

Pension Application for Samuel Darby

S.12741

State of New York

County of Saratoga SS

On this 25th day of December 1832, personally appeared in open court before the Court of Common Pleas in & for the County of Saratoga now sitting at Ballston Spa Samuel Darby of the Town of Malta in the County of Saratoga & State of New York aged eighty 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 Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers & served as herein stated.

To the question, Where and in what year were you born? He answers. In Toconic in the County of Columbia & State of New York—January 30, 1752.

To the question. Have you any record of your age & if so where is it? He answers. In his family Bible (now in his possession at Malta aforesaid). Copied from his Fathers Family Bible.

To the question where were you living when called into service; where have you lived since the Revolutionary War, and where do you now live? He answers. In Kinderhook in the County of Columbia & State of New York, where he lived until the spring of 1779 when he moved to New Britain in said County (now Chatham) where he lived until 1786 when he moved into then Town of Halfmoon (now Malta) in the County of Albany (now Saratoga) and in said State where he continued to live in the said Town of Malta & Halfmoon in the county aforesaid until February 1830, when he & his wife went to the Province of Lower Canada in the place known by the name of Caldwell's Manor, to live with his son John S. Darby where he lived until October 1832 when he & his wife returned to the Town of Malta in the County of Saratoga & State of New York in order to live with his son Peter & where he now lives.

To the question. How were you called into service; were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute? And if a substitute for whom?

He answers. That in 1777 in April or May he went into the service of the United States at Kinderhook in the County of Columbia and State of New York and served in the company of Militia to which he belonged, at the Town & County aforesaid, in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Abraham VanAlstine in the company commanded by Captain Philip VanAlstine, he this deponent was appointed & served as First Sergeant in said Company. He does not recollect the names or name of any other officer or officers in said company, went on an alarm on account of troubles at the North, he was ordered by Captain van Alstine to take a part of the company & marched immediately to Albany, he took about 30 men & marched accordingly to Albany, & from there to Greenbush, received orders by Captain VanAlstine & returned home to Kinderhook having been absent at least a half month, continued at home a few days only when an alarm given that the enemy were advancing from the north.

Colonel VanAlstine gave orders for his regiment to march to the north. That Captain VanAlstine gave to this deponent orders to march with as many men of the said company as he could collect for that purpose, he with about twenty men marched to Albany (The regiment went on in companies & parts of companies & staid at Albany 3 or 4 days preparing to march to the North & then marched to Fort Miller by the way of Stillwater & from there to Fort Edward & Fort George.

We were employed in guarding the teams ordered out by General Schuyler to bring away all military & other stores & to destroy such as they could not bring away to keep from the enemy. We guarded the teams to Fort Edwards, continued there with the Army & he did duty on Guard as Sergeant with the men under his command as aforesaid; he with the said guard were dismissed by the said Captain VanAlstine at Fort Edward aforesaid & returned home to Kinderhook, that in this term he served as a Sergeant aforesaid at least one & one fourth of a month.

Colonel VanAlstine aforesaid was at Fort George with a part of his Regiment which we joined while there but for the most part of the time while on this service did duty separately under my command