

Harvard, Jan 16, 1846.
 Jan 20 6

Beloved Brother Robert

I duly received your letter of the 10th. In which you desired to obtain information concerning Amos Buttrick as a revolutionary pensioner? As Elder Grove is now at Harvard, and has with him certificates which were left by Amos: and as I am somewhat acquainted with the history of the man, I will endeavor to answer your enquiries.

Amos Buttrick was a native of Concord Mass; and entered the American armies as a soldier, about the commencement of the war; and served out the period of his enlistment 5 years; in which time he was in active service, and was ever considered a true patriot in the American cause. Tho I have heard him relate his revolutionary narratives, I cannot detail the number of engagements he was in or the dangers to which he was exposed; it may be enough to mention two items in his history, as a soldier.

After the defeat of the American army on Long Island General Washington thought it necessary to send a detachment of troops on some hazardous enterprise back to the Island. And determining to rekindle the martial spirit of the Army, he stated to the troops what he would have done, and that he wished no man to undertake, unless it was of his own choice, and this should be the penalty for the least appearance of cowardice. Any soldier on witnessing a cowardly action in an Officer should shoot him instantly, and any Officer perceiving actual cowardice in a Soldier, should run him thro' with his sword. Amos on hearing the terms instantly volunteered

placed himself first in the bow of the boat that led the way, determining to meet the first danger on landing. I think it was on this occasion that he with other troops performed a forced march of one hundred and fifty miles in three days on foot thro' the snow, carrying his knapsack and musket to enable him take his station at the post of danger.

He was at the battle of White Plains and was enrolled in the company who first received the fire of the British troops. I have heard him say that the Americans were on top of a hill laying behind a fence. And as the enemy knew their position, they advanced with a quick movement toward the center of their line, directly in front of where Amos lay. The Officer who led on the enemies troops, was some rods ahead of his detachment, waving his sword, and hurrying his men forward. When he had advanced till within about 30 feet of the American line Amos leveled his musket and shot him dead upon the spot. Whatever the action might have been that followed, this I suppose was the first gun that was fired upon the advancing troops. He stated as he was near the center and immediately under the guns of the enemy, the man on his side was instantly shot, and numbers fell around him, before retreat was ordered. It was in this action he lost his eye. The Americans arose from their ambush, and while the troops were discharging upon the advancing column, the gun of the soldier on his left raked fire, the blaze of which burned his face badly and destroyed the sight of his left eye.

I relate this brief narrative first to show the spirit of the man, next to convey to you an understanding why he was entitled to, and received a pension, as early as any who were first entitled to state pensions.

The American Army was disbanded in 1783; at which period the soldiers were loud in their complaint against government concerning spurious paper money, and the destitute condition they were left in at the close of the war. And as Pensions were then talked of, and Amos having embraced the gospel, he referred the case to Mother and the Elders as early as the close of the war; to know whether he might receive a pension or not. Mother answered him by saying it was the price of blood, and that if he received it, it would bring him into bondage.

In the year 1790 the Congress of the U S granted Pensions to those who were wounded in the wars of the revolution; and in the year 1791 the Church was gathered, and Father Joseph began to lay the foundation of Church order. In the beginning of 1792 many of the world who were friendly to Amos, sent him pressing invitations to go and receive his pension. And he not fully comprehending the meaning of the words, which Mother had spoken to him previous to her decease, went and took up all the money which was allowed him by government from the close of the war up to the period spoken of. As true Church principles were now to be established, which were to stand the test of every kind of investigation, Father Joseph took this matter up and made it a serious subject of labor, and was directed by the unerring spirit of truth to shut out all such pension money, together with pension lands, and all kinds of remuneration for war services. Consequently he notified Amos, that this money must not be brought into the Church inheritance. Amos now showed his faith by his obedience; for altho the Believers were then poor, suffering from the iron hand of persecution on one side, and poverty and great privation on the other he took the silver and gold which had been

pronounced the price of blood by the voice of God thro' his agents, and returned it to that government who had liberally given it as a reward for his toils and sufferings. When the Agents received the petition of Amos praying them to receive the money they had granted, it was so new and strange a petition, the government had to take the subject under serious consideration, and in conclusion this was their resolution.

A Copy of a Resolve of the Commonwealth, on the Petition & Receipt of Amos Bultrick. *

March 8th, 1792.

On the representation of Amos Bultrick, showing that he is conscientiously scrupulous, of receiving a pension in consequence of a wound received in the Service of the United States. Resolved that Amos Bultrick be, and he hereby is permitted to deposit in the treasury of this Commonwealth, any sum of money he may have received from this government as a pension, there to remain until further order of government, taking duplicate receipt for the same, one of which together with his certificate for a pension, shall be deposited in the Secretary's Office.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts (No. 10496)

March 12th 1792.

Treasury Office,

Received of Amos Bultrick a State Pensioner, by the hands of Joseph Hooper Esq. Eighty two pounds seven shillings, and eight pence, as a deposit in the treasury agreeably to Resolve of Court of the 8th Instant having signed duplicate receipt.

L 82. 7. 8.

Alexander Hodgdon Treasurer

* See Statute Book Mass page 69.

