

## Shaw's Narrative

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By Col. John Shaw\*

I was born May 30th, 1783, in Johnstown, Montgomery county, N. Y. My father's name was Comfort Shaw, and my grandfather's was Daniel Shaw, who resided at Stonington, Conn., and was of Scotch descent; and at Stonington my father was born. Soon after the commencement of the Revolutionary war, fired by the patriotism of the times, my father, unable to obtain the permission of his parents to join the American army, ran away at the age of sixteen, and effected the object so near his heart. He had from early life excelled in playing the spirit-stirring fife, and soon received the appointment of Fife-Major, and served several years in that capacity in the army. He was present, and participated in the memorable battles at Saratoga, and was among the first that scaled the enemy's breast works on the 7th of October, 1777. My father was a man of unusual personal activity, and rendered his country long and faithful service in the war of Independence.

Towards the close of 1780, he was united in marriage, at Johnstown, N. Y., with Miss Mary Hollinbeck, whose father was John Hollinbeck, a native of Amsterdam, Holland, and who, when a young man, came to America, and settled at Claverack, on the Hudson. He married a New England wife and raised a large family, only one of whom was a son, named after his father.

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\*This was dictated by Col. Shaw, and written down by Lyman C. Draper, in the fore part of September, 1855, and may be relied on as substantially correct.