

# Private Samuel Shelley

Samuel Shelley was born at Hempstead Plains, NY (Long Island) on August 07, 1760. When the British won the Battle for Long Island in 1776, the family was robbed of most of their possessions and his father, a ship carpenter, was forced into service on a coaster. His father's sister was married to an English sea captain who was able to move Sam, his Mother and an older Aunt over from Long Island to Canoe Brook in New Jersey, twelve miles from Newark. In time, his father escaped the British ship and got back to build a sloop on Newark Bay. During the severe winter of 1779-1780 some American officers stationed at Morristown stayed at their home. They convinced Sam that he should sign in for duty with them for nine months or be subject to a fine.

All of this detail is related in an application for pension made in 1852, when Sam was 92 years of age and quite deaf. Several dignitaries interrogated the old man and each made a sworn deposition explaining their relationship to Samuel Shelley and their belief in his integrity. One of these was a Hamburg lawyer, Daniel Haines, once Governor of New Jersey.

Samuel Shelley served under Capt. Reeves of the NJ Brigade, Colonels Dickenson and Ogden. He saw action at Connecticut Farms and at the Battle of Springfield (1780) He mustered out and later went to Newark where he signed up with Condit's horse (cavalry) He unit was called out during the Whiskey Rebellion in Western Pennsylvania in 1794.

Thereafter, he came to Wantage Township in Sussex County as a tanner, married Eleanore Cuddeback, raised ten children, and lived past 102 years. Sam Shelley died of old age in the middle of the Civil War on March 18, 1863, at the home of his youngest son, Ford Shelley, an innkeeper at Sparta Township. Elizabeth Shelley Crabb \* July 1996

Transcribed from Samuel Shelley's marker dedication program. The NSDAR Chinkchewunski Chapter honored Pvt Samuel Shelley in 1996 with a new marker

Group photo are descendants of Samuel's who were present at the dedication in 1996

