

He drew pension as Simon Sill since the lawyer advised him to put on the application the name that was found on the Union Army muster sheets. In the same deposition as noted immediately above he added, "There was never any question about it [his last name] until now, and there would not be now if I had not told you of it myself." In describing his application for an increased pension he said in the deposition, "Yes sir, I have had several fits since you were here. I had them for over a week every day, have fell out of doors, unconscious, and cannot go out alone now at all; cannot be trusted for fear I will have a fit and fall and hit myself. I am totally disabled from work and have been for years, and all on account of these fits. And I will again say I never had them [fits] until after I received the wound in the forehead. No sir, I have never been able to recollect who took the ball out of my forehead. I know that Northrup [soldier] carried me back, and that is all I can recollect."

In a deposition at this time from Benjamin C. Northrup in Milton, NY, the pension investigator learned from this fellow soldier that Simon had been injured in the Battle of Fredericksburg, VA in December 1862. Northrup said he was hit in the head by a spent ball, and "I carried him to the rear to where the doctor was and left him, seeing him afterwards around camp off duty, with his head done up, and seeing him have those spasms and fits afterwards.... He is totally disabled from performing manual labor." Northrup said the ball "knocked him senseless for a few moments. Soon after he received this wound in the forehead he commenced to be 'loony,' out of his head at times and had kind of spasms or fits." Northrup added, "I never knew or heard of his having anything like that before he was wounded.... I was discharged at the same time claimant was and came home with him to West Milton, NY and saw him often, and I will say that he had these fits at discharge and has had them ever since.... I saw him have one [fit] in the Army and then he fell unconscious and frothed at the mouth and was very weak afterwards. This lasted him at this time two or three hours before he could get around." Other men witnessed to Simon's fits after the war, including C. H. Nims of Saratoga Springs, NY and Daniel Huber of West Milton, NY; Huber said Simon worked in the paper mill and farmed before enlisting, and was a "well, healthy, rugged man," and could not work in the paper mill after returning from the war, and had fits.

In a deposition to the Special Examiner on April 7, 1897, Simon Sill said that he worked as a laborer in West Milton, NY for three or four years, and "I never had any fits before I entered the service. I was a well, hearty able-bodied man, never had been sick or disabled in any way. At the time I was mustered into the service I was given a thorough examination by three doctors in Albany, N.Y., by being stripped naked, and after they got through with me pronounced me a well man, which I was.... [At the Battle of Fredericksburg, VA in December 1862] I was struck in the head by a spent ball hitting me over the left eye. No sir, I was not sent to the hospital on account of this wound. I would not go to hospital. I was only excused from duty about a month, remained in camp. After this my head bothered me a good deal, and my eyesight soon after commenced to fail me, and has been gradually growing worse ever since until now. I cannot see hardly anything. No sir, I cannot wear glasses as it makes me dizzy. Yes sir, I done duty right along after I got wounded in the head but was bothered occasionally with my head, and about a year after I got hit I had my first fit, and since that time have had them every week or so, and now I have them every day or two. And this last has been for ten years that I have them so

often. The first one I had in the night at the front where we were laying on our arms. We had been marching pretty hard and I was all tired out. At this time we had been consolidated and I was in Co. D [Simon was consolidated into Company D on November 19, 1864], but I cannot name a single comrade who saw me have this fit. I was unconscious for twenty minutes. Yes sir, my head ached all the time after I got this wound, and I was very often dizzy, and first before I have a fit I feel as though some one had knocked me in the head. I am numb and dizzy, then I fall and become unconscious. These spots you see on my forehead now come out after I have these fits, and remain some times two and three weeks. [Examiner adds, "There are five bright red spots on claimant's forehead today, each one as large as a twenty-five-cent piece, and he says he had a very hard fit yesterday."] Yes sir, these spots have broke and water run from them, and this occurs every week or so. The water appears to have blood in it. When this bullet struck me it remained in the head and was pulled out by one of the boys." [The physician who was treating Simon in Corinth, NY said in his deposition that these skin inflammations were a form of herpes.]