

**Pension Application for James Buys, Boyce, Boice, Bouce, Bouse, Buyce, Etc.**

R.1565

Declaration in order to be placed on the Pension List under the Act of the 18<sup>th</sup> March 1818.

State of New York

County of Saratoga SS

On this thirtieth day of December 1829 personally appeared in open court in the Court of Common Pleas in and for the County of Saratoga aforesaid before the Judges of the same court being a Court of Record for the said county James Buys resident in the town of Waterford in said county aged seventy three years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the acts of Congress of the 18<sup>th</sup> March 1818 and the 1<sup>st</sup> of May 1820 and that he the said James Buys enlisted into the Batteaux service for the term of nine months in the last part of the month of February in the year 1776 in the State of New York under Captain William Peters or Peterson of the Quarter-Master Generals department in the Line of the State of New York on the Continental Establishment, that he continued to serve in the Batteaux service under the aforesaid Captain Peters or Peterson (1) until the nine months the term of the enlistment aforesaid was expired when he was discharged from the service in the county of Saratoga in the State aforesaid that through the summer of the year and part of the fall of 1777 deponent was in the militia service (2) and at the taking of Burgoyne, (3) that in the year 1778 deponent again enlisted for the term of nine months in the last of February or first part of March of the year last aforesaid in the state aforesaid under Captain William James (4) of the Quarter Master Generals Department in the line of the State of New York on the Continental Establishment and was employed in the Batteaux service until the last mentioned nine months had elapsed when he was discharged from the service in the town of Fishkill in the County of Dutchess and state aforesaid by Colo. Hayes (5) or Hay then Quarter Master General as deponent believes, that he served the whole of the last mentioned nine months under the aforesaid Captain James that in the year 1779 deponent was again in the militia Service for a term of time and was at the Burning of Stone Robby, (6) and deponent was also again called out in the militia service in the year 1780, that his two discharges are both lost which he received from the regular service as aforesaid, that he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except the present, that his name is not on the Roll of any State except the State of New York, and that the following are the reasons for not making earlier application for a pension, that in or about 1818 he employed James VanSchoonhoven esquire a counselor at Law of the County of Saratoga aforesaid to prepare the necessary papers and make application in behalf of Deponent for the benefit of the aforesaid act, that the said VanSchoonhoven drew the papers for deponent which deponent took to the City of Schenectady for examination and was told they were not made out right, that about that time deponent moved from the County of Saratoga aforesaid to the City of Schenectady, that deponent immediately on his moving there employed John K. Paige Esquire to prepare his papers and make application in deponent's behalf for a pension under the said Act. That said Paige made out deponent's papers accordingly and that while deponent was searching for witnesses to prove his service the aforesaid Mr. Paige was appointed clerk of the Supreme Court of this State and moved from Schenectady aforesaid to the City of Albany and abandoned the practice of the Law, that deponent has made repeated application to the aforesaid Mr. Paige for the aforesaid papers, but has never been able to obtain them Mr. Paige alledging [alleging] that they have been lost or mislaid, that since the aforesaid Mr. Paige was appointed Clerk as aforesaid deponent has made applications to a number of different Lawyers, but has never succeeded in getting one to go on with the business for deponent till now, some have alledged that they knew nothing about the law, others for other reasons have declined

undertaking the business, and deponent himself has been incapable to do it, the poverty of deponent has also been such as to render it difficult for deponent to procure the necessary things to be done preparatory to the application.

And in pursuance of the Act of the 1<sup>st</sup> May 1820, I do solemnly swear that I was a resident citizen of the United States on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby to diminish it, so as to bring myself within the provisions of an Act of Congress entitled "An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the Land and Naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War", passed on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818, and that I have not, nor has any person in trust for me any property or securities, contracts or debts due to me; nor have I any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed, that I am and have been for a number of years past, a constable of the town of Waterford in the County of Saratoga aforesaid, that I am illy able to pursue the business and am not able to do, and in fact to do but my little business in that capacity, and that the proceed thereof are little more than nominal—in addition to which the said office is an annual one depending on a popular election—that my wife is aged seventy two years, and is able to do but little work, and that she and myself compose my whole family—that since the 18<sup>th</sup> March 1818 very few changes have taken place in my property and none of any consequence as to amount. That my property is now worth rather more than it was on the said 18<sup>th</sup> March 1818, that deponent knows of no person either who knows the fact of his having been enlisted or having served in the regular service of the United States as herein before set forth or in any manner. (Signed) James Buys.

Sworn to and declared on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of December 1829, in open court, Thomas Palmer, Clerk.  
Schedule.

I have a durable Lease for about one eighth of an acre of land, subject to a rent of \$3.50 per annum which is the full value of the use of the land, on which lot I have a house worth about 100 dollars.

One cow worth 15 dollars, one pig \$1.50. A stove and pipe \$16. Two iron kettle 75 cents, tea kettle 37 ½ cents 6 chairs \$1.50, 6 plates and 6 tea-cups & saucers 75 cents, 6 knives and fork 50 cents, barrel of pork made of one hog raised by myself worth 10 dollars, ten bushels of potatoes \$2.50, ½ barrel of pickles \$1.50, 20 head of cabbage \$1.25, four old barrels and casks 50 cents, one Doz. hens \$1.50, 3 axes 75 cents, one pick 75 cents, 2 hoes 38 ½ cents. (Signed) James Buys

End Notes—R.1565—James Buys

1. Captain William Peters or Peterson's Company would be considered civilians working for the Military and would have been part of the Quarter-Master Generals Department. So far a muster roll for this company has not been found.
2. James' pension application fi only 10 pages including the cover page. He never identifies the regiment he served in but a James Bouse or Boyce etc. appears as a private in Captain Thomas Wasson's Company, Captain Jellis J. Fonda's First Company and Captain Abraham Oothout's Company in Colonel Abraham Wemple's Second Regiment of Albany County Militia.
3. Lieutenant General John Burgoyne invaded the State of New York from Canada by the way of Lakes Champlain and George. He used the Hudson River and Valley heading towards Albany. He reached Stillwater and after several skirmishes and two major battles he surrendered the remnants of his army on October 17, 1777 to Major Horatio Gates. Colonel Wemple's Regiment served at various times in this Campaign.

4. Two muster rolls exist for this company. James enlisted as a private on April 23, 1778 in Captain William James' Company of Bateauxmen. On the second muster roll for November 1 to December 23, 1778 he is listed as sick in Albany Hospital. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 122, folder 78, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
5. Udney Hay was the Assistant deputy Quartermaster General with the rank as lieutenant colonel.
6. Stone Arabia was burned on October 19, 1780 by forces under Lieutenant Colonel Sir John Johnson. James' service was probably while in Colonel Wemple's Regiment.