Thus Kind Brother I have given you as correct information respecting this true American Patriot, who was in after

years a worthy soldier of Christ as I am in possession of. And altho it is a long subject for epistulary correspondence and but a limited outline of his history, it may perhaps answer the end for which you have written. He lived in the Church at Shirley & died Feb 18th 1844.

As I am now transmitting to you these items of information and have before me a Copy of a Court document of more recent date, I thot' it would be pleasing & perhaps useful to you; therefore I venture to send it, after a short introduction to show you its origin.

In the year 1840, we have good reasons to suppose that some evil minded person, wishing to bring the Believers at Harvard & Shirley into trouble presented a Petition to the Legislature, the substance of which was, that all Classes of Citizens had ought to be compelled by law to pay an equal proportion of Military tax either in service or money.

As the subject of this petition with the Believers remonstrance against it is no doubt familiar to you, I will barely state that as the Court were about to act on this matter, Elder Grove and another of the Brethren visited Boston, and it so happened that they had but just time to have the following article drawn out by Counsel in due form to present it at the most favorable season.

For the Petition had come before the House, and they had chosen a committee to consider the question at issue Elder Grove on laying this article before said Committee was greatly satisfied on witnessing its effect. It presented the conscientious faith of the Believers in a form so new; it made their detestation of the war spirit, appear before them in all its bearings so clear; and their determination to maintain the principles of peace, whatever might be the sacrifice so deeply laid, that they were not only amazed, but nearly all were completely disarmed, surprised and taken. Suffice it to say out of 17^{or} 12 immediately raised one voice in favor of the remonstrance, and all was settled without further difficulty.

Copy of the Article referred to Pensions

Agreeably to act of Congress of March 18th, 1818 ~ relating to Revolutionary Pensioners. The following persons who are members of the United Society, (Called Shakers) were entitled to pensions of the following amount with intrest inclusive, viz:—

Amos Buttrick	— — —	\$.	4143.	"	30.
Jon ^a Kenney	— — —		669	"	63.
David Melvin	— — —		2219	"	67.
John Warner	— — —		2219	"	67.
Levi Warner	— — —		669	"	63.
Sam ^l . Barrett	— — —		2691	"	79.
Sideon Hammond	— — —		2691	"	69.
Sam ^l . Whitney	— — —		4143	"	30.
Abijah Worcester	— — —		4143	"	30.
Nath ^l . Turner	— — —		541	"	16.
Total	— — —	\$	24131	"	24.

Agreeably to act of Congress of June 7th 1832. Relating to Revolutionary Pensioners, the following persons who are members of said Society, were entitled to pensions of the following amount intrest inclusive viz:—

Benj ^l Winchester	— — —	\$	479	"	37.
Sam ^l . Blood	— — —		940	"	15.
Joseph Wythe	— — —		275	"	20.
Jon ^a Crouch	— — —		497	"	37.
Total	— — —	\$	2191	"	09

Agreeably to act of Court, Amos Buttrick was entitled to a Pension during life. of \$ 40 per year which now would amount with intrest inclusive, to the sum of.

\$	15,251	"	66.
	2,191	"	06.
	24,131	"	89.
	<u>41,573</u>	"	89.

The Several Sum total

The above persons are of the Societies of Harvard and Shirley. — The two Societies comprising about 300. — members — and are about 3/4 of all belonging to the State; — And in the same ratio as the amounts are

for the two Societies would now be entitled to \$ 97,005, 7/4.

Of the said sum nothing has been sought, in consequence of the conscientious scruples of the above named persons - being agreeable to the established principles of Said United Society of which they become members.

Copied by Robert Morris.

Before I close this lengthy epistle allow me to blend my feelings of adoration with yours; and may ^{they} depend to God in thanksgiving that he gave the founders of our Holy Institution light from on high to lay the foundation principles of peace eternal and unshaken in our pure and undefiled Religion!

And may we not justly reverence and bless those ^{self-denial} ^{patience} able saints, who were willing amidst their numerous acts of self-denial to sacrifice the Price of blood! and at this age enable the ^{Patience} of the latter day, to show to the world, to a fighting degenerate world! that neither the honor, fame, gold or silver that is to be gained by Shedding human blood! has ever stained Christ's holy banner of "peace on earth and good will to men;" - which pure standard is waving from the walls of Zion, as an ensign of Righteousness to the Nations.

I would gladly write a few lines to you of common matters but I suppose you will, (and with good reason) think I have written enough.

I gave your particular love to Elder Grove for which he returned you his love affectionately. Both Elders and People here, send you their true love and good wishes; And Beloved Brother, Please accept my love also. My prayer for you is that God will ever guide you in the way of his love & blessing.

William Leonard.

Please keep
for
further use

Robert White Jun
New York



276 Bond



William Edwards letter
Charleston 1st 16. 1846

MEMORIAL.

To the Honorable

The undersigned, in behalf of the Order of the United Society of Believers, or Shakers, composed of eighteen distinct communities, and located in seven of the states of the Union, respectfully ask for the exemption from service of such members of their society as may be drafted under the act entitled "An act for enrolling and calling out the national forces, and for other purposes," for the following reasons:

This application involves a matter of very small practical importance to the government, inasmuch as the whole number of members of the Society subject to the conscription in all the communities does not exceed one hundred and ninety; from which number, after deducting those of foreign birth and physical disability, not more than seventy would remain among whom the draft could take effect.

