

Pension Application for Jacob Clauson

R.2024

State of New York

County of Putnam SS.

On this seventh day of February in the year of our Lord 1833 personally appeared before the court of Common Pleas of the said County of Putnam Jacob Clauson a resident of the town of Kent in the County of Putnam and State of New York aged seventy four years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he entered the military service under the following named officers & served as herein after stated.

That in the year 1776 he lived in the town of Claverac [Claverack] in Albany County (now Columbia County) in the State of New York, was living within the beat of Capt Jeremiah Miller's company of Militia and in the Regiment of Colonel Robert VanRensselaer in the spring of the year 1776 fourteen men were imprisoned in Albany & sentenced to be hung it was reported that the Tories intended to rescue them.

Col. Robert VanRensselaer ordered out two companies of his regiment to go to Albany to Guard the imprisoned men so that the tories should not rescue them.

The company of Jeremiah Miller was one of the companies ordered about on this service. This declarant went as one of that company to Albany and remained there one month and three days. The persons imprisoned & condemned were Tories & were condemned for plundering the Whits whilst at Albany on this expedition Major Asselstine was the next in command above a captain.

In the month of August in the same year 1776 Col. Robert VanRensselaer called his regiment together & picked out ninety men & put them under the command of Capt Lawrence Funday & ordered them to the Nine Partners in the County of Dutchess. This declarant was one of the ninety men selected as aforesaid & put under the command of Capt Funday they went to the Nine Partners. Soon after the company arrived Col. Robt VanRensselaer, came & gave to Capt Funday the names of many Tories in that vicinity & ordered him to fetch them in & confine them in the meeting house which was near at hand. The company was employed in this business & in protecting the country for some time until the number of persons apprehended amounted to two hundred & fourteen, when Capt Funday was ordered to take them to Exeter in the State of New Hampshire a distance said to be two hundred & fifty miles.

Capt Funday's company started with the prisoners & marched with them to Exeter aforesaid. This declarant continued with said company at Nine Partners & on their march in Exeter on their return they separated & came in small bodies to be [?] commanded on the way, this declarant got back on the third or fourth day of December having served faithfully from the time he was put under the command of Capt. Funday as aforesaid in August until his return in December making a period of three months & some days. During the time Capt. Funday's company was at Nine Partners as aforesaid Killian VanRensselaer was the commissary who furnished the provision for the company.

Early in the year 1777, it was reported that the tories were collecting in a large body about twenty miles North East of Albany. Col. Robt VanRensselaer called together his regiment of Militia and selected thirty or forty men and of the number was this declarant and put them under the command of Lieut. Yocum Miller and ordered them to Half Moon Point. The company thus under Lieut Yocum Miller marched to first of March to Half Moon Point and whilst there [?] a house of Samuel TenBroeck the duty was to guard the country; prevent plundering & keep the tories in check. The company remained at Half Moon Point until the first part of June, when the company returned home this declarant having served faithfully in said company for three months on their return from this service when they arrived as far as Kinderhook it was reported that a body of tories was collected about three miles off [?] of returning directly home Lieut Miller marched his company to the place where it was expected the Tories would be

found. When they arrived they learned that a party from Kinderhook under the command of VanBuren had just been routed then one of the Tories was wounded in his attempt to escape the family who attacked the house brought the wounded man in & laid him on the bed. Declarant saw him & his wound which was in the small of the back, on the third of June the company returned home & were discharged.

On the fifteenth of the same month of June 1777. Col. Robt VanRensselaer called his regiment together & detailed one half of them to go to Fort Edward, Adam Rivers with whom the declarant lived as detailed as one of the men, this declarant took his place. Capt Casher Hawk commanded the company to which declarant belonged and marched with them to Fort Edward either two or three companies were at this time detached from Col. VanRensselaer's Regiment. Capt. Bortle commanded one of the companies Major Richard Asselstine had the command of all the men thus taken from VanRensselaer's regiment. The company to which declarant belonged was at Fort Edward when Ticonderoga was given up. When at Fort Edward Gen. Schuyler had the command of the troops, a large number were then assembled at that place. The morning after the news of the surrender of Ticonderoga was rec'd the declarant was stationed as a sentinel on the road from Fort Edward to Lake George with orders to let none [?] up without a [?] to let all come down who chose.

Whilst declarant was thus stationed two officers whom declarant did not know with three aids come up the road & declarant refused to let them pass without a pass from Gen Schuyler one of the officers replied to the declarant that he could have no such orders for he had just left Gen. Schuyler who said nothing about it to him. Declarant refused to let them pass until one of the aids went to the captain & got no other satisfaction there, that there was the sentinel & he knew his duty. The aid then went to General Schuyler, the other four remaining upon their horses in the road.

The aid returned with a pass & also said that Gen Schuyler told him such order had been given but it escaped him at the moment they left him. General Parsons was one of the officers so stated by declarant where they passed Gen. Parsons said to declarant he was glad to see a soldier do his duty on the same day last aforesaid Major Asselstine's troops were ordered to march to Fort Ann, whether declarant with his company went or rather got within about four miles of that place when they met the American forces retreating & assistance troops were ordered in the rear of the retreating army and continued for some time to march in the rear where the progress of the army was so much impeded, by the wounded men in front that fifty of Haselsteins men were ordered in force to assist the wounded on their retreat, declarant was one of the fifty ordered in front & when there he was one of seven who carried a wounded soldier nine miles westward over putting him down & finally carried him safe to Fort Edward.

