were ordered to rendezvous, but when he arrived there the alarm was over & he was discharged at this time he was retained only ten days afterwards in the same year (1779) he thinks about the 20th Augst the Militia at Schenectady & at vicinity was called out & applicant went with them under command of Capt. Jelles Fonday, he marched to Fort Clyde on the Mohawk River near Fort Plain remained stationed there four weeks from whence the[y] remarched back to Schenectady where they arrived about the 10th October (as near as he can recollect) & were then discharged. Afterwards in the same year (1779) he volunteered at Albany with two others viz Alexander Shankland and older brother who now resided in the State of Ohio, and Robert McCowen as Indian Spies & followed a party of Indians as far as Lake Otsego, (then called Lake Sago) he was engaged in this expedition about three weeks.

In the year 1780 he again volunteered at Schenectady under Genls James Clinton & Robert VanRensselaer to pursue Col. Johnson with a party of Indians up the Mohawk River & went as far as Fox Creek near Stone Arabia, commonly called Stone Robby—he was engaged in this expedition about three or four weeks.

In the year 1781, about the first of July he entered the company of Captain Hale & Lieut Skinner & Van Ingen as a substitute for one John Crawford (who is now dead) that during this term of service the company to which he belonged was stationed at the Middle Fort in Schoharrie, where he remained until about the first of November in the year 1781 at which time & place he was taken sick & was sent to the Hospital at Albany then under the care of Doct Thomas & Joseph Young where he remained confined about one month & was then discharged.

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.

And to the questions propounded to him by the court he makes the following answers.

1st That he was born at Cherry Valley in the County of Tryon (now Otsego) & State of New York on the fifteenth day of August 1762.

2d That he has a record of his age in his family Bible which agrees with the above statement & which record was made many years ago.

3d That when first called into service he lived at Cherry-Valley in the County of Tryon & State of New York & has also lived there when called into the service the second & third times, he was living at the several places mentioned in his declaration when called into service the subsequent times, that since the Revolutionary War he has resided in the Counties of Albany, Otsego, Saratoga, Montgomery, Oneida, Onondaga, & Madison at which latter place he now resides.

4th That he entered the service each time as a volunteer, except the last, when he entered the service as a substitute for one John Crawford (who is now dead).

5th That while at Cherry Valley he was acquainted with Col. Alden, Col. Statia, Captains Ballard, Buffington, Reed, Lain, Day & Adjutant Whilington of the Continental or Regular Army & served with them, all the above named officers belonged to Col. Alden's Regiment, he also knew & served with Cols. Samuel Campbell—Capt Winne & McKean & Lieut Campbell of the Militia, he also saw Genl James Clinton at Lake Sago—or Otsego on their way to join Genl Sullivan in his expedition against the Indians at Wyoming—he also saw & was under the command of Genl Robert VanRensselaer in an expedition up the Mohawk River against Col. Johnson & the Indians.

6th That he received no other than a parole discharge from the service, he never received a commission in the army, he said that while stationed at Middle Fort in the year 1781, he was sent as the commander of twelve men & their wagons to Albany to get provisions and ammunition for the garrison at Middle Fort. He took a letter with him from Capt. Knight who acted as a quarter master or commissary at the Fort to Morgan Trevois of Albany who was at that time quartermaster or commissary of the Northern Department & from him he obtained provisions & ammunition which he conveyed back to the fort.

7th That there is now residing in his neighbourhood—James Anderson and John Allen & Levi Gibbs who can testify as to his character for truth & veracity, & their belief of his services as a souldier [sic] of the Revolution.

He said that he has no documentary evidence of his services as a soldier, and that he now knows of no person by whom he can prove his services, unless it be Alexander Shankland who resided in the State of Ohio about five hundred miles from him and Andrew Crawford who lives in Truxton in the County of Cortland, & State of New York by whom he expects to prove a part of his services. (Signed) William Shankland

Sworn and Subsribed to this 8th day of October 1832. A.S. Sloan, Clk