First.—That non-resistance is a primary and fundamental part of their doctrine, and is held by the society as imperatively binding upon them in every relation in life.

Second.—That non-participation in the concerns of earthly governments is also a cardinal point of their religious faith, and its observance equally incumbent upon them.

Third.—Because the members of the society have consecrated themselves, their property and services to reli-

gious and charitable purposes. Your petitioners would therefore respectfully refer to that provision of the Constitution which declares that "Congress shall make no law for the establishment of religion, *or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.*"

Fourth.—That in all the affairs of life, without exception, their practice has hitherto been and is in the strictest conformity to the above doctrine, in which they differ from many professedly non-resistant societies of this country.

Fifth.—That recognizing the justice of their claims for exoneration from military duty, the Legislature of the State of New York for nearly half a century, and other states, for many years, have, by declaratory acts, exempted the Society from personal service, and all other military requirements.

Sixth.—That while the members of the Society could not, without the greatest violence to conscience and doctrine, render personal service, they are equally restrained from furnishing moneys for the special object of supplying substitutes; for this, in their estimation, changes only the individual, and not the character of the act. Passing over this, however, they can equitably claim exemption on other grounds; that large amounts of money are now in the national treasury, which by law belong to the Society, through those who served in the wars of the revolution, and of 1812, uniting subsequently with the Society; but who were not permitted by it to draw their pensions and bounty lands, and have never done so. These sums amount in the aggregate to \$439,733. (See Schedule A, for facts.)

Before referring at more length to the above reasons, your petitioners desire to say that the Society have now, and at all times and under all circumstances, rendered the most unquestioning obedience to the civil laws; and hold in the truest respect the wise and equitable government of

the country. And further; in offering these reasons, your petitioners disclaim, in behalf of the Society, the least disposition to screen themselves from their share of the public burthens. On the contrary, they can safely point to the past for evidence of their promptness in meeting all taxes assessed upon their property, and the liberal part they have taken in responding to the demands of charity and public benevolence. They fully admit the necessity in the *present condition* of mankind of an external government, and of the prompt enforcement of its laws; yet, after thus conceding to others the right of physical force, they claim for themselves that their conviction, that war is wrong in principle and unchristian in practice, is as binding on their consciences as is the opposite belief upon others; and that, under the laws of a free government, it should be equally respected. The Society believe that Christ has called it, in this respect, in a peculiar manner, to follow his precept and example, which is founded upon the principle of duty to God, and peace and good will to man. Devoting itself wholly to religious and charitable purposes, its members believe that all military laws are opposed in spirit to the purpose of the Prince of Peace, who "came not to destroy men's lives, but to save them." This doctrine of non-resistance is carried by them with scrupulous exactness into all the affairs of life. They will in nowise injure their fellow creatures; and even when smitten, will not smite in return — much less learn the art of war, or shed human blood under any pretext; preferring rather to suffer wrong than to do wrong, should it even involve the loss of their physical life. Community, therefore, assumes no risk of collision, either private or public, so far as they are concerned.

The *second* reason urged for exemption, namely, non-participation in matters of government, is in a practical sense entirely peculiar to this Society. Other organiza-

tions may teach it in *theory*, but fail in practice. It is now nearly one hundred years since the establishment of the United Society in this country. During that whole period its members have totally abstained from voting, or being voted for, or taking any part in elections, or other political manifestations. No civil office, either of profit, trust or honor, has been held by any member thereof; nor has any influence, direct or otherwise, been exerted by them in the management of municipal, state, or national affairs. It has maintained inviolate its strictly religious character, and only asks to be treated as such by the government. It has subserved the cause of good order and morals, by preserving peace and unity within its own families, and amity with all with whom business and other relations have brought it in contact. By their industry, and united and organized labor, they have added to the public wealth far beyond the ability of the same number of members acting individually. The resulting advantages of their enterprise and capital adds materially to the aggregate valuations of the country. They provide, at their own expense, for educating children connected with the Society, for support of their aged and infirm, and, in addition, meet promptly the assessments for maintenance of the public paupers, the orphan, the hospital patient, and other public charities, and the civil establishment, at the same time distributing, with no ungenerous hand, voluntary contributions to various objects justified by their faith.

The *third* reason adduced, while resting on a clear constitutional basis, is further sustained by the principle always recognized in this government of exempting from taxation the property of churches and other religious and charitable institutions. As the Society is conspicuous for devoting its property wholly to religious and charitable objects, your petitioners hope and believe that your excellency will regard it as a conclusive reason for exemption.

The *fourth* reason urged, will, it is hoped, prove sufficient ground for excepting the members of this Society from the operation of the act. For, while some other organization may, in theory, claim to be non-combatants and non-participants, yet in practice, it is believed they will be found to be otherwise. It is a well known fact that this is the only Society or people on this continent, if not in the world, who have successfully maintained for almost a century the system of community of property; and it is likewise the fact that they are the only people who have through the entire period of their history kept wholly aloof from the concerns of government and taking any part in political movements. The undersigned therefore claim, that in exempting the members of the Society, no other class or organization could justly or consistently ask exoneration on the same ground.

