

### **Pension Application for Rufus Shepard or Shephard**

S.14430 Private, Captain Harrison, Col. Willett.

State of New York

Sixth Equity Circuit

County of Chenango SS.

On this sixth day of September A.D. 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Hon. Robert Monell, Circuit Judge and vice chancellor for the Sixth Equity Circuit of the State of New York being a Court of Record now sitting, Rufus Shephard a resident of Sherbourne in the County of Chenango in the State of New York aged sixty six 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<sup>th</sup> 1832.

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

That he entered into a company of the New York State troops or militia as a private soldier for nine months and being in a class. He lived in Chatham, (then New Caanan) Columbia County—he cannot recollect the precise year but it was about the 10<sup>th</sup> day of April and about [three years is crossed out] four years before the close of the war—that the name of the captain was Harrison (1) of New Canaan he thinks—Lieutenant Troop (2) and Trimper (3)—the Col. was Col. Willett of New York the general who lead the command was Lord Sterling (4) – immediately after enlisting or having went to Albany – Joined the company and passed muster—he remained at Albany about ten days or thereabouts and marched to Schoharie (Middlefort) And joined his regiment—In going from Albany to Schoharie [sic] he marched as he recollect through the Helleburgh as it was called. He remained at Schoharie until October stationed at the Garrison a part of the time—part of the time scouting around after the Indians and Tories & guarding the frontier. In October (as near as he can recollect) he enlisted out of the company in which he was then serving into another company of Militia or State Troops at Schoharie commanded by Captain Peter B. Pearce Lieutenant Thornton(65)---Willet was the Colonel of the Regiment and one Fonda (6) was the Adjutant—several others enlisted out at the time he did with the consent of the officers—he stayed (he thinks) about three days at Schoharie, and they marched with Captain PEARCES company to Albany, on the same route that they had come to Schoharie on. He remained with his company at Albany a short time—mustered and received each 16 dollars as Bounty—Then he marched with his company together with two others to Fort Plain on the Mohawk River passing on the march to Schenectady and up the Mohawk River.

At Fort Plain he joined the Regiment under Col. Willett who was there.—He remaining stationed at Fort Plain during the winter that after his arrival there and during a part of or the whole of the ensuing summer—While he was stationed at Fort Plain he was called out to Stone Arabia in a skirmish with the Indians and tories—In the skirmish or fight Capt. McKean (7) was killed—when he left Fort Plain he marched to Fort Herkimer and was Stationed there about three months and then marched back to Fort Plain where he wintered—This deponent cannot recollect positively the time when he left Fort Plain for Oswego but he recollect that he marched by the way of Fort Schuyler and Fort Stanwix, (8) through the wood to Oswego (9) and immediately returned the same way that he went and suffered greatly in their march to and from there from hunger and cold –He came back to Fort Plain where he was stationed until the Regiment marched back to Schenectady where he was discharged at the Barrack in January after the peace his discharge was a written one which he sold to one David Griffing to draw his bounty land.

This deponent further states that at the time he left his nine month engagement at Schoharie to join Captain Pearces (10) company that he enlisted for three years and was told that his term of nine months for which he had hired under Capt. Harrison should go on and count if he would only enlist for three years.

He further states that at the time he entered the service for the first time he resided at New Caanan, Columbia Co., N.Y. One David Parks (11) went from the same town he did in the same company to Scoharie and enlisted into Capt. Pierces company with him served through the whole term with him and was discharged with him at Schenectady. This deponent knew none of the Regular officers, that he can now recollect. He knew Capt. Cannon (12) who was in his Regiment –also one Capt. Tierce.

This deponent states, that the whole term for which he served during the Revolutionary War, was he thinks between three and four years, that he has no documentary evidence of his services and the only person living who can testify to his services (to the deponent's knowledge) are Matthew Calkins (13) of New Berlin, Chenango County, and David Perry of Lincklaen in the same county—both of whom were in the service with this deponent from the time he was at Albany on his march to Fort Plain through the whole tour until the time of his discharge.

To the interrogatories, required by the Department to be put to applicants, this deponent answers as follows:

To the 1<sup>st</sup> he was born at Armenia Dutchess County, NY in the year 1766 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of April.

2<sup>nd</sup> He has a record of his age in the family Bible which he copied from his father's family Bible. His Bible is at his residence in Sherburne.