The second day after the return to Fort Edward as aforesaid Major Asselstine, troops were ordered to join General Glover's Brigade of Continentals & that Brigade then marched on the Fort Ann Road as far as Kingsbury & remained there several days. General Glover caused the road to be filled with timbers & trees to be felled across it which was done at this time.

Whilst Grovers Brigade lay at Things [?] some Indians took two waggons with provisions & stores which were coming from Lake George to Fort Edward, Stephen Miller was one of the waggerons, belonged to the regiment with declarant & was his neighbor when at home. The next day or next but one the army fell back a few miles crossed a small stream & took up the bridge t=here they met General Parsons with Continental troops & two pieces of [?] cannon. The army remained here until the provisions &c were carried down the river to StillWater. The army fell down to that place and west side of the river, shortly after they again fell back to the Island in the mouth of the Mohawk.

During this retreat many of the officers had left the army & declarant was at some times under the command of Major Ford of Col. VanNess's regiment & some time under the command of command of Colonel VanShanham.

While on the Islands aforesaid General Gates took the command of the army, and a general call being made for the militia from all quarters, those who had been a long time in the service were

discharged. He was on the fourth day of September when declarant & all of [Hasetstine's?] troops who remained were dismissed & this deponent says that on this occasion he was faithfully performing duty as a soldier for two months and nineteen days. He had but just got home when on the fifteenth of the same month of September in 1777 Major Asselstine collected as many as he could to go down the river to prevent the enemy from coming up. Went as far as Livingston's Manor [Manor] & was there when Kingston was burned, General Putnam came to the place where they lay. Thus obliged & employment was to watch the enemy followed them down the river, until the enemy entered the Highlands when declarant & those with him crossed the river at Fishkill & went to New Windsor & there remained until it was understood the enemy had returned to New York when they returned to Fishkill landing & was discharged on the twelfth day of November.

This service was two months wanting three days.

In the next year 1778 on the first of March Col. Robert VanRensselaer again called his regiment together & selected men for two companies & put them under the command of Major Harry VanRensselaer, this declarant was one of the men so selected, they were ordered to Kinderhook there to join Col John VanAlstine's Regiment, they did join that regiment & the [?] with them & marched to Albany from thence up the Mohawk to Johnstown where there was a picket fort with barracks which remained here keeping guard & scouring the woods, for Indians they [?] only enemies in that section of the country until the twentieth of June when they marched for home & on the twenty fourth Col. VanAlstine discharged the troops at his own house in Kinderhook aforesaid on this occasion declarant faithfully served three months and twenty four days.

In the fall of the same year 1778 declarant removed with the aforesaid Adam Rivers to the south part of Dutchess County from thence into Westchester County & remained there until the spring of 1779, when I went into Dutchess County at Fredericksburgh. Col. Henry Ludington had called out his regiment & this declarant volunteered as he did not belong to the regiment & was put into Capt Heaths or [Kitebeach's?] Company marched to Fishkill from thence in the Highlands. The enemy were at Gallows Hill near Peekskill. The militia were all called out to repel them. General Washington was in command at Fishkill after a little time the enemy retreated & the militia were discharged on this occasion the declarant was in the service one month.

In the fall of the year 1779 declarant returned to Westchester Co. and there belonged to Capt. Samuel Haight's company of Militia, in the regiment commanded by Col. John Hyatt, from this time until the close of the war the declarant was much in the service on one occasion and declarant believes it was in 1780 the whole of Col. Hyatt's Regiment was called out & went to Rye declarant was along as a private in Capt Haight's, the regiment was out from nine to twelve days during which time declarant was in the service. Where declarant lived was a place much harassed by Tories and cowboys, all the persons in the neighborhood were kept constantly alarmed & collected without any officers at the corners of the roads & at [?] places by night & by day to arrest Tories & protect property from the depredations of cowboys, it often happened that declarant was out on this kind of duty three & four nights in a week & it was very [?] that a week passed without some service of this kind. This kind of service continued from the fall of 1779 until the close of the war, and how much time declarant [?] it is now impossible for him to recollect, but he believes it cannot in less than six months service.

This declarant hereby relinquishes all claim to a pension or annuity except the present, and that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

This declarant was born in the town of Stamford in the State of Connecticut on the 7th of July 1758. This declarant has no record of his age.

This declarant lived in Claverack in the State of New York at all times when he entered the service until the fall of 1779. & when he entered in Ludington's regiment he had no permanent resident. Since the revolution this declarant has resided in Somers in Westchester County and in the County of Putnam. Declarant was at all times selected by Col. VanResnellear when he went into the

service except on it occasion when he took the place of Mr. Rivers & excepting when he volunteered in Col. Ludington's Regiment.

During the term declarant was in the service he knew Capt. Jeremiah Miller, Lieut Yocum Miller, Major Richard Asselstine, Major Henry VanRensselaer, Col. Robert VanRensselaer, Gen. Schuyler, General Glover, General Parsons, Major Ford, col. VanSchoonhouse, Col. VanAlstine, Col. Henry Ludington, Col. John Hyatt, Capt Samuel Haight, the other officers not now recollected.

Declarant never received any written discharge from the service & never knew one given to a militiaman.

This declarant has no documentary evidence & no evidence in his power except the evidence of John Miller which is hereto annexed, that since the revolution he has not been into that part of the state where he lived & performed the aforesaid service since he remained in 1778 to Westchester County.

(Signed) Jacob Clauson

Sworn and subscribe in open court February 7th 1833. J. Morehouse, Clerk of said Court