The *fifth* reason urged will, it is hoped, have much weight with your honor. New York, Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Kentucky, and other States, long ago recognized the claims of conscience, enacting laws exonerating the members of the Society from all military requirements, not only without the public disapproval, but, it is believed, with its positive approbation. Their exemption at this time, therefore, would be no innovation, but in strict conformity to law and usage of half a century, while the opposite course would not only be a great hardship to the Society, but is not demanded by the public at large.

The *sixth* reason urged is that while the payment of the exemption money would free such members as might be drafted, yet it would be a recognition by them of their obligation to aid directly in making war; and, therefore, speaking with all due respect, would be an offence of the most solemn character to their consciences. It may be known to your honor that there are and have been a considerable number of persons who had served the country in the wars of the Revolution and 1812 with valor which

merited and received public acknowledgment; their wounds, too, in many cases attesting their courage; and who subsequently united with the Society. All these were entitled, by law, to pensions and bounty lands. But these moneys have never been called for; though they belonged to the Society, as the property of its members is held in common. It remains in the national treasury, an earnest of the sincerity of the Shakers to their professions. It would be contrary to the doctrines of the Society and the consciences of its members to have it drawn, for it could never consent to receive the reward of services considered by them opposed to the law of Christ, and by their established faith could be held in no other light than as the price of blood. The number of this class belonging to the Society in New York, Massachusetts and Maine, were eighty-three. Those belonging to two Societies in Kentucky have not been reported in time to be included herein, but would essentially increase this number. The amount of pensions and bounties, principal and simple interest, would amount to no less sum than \$439,733 at this present time. While under the most favorable circumstances the sum that the government would receive for exemption of all its members who are liable to the draft under the act, their number being not over seventy, taking the proportion to be drawn at one third, amounts only to \$7,200; and should the whole number liable be drafted — a fact no wise probable, it is assumed — the amount of compensation would not exceed \$21,000 — a sum amounting to but four and a half per cent of the aggregate of the moneys referred to now in the national treasury. Your petitioners, in behalf of the Society, respectfully urge the strong equity of considering the sum thus left in the public treasury, as an equivalent, at least, for any money that might be claimed as due from any members of the Society under the act referred to. The accompanying documents will give the names and other essential facts relating to this subject.

While the members of the Society humbly own their gratitude to God for the many privileges they enjoy, and partaking as they do in the priceless blessings of free institutions, yet following the light vouchsafed to them with scrupulous care, and from their earliest history abstaining from participation in political affairs and commercial and other speculations, they do not feel the same obligation to respond to the call of the government to put down, with force of arms, an insurrection growing out of political differences and commercial intercourse, as rests upon other members of the national commonwealth, who have enjoyed the honors, emoluments and other immediate advantages derived from an active or partial participation in the political affairs of the country. In offering this reason, all disposition to call in question the wisdom and justice of the measures of the government in its efforts to restore order to society and respect for the laws, is disclaimed. On the contrary no portion of the community holds the officers of government in higher respect than your petitioners and the members of this Society, but the status of the Society affords the best ground for placing them in the same category with residents of foreign birth, as yet non-naturalized. These enjoy to the full, every advantage of our institutions enjoyed by the Society, and are, at the same time, exempt from draft. In some states, it is true, they are not permitted to transfer real estate without special authority of the legislature, but as the granting of this is merely a matter of form no hardship can be experienced in that direction.

In conclusion your petitioners hope that the reasons they have here presented will be sufficient to obtain the exemption of the members of the Society from the operation of the conscription act. The radical nature of their doctrinal and conscientious scruples, vital to their faith, against taking up arms or taking part in controversies and business affairs of the world; their strictly religious cha-

racter; unswerving integrity to their principles; sincerity, as evinced by allowing large sums belonging to their members to remain in the national treasury; the well established practice of exempting them from all operation of military law; and the manifest intent of the framers of the Constitution to throw its protecting ægis over just such organizations as theirs, are briefly the points. We have no hesitation in assuring you that their history in the future will be as free from any act that may bring reproach upon the American name as in the past: and that in common with all good citizens their petitions will ascend to the Throne of the Ruler of Nations for the protection of yourself and those who with you are charged with the weighty cares and responsibilities now devolving upon you, and to preserve to future ages the Union and institutions which a good Providence gave to our forefathers, and for more than three quarters of a century has protected in its integrity.

With due respect,

Memorial

To His Excellency the
President of the United States.

The undersigned, in behalf of the United Society of Shakers, composed of Eighteen distinct Communities, and located in Seven of the States of the Union, respectfully ask for the Exemption from Service of such of the members of their Society as may be drafted under the Act entitled "An Act for Enrolling and calling out the National Forces, and for other Purposes."

This application involves a matter of very small practical importance to the Government, inasmuch as the whole number of members of the Society subject to the Conscription does not exceed One Hundred and Sixty, from which number, after deducting those of foreign birth and physical disability, not more than Seventy would remain among whom the Draft could take effect.