3<sup>d</sup> Lived at New Canaan Columbia Co. NY at the first time and at Scoharie NY the second time. Since the Revolutionary War he has resided at New Canaan, Coxackie and Chenango County NY he has resided at Chenango County about 33 years, and now resides at Sherbourne.

4<sup>th</sup> is answered in the declaration.

5<sup>th</sup> this question is answered also in the body of the declaration.

6<sup>th</sup> He received a discharge from Col. Willett which he sold to David Griffing of New Canaan.

7<sup>th</sup> He gives the names of Joshua Pratt, Harry N. Faggo, Josiah Lathrop, Rev. Lyman S. Rexford, Rev. Lyman, P. B. Prindle, Dr. D. White, Tilly Lynde of Sherbourne and also Isaac N. Springler.

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) Rufus Shepard.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. Robt. Monell. Vice Chancellor.

End Notes—S.14430—Rufus Shepard

1. Joseph Harrison was a captain In Colonel Marinus Willett's Regiment of New York State Levies. He was first appointed on April 27, 1781 and served as Captain until November 1, 1783 when he retired from service.
2. Rufus is probably referring to Lieutenant Peter Loof, Jr., of Captain Harrison's Company.
3. Rufus is actually a private in Captain Jonathan Pearce's (Percy, Pearse, etc.) Company in colonel Willett's Regiment In 1782. Lieutenant Lawrence Tremper or Trimper was in Captain Pearce's Company. Most Likely Captains Harrison and Pearce were in the same fort or area at sometime during 1782. Rufus in the Descriptive Book No. 4 for Willett's Regiment is listed as *born at Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County, N.Y., enlisted by*

*John Taylor for 2 years 5 months, 26 days, Age 16, Size 5 feet 7 inches, Complexion light, Hair brown, Eyes dark, and occupation Labourer.* FROM: Doc. No. 11105, Descriptive Book No. 4 Colonel Marinus Willett's Regiment of Levies, Special Collections and Manuscripts, New York State Library, Albany.

4. Major General William Alexander, Earl of Stirling and often referred to as Lord Stirling. Lord Stirling died January 15, 1783. In a letter dated Head Quarters, Newburgh, August 29, 1782, Commander-in-Chief General George Washington ordered Lord Stirling to take command of the Northern Department which would include New York State. FROM: The Writings of George Washington, ed. John C. Fitzpatrick, Washington, 1938, Vol 25, pp 89-90.
5. Captain Peter B. Tearce not Pearce and Lieutenant John Thornton were officers in Willett's Regiment.
6. Jellis A. Fonda served as Lieutenant and Adjutant in Willett's Regiment in 1781 and until November of 1782 when Fonda was appointed Captain in Willett's Regiment.
7. Rufus is mistaken as Captain Robert McKean was killed July 10, 1781, at New Dorlach now the Village of Sharon Springs and the Town of Sharon, Schoharie County, N.Y.
8. Fort Schuyler and Fort Stanwix were the same fort. General John Stanwix built the fort in 1758 and in 1776 the fort was repaired under the direction of Major General Philip Schuyler. The fort after a severe flood and a fire in May of 1781 made it no longer usable and it was abandoned. In 1783 a block house was built near the site of the original fort. There was another Fort Schuyler at or near present day City of Utica but very little was left by the time of the War of Independence.
9. Fort Oswego was garrisoned by British troops and several raids into the Mohawk Valley came from the fort. Colonel Willett had hoped to take the fort by surprise in February 1783. Several things went wrong and Willett returned to Fort Rensselaer without even getting a glimpse of the fort.
10. According to Captain Fonda's 1783 Payroll, Rufus served in his company for only 8 months as he is listed as deserting on September 1, 1783. On the same date Sergeant Clear Lewis and Private Abraham Van Alstine also deserted. According to the payroll Rufus had received £ 26. .60 of his pay and was owed £ 26. .60. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 78, Folder 173, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
11. This is an error as a David Parks did not serve in Willett's Regiment. Rufus later gives the names as David Perry (also given at times as Penny). David Perry served as a drummer in Captain Pearses' Company. Perry was discharged on January 6, 1784. He made out a deposition for Rufus.
12. James Cannon served as a lieutenant in Willett's Regiment in 1781 and then as Captain in 1782, and 1783 in the same regiment.
13. Matthew Calkins served in Captain Tearce's Company and deserted on May 16, 1783. He also made a deposition for Rufus.