This favor is asked of the Government for the subjoined considerations:—

That non-resistance and non-participation in the affairs of earthly governments are primary and fundamental articles

of the religious faith of the Shaker Societies; and that by these principles, which for near a century, have been by them conscientiously carried out in practice, they are equally debarred from furnishing substitutes (directly or indirectly), as from rendering personal service.

No Shaker has ever trained, voted, or been voted for; or held any office of honor, trust, or emolument, * under the Civil Government; or participated in Politics. But they have suffered in person and property, and even been imprisoned for their non-military testimony; but were finally by most of the States exempted from Military duties and equivalents.

As the Shakers hold all their property "in common," the Societies have large ^{amounts} of money now in the National Treasury, which legally belongs to them through parties, who served in the wars of the Revolution and of 1812, subsequently uniting with the Shaker Order, but who by the Society were not permitted to draw either their Pensions or Bounty Sums. These sums principle and interest, amount, in the aggregate, ^{six thousand one hundred dollars} to \$600.100. (See Schedule A. for facts.) Our Societies in Kentucky, not yet heard from, would materially augment this amount.

While the sum the Government would receive for exemption of one third of all the members of the Shaker Societies liable to the Draft, under the Act, (their number being not over seventy) would

* except Post Master

amount to only \$ 7, 200; and, should the whole number liable be drafted, the amount of Compensation would not exceed \$ 21, 000, only about four per cent of the aggregate of the moneys referred to as being now in the National Treasury.

Your Petitioners, in behalf of the Society respectfully urge the equity of considering the sum thus left in the Public Treasury, as at least an equivalent for any money that might be claimed as due from any of the members of the Society, under the Act referred to.

The property of this Society is devoted to religious and charitable purposes. Shakers support their own poor, aged, and infirm; and bear their full proportion of every form of taxation for the support of the poor outside, as well as for all Governmental organizations, — National, State, and Municipal.

And, while we present these facts as an earnest of our conscientious faith and religious principles, which render it imperative upon us to suffer, in property or person, rather than violate those principles, either by ourselves or others, we humbly and respectfully solicit the Discharge of such individuals of our Community as are or shall be, under the Conscrip-Act, drafted for Military Service.

And your Petitioners will ever pray, both for yourself, and for the continued existence of this free Government, towards which the Shaker Societies ever have been, are, & will continue to be, truly loyal.

F. W. Evans.
Benjamin Gates.

X. *Planchet*

Memorial

To the Honorable — W. H. Seward —
Secretary of the Treasury.

The undersigned, in behalf of the United Society of Shakers — composed of Eighteen distinct communities, and located in Seven of the States of the Union — respectfully ask for the Exemption from service, of such members of their Society, as may be drafted, under the Act, entitled "An Act, for Enrolling, and calling out the National Forces, and for other Purposes".

This application involves a matter of very small practical importance to the Government — in as much as the whole number of members of the Society, subject to conscription, does not exceed one hundred and ninety. From which number, after deducting those of foreign birth, and physical disability, not more than

Seventy would remain, among whom the Draft could take effect.

This favor is asked, of the Government, for the following reasons.

Non resistance, and non participation, in the affairs of earthly Governments - are primary and fundamental principles in the religious faith, and practice of the Shaker Societies - and by these principles (consistently and conscientiously carried out, for near a century) they are equally debarred, from furnishing substitutes - directly, or indirectly - as from rendering personal service in war.

No Shaker has ever trained, voted, or been voted for, nor held any Office, of honor, * trust, or emolument, under the Civil Government, nor participated in Politics. ~~But~~ they have suffered - in person, and property, and been imprisoned, for their non military testimony - * except that of Postmaster in a Shaker Village

but were, finally, by most of the States, Exempted from Military duties and equivalents.

As the Shakers hold their property in common, the Societies have large amounts, now in the National treasury, which legally belong to them - the parties who served in the Wars of the Revolution, and of 1812, and subsequently united with the Shaker Order - but, who, by the Society, were not permitted to draw their pensions, nor bounty lands -

These sums - principal and interest - amount in the aggregate, to \$600,000. (See Schedule A, for facts) - Two Societies, in Kentucky, not heard from, would materially augment the amount -

While the sum the Government would receive for the exemption of one third of the Members of the Societies, liable to the draft under the Act (their number not being over seventy) would amount to but \$7200. - True should the whole number liable, be exempted, the conscription would not exceed \$21000. - Only about four per cent of the

monies referred to as now in the National Treasury.

Your petitioners, in behalf of the Society, respectfully urge the equity of considering the sum thus left in the National Treasury, as, at least, an equivalent for any money that might be claimed as due, from any members of the Society, under the act referred to.

The property of the Society is devoted to religious and charitable purposes - Shakers support their own poor, aged, and infirm, and bear their full proportion of every form of taxation, for the support of the poor, outside, as well as for all Government organizations, National, State and municipal.

And while we present these facts, as an earnest of our conscientious faith and religious principles, which render it imperative, in us, to suffer, in property, or person, rather than violate these principles,

either by ourselves, or others, We humbly and respectfully solicit, the discharge of such individuals of our communion, as are, or shall be drafted for Military service under the Conscription act.

And your petitioners will ever pray, both for yourself, and for the continuance of this free Government towards which, the Shaker Societies ever have been, are and will continue to be, truly loyal.

Frederick W Evans
Benjamin Gates

X Sempad

Shaker's
Memorial

Adjutant General's Office,
Washington, D. C. Dec. 19, 1864.

Sir:-

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of 12th inst. relative to the case of Sam'l G. Nurlbut, whose conditional discharge was ordered by this Dept. Nov. 21, 1864, - and enclosing \$50⁰⁰ to be applied to his account (which is herewith returned - no opportunity existing for its application as requested) - and to inform you in reply that the danger of delay in the discharge of Nurlbut - feared by you as likely to occur - may be obviated by depositing \$300⁰⁰ with any receiver of commutation money, as directed in the order for his discharge, in which case he will be furnished with final statements when discharged, upon which he will receive all pay and allowances

(Over.)

due him. Directions have this day been
given for such final statements to be fur-
nished, if the course suggested above should
be adopted by you

I am, Sir, Very Respectfully
Your Obedient Servant.

E D Townsend
Asst. Adjutant General.

Benj. Gates, Esq.
Mt. Lebanon, N. Y.

Schedule A.

Names of Pensioners who served in the War of the Revolution and War of 1812, who subsequently became and deceased, Members of the Shaker Community in the Societies of New York, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine. With amounts of Pensions and Bounty Lands which each one relinquished to government for conscience sake

1st New York.

Names of Pensioners	Am ^t of Annual Pension due to each.	No of years to have drawn	Am ^t of Bounty Lands due each	Value of Bounty Lands each.	Amount of Principal of Pensions from Government due to each at time of demise	Amount of Annuity of Pensions @ 6 pr ct Simple Int ⁿ during Life =	Am ^t of Bounty Lands @ 6 pr ct Simple Int ⁿ during life.	Sum total of Pensions and Bounty Lands due at demise calculated at 6 pr ct Simple Int ⁿ	No of years since demise	Sum Total at 6 pr ct Simple Int ⁿ up to 1863.
Jonathan Slosson	\$ 160	67 Y.	100 A.	\$ 250	\$ 4,020.00	\$ 11,220.00	\$ 1,255.00	\$ 12,475.00	18 Y.	\$ 25,948.00
Hezekiah Rowland	\$ 48	47 Y.	100 @ 2.50 640 @ 4.00	\$ 2,810	\$ 2,256.00 Pay 672.00	\$ 5,504.00	\$ 10,694.20	\$ 16,870.20	40 Y.	\$ 57,358.68
Asa Barnham	\$ 60	24 Y.	100 A.	\$ 250	\$ 1,440.00	\$ 2,640.00	\$ 610.00	\$ 3,250.00	38 Y.	\$ 10,660.00
Zaneauell Arthur	\$ 30	47 Y.	-	-	\$ 1,410.00	\$ 3,440.40	-	\$ 3,444.40	38 Y.	\$ 11,284.51
Peter Bishop	\$ -	-	100 A	\$ 250	-	-	\$ 675.00	\$ 675.00	45 Y.	\$ 2,497.50
Robert Cunningham	\$ 96	3 Y.	-	-	\$ 288.00	\$ 322.56	-	\$ 322.56	42 Y.	\$ 1,135.41
Solomon Higley	\$ 96	4 Y.	-	-	\$ 384.00	\$ 441.60	-	\$ 441.60	42 Y.	\$ 1,654.43
Elisha Parker	\$ -	-	200 A.	\$ 500	-	-	\$ 1,350.00	\$ 1,350.00	10 Y.	\$ 2,160.00
Lideon Cole	\$ 96	22 Y.	-	-	\$ 212.00	\$ 3,569.28	-	\$ 3,569.28	23 Y.	\$ 8,494.88
Theodore Bates	\$ 96	27 Y.	100 A.	\$ 250	\$ 2,592.00	\$ 4,769.28	\$ 655.00	\$ 5,424.28	17 Y.	\$ 10,957.24
Jonathan Mills	\$ 96	19 Y.	100 A.	\$ 250	\$ 1,824.00	\$ 2,918.40	\$ 535.00	\$ 3,453.40	25 Y.	\$ 8,633.50
Benoni Wright	\$ 96	4 Y.	-	-	\$ 384.00	\$ 441.60	-	\$ 441.60	39 Y.	\$ 1,474.94
Pitman Cook	\$ 96	6 Y.	-	-	\$ 576.00	\$ 696.96	-	\$ 696.96	38 Y.	\$ 2,285.99
Ebenezer Thomas	\$ 96	3 Y.	-	-	\$ 288.00	\$ 322.56	-	\$ 322.56	41 Y.	\$ 1,116.05
Noah Wheaton	-	-	-	- Pay	\$ 90.00	-	-	-	-	\$ 538.20
Richard Treat	-	-	-	- Pay	\$ 40.00	-	-	-	-	\$ 239.20
David Slosson	-	-	-	- Pay	\$ 30.00	-	-	-	-	\$ 179.40
Francis Hooknell	-	-	-	- Pay	\$ 50.00	-	-	-	-	\$ 299.00
Justin Brewster	-	-	100 A.	\$ 400	-	-	\$ 840.00	\$ 840.00	48 Y.	\$ 3,259.20
\$ = 150,176.13										

2nd Massachusetts.

Amos Buttrick	Due in 1840	\$ = 4,143.30	David Melvin	Due in 1840	\$ = 2,219.67
Samuel Whitney	" " "	\$ = 4,143.30	John Warner	" " "	\$ = 2,219.67
Abijah Wooster	" " "	\$ = 4,143.30	Levi Warner	" " "	\$ = 669.63
Samuel Barrett	" " "	\$ = 2,691.71	Jonathan Kenny	" " "	\$ = 669.63
Lideon Hammond	" " "	\$ = 2,691.71	Nathaniel Turner	" " "	\$ = 541.16
		Total 17,813.32			\$ = 62,339.76

Massachusetts. Continued.

Agreeably to Act of Congress June 1st 1832, relating to Revolutionary Pensioners, the following Persons were entitled to the following amounts, Simple Interest inclusive in 1840—

Benjamin Winchester	Due in 1840	\$ 479 " 3/4
Jonathan Crouch	" " "	\$ 197 " 3/4
Samuel Blood	" " "	\$ 940 " 15
Joseph Wythe	" " "	\$ 275 " 20

Agreeably to Act of Court Amos Buttrick was entitled to an additional Pension during life of \$40 per Annum, which would now, in 1840, Interest inclusive Amount to \$

Amount Brot forward for Massachusetts	\$ 24,153.08
Total	\$ 2,192.09
	\$ 15,251.66
Total	\$ 41,596.83

Of the said sum nothing has been received in consequence of conscientious scruples of the persons named herein, agreeably to the established principles of Shakers society— of which they all became and deceased members—

The foregoing Pensioners of Harvard & Shirley Mass, comprising about 300 Members— are about 3/4 of all belonging in Mass, and, in the same ratio as the amounts are for these two Societies all of the Societies in the state would now be entitled to — \$ 95,005.74
The above at simple Interest from 1840 to 1863 Amounts to \$ 220,413.22.

Pension Documents of Massachusetts.

Amos Buttrick, aforesaid, enlisted a Soldier in the Revolutionary War and served five years. He lost one eye while in the service. When the 1st Massachusetts Pension Act was passed, he applied and received a pension of \$40.00 per Year to extend thro' life. Having rec^d said pension for past services and the case being manifest to the Leading authorities of the United Society. Amos, Was, by them, required to return the same from whence he received it, being considered the price of blood. He was admonished, by said authorities to receive no more pension money, on any account whatever, it being contrary to the principles and faith of the said United Society, of which he had become a member. Therefore, said Amos Buttrick returned said Pension to the Treasury department from whence he received it, to the astonishment of the government officials, who, after their first hearing, were about to turn him away abruptly, but from the impression of honesty and sincerity with which they felt him imbued they became imprejud that he should be heard. But, as there was no law to meet Amos Buttrick's case, and enable them to receive his money they consulted the Legislative Assembly, and an act was passed as follows.

Resolved, On the Petition of Amos Buttrick, showing that he is conscientiously scrupulous of receiving a pension which was granted him in consequence of a wound

received in the service of the United States.

Resolved. That Amos Buttrick be, and he is, hereby permitted to deposit, in the Treasury of this Commonwealth, any sum of money he may have received from this government, as a pension, there to remain till further order of government, taking duplicate of receipt for the same. One of which together with his certificate of a pension, shall be deposited in the Secretarys office. The said Amos, having, in due form divested himself of the whole amount he had received by delivering up to the said officials, accepted the following receipt.

Common Wealth of Massachusetts. Nov 12th 1792.
No. 10,496. Treasury Office.

Received of Amos Buttrick, a state Pensioner, by the hand of Joseph Hoosmer, Esq^r, Eighty two pounds, seven shillings and eight Pence, as a deposit in the treasury, agreeable to resolve of Court of the third Inst^t, having signed duplicate receipts. —

L. S. 278.
Alexander Hodgson
Treasurer

#14,594

9789-W2
Case

Washington, Dc.
March 20th 1861.

Dear Sir:

My father received your letter of the 17th, and will see what relief can be afforded in the matter of the petition enclosed to you for the honorable discharge of Nathan Britts against whom the charge of desertion now rests.

Will you please call at the Department to see my father?

Very respectfully yours,
E. R. Stanton.

Benjamin Gates Esq.,
Ebbitt House.

CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION ON ACCOUNT OF ALIENAGE.

I, of County of State of having been enrolled under the provisions of an Act of Congress "for enrolling and calling out the National Forces," &c., approved March 3, 1863, as liable to perform military duty in the service of the United States, hereby certify that I am not legally subject to such liability, and for the following reasons.

1st. That I am an Alien, and subject to

2d. I came to the United States and have since then resided in

3d. I have never voted in, or declared my intention of becoming a citizen of the United States.

We, the subscribers, of the County and State above mentioned, hereby certify that we have such knowledge of said and of the facts above stated, as to leave no doubt in our minds as to the truth of his statement.

..... ss.

Personally appeared before me, the above named and severally made oath that the above certificates are correct and true, to the best of their knowledge and belief.

Justice of the Peace.

Dated at)
this day of , 186 .)

Certificate of a Parent that he or she desires one of his or her sons exempted.

I, the subscriber, the father (or mother) of
and, residents of,
..... county, State of,
hereby certify that I am aged and infirm, and that I am dependent for support on the
labor of my two sons, above named; and that I elect that my son
....., shall be exempt from the operations of the
act of Congress, "for enrolling and calling out the national forces," &c., approved
March 3, 1863.

.....
We, the subscribers, do hereby certify that the above named.....
..... is aged and infirm, and dependent on the labor of.....
sons for support.

.....
Personally appeared before me, the above named.....
..... and and
severally made oath that the above certificates are correct and true, to the best of their
knowledge and belief.

.....
Justice of the Peace.

Dated at....., }
thisday of....., 186 . }

NOTE 1.—The first certificate must be signed by the parent making the election, and the second by two respectable citizens (heads of families) residents of the town, county, or district in which the persons reside, and sworn to before a magistrate. In case the father is deceased, the certificate is to be signed by the mother, and the fact of the father's death is to be stated by the person certifying.

NOTE 2.—This certificate is to be used only in cases where the labor of the person claiming exemption is actually necessary for the support of the persons dependent on him. The exemption does not apply in cases where there is sufficient property to yield support, and the necessary business for collecting the income can be transacted by agents, trustees, or the like.

Certificate that the person liable to draft is the only brother of a child or children dependent on his labor for support.

I, the subscriber, being liable to draft into the service of the United States, hereby make affidavit that I am the only brother of under 12 years of age, having neither father nor mother, and dependent on my labor for support.

We, the subscribers, and residents of county, State of , hereby certify that who is liable to draft, is the only brother of , under 12 years of age, having neither father nor mother, and dependent on his labor for support.

Personally appeared before me, the above named and and severally made oath that the above certificates are correct and true, to the best of their knowledge and belief.

Justice of the Peace.

Dated at , }
this day of , 186 . }

NOTE 1.—This certificate is to be used only in cases where the labor of the person claiming exemption is actually necessary for the support of the persons dependent on him. The exemption does not apply in cases where there is sufficient property to yield support, and the necessary business can be transacted for collecting the income by agents, trustees, or the like.

NOTE 2.—The first certificate must be signed by the person claiming exemption, and the second by two respectable persons (heads of families) resident in the same town, county, or district with the person for whom exemption is claimed.

Certificate that two members of the family of the person liable to draft, are already in the military service of the United States.

We, the subscribers, and residents of county, State of , hereby certify that two members of the family and household of county and State above mentioned, are in the military service of the United States, as non-commissioned officers, musicians or privates.

Personally appeared before me, the above named and severally made oath that the above certificate is correct and true, to the best of their knowledge and belief.

Justice of the Peace.

Dated at ,
this day of , 186 .)

NOTE 1.—This is only intended to apply where the members of the family claiming exemption reside in the same family. If any of the members reside elsewhere, and have gone into the military service of the United States, no exemption on that account can be claimed.

NOTE 2.—This certificate must be signed by one of the parents, if there be any; if not, by two respectable persons (heads of families) resident in the same town, county, or district with the person for whom exemption is claimed.

Certificate that the person liable to draft is the father of motherless children, under 12 years of age, dependent on his labor for support.

I,, the subscriber, being liable to draft into the service of the United States, hereby make affidavit that I am the father of motherless child, under 12 years of age, and dependent on my labor for support.

We, the subscribers, and residents of, county, State of, hereby certify that is father of motherless children under 12 years of age, and dependent on his labor for support.

Personally appeared before me, the above named and and severally made oath that the above certificates are correct and true, to the best of their knowledge and belief.

Justice of the Peace.

Dated at,)
this day of, 186 .)

NOTE.—The first certificate must be signed by the person claiming exemption, and the second by two respectable persons (heads of families) resident in the same town, county, or district with the person for whom exemption is claimed.

CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION ON ACCOUNT OF UNSUITABLENESS OF AGE.

I, _____, of _____ county, State of _____, having been enrolled under the provisions of an act of Congress, "for enrolling and calling out the national forces," &c., approved March 3, 1863, as liable to perform military duty in the service of the United States, hereby certify that I am not legally subject to such liability, and for the following reason:

That I am _____ years of age.

We, the subscribers, _____ and _____ of the town, county, and State above mentioned, hereby certify that the above statement of _____'s age is correct and true to the best of our knowledge and belief.

Personally appeared before me, the above named _____ and _____ and severally made oath that the above certificates are correct and true, to the best of their knowledge and belief.

Justice of the Peace.

Dated at _____, }
this _____ day of _____, 186 . }

NOTE 1.—The certificate in regard to age is, in all cases where practicable, to be signed by the parents of the person claiming exemption, and the requirements specified in the regulations are to be adhered to. The blank space in the certificate to indicate the age of the person is to be filled as follows:

- That I am "UNDER TWENTY" years of age.
- That I am "OVER THIRTY-FIVE" years of age, "AND MARRIED."
- That I am "OVER FORTY-FIVE" years of age, according to the facts in the case.

NOTE 2.—In case the certificate is not signed by the parents, the fact of age must be certified to by two respectable persons (heads of families) resident in the same town, county, or district with the person for whom exemption is claimed, and the requirements of paragraph 61, Regulations, &c., must be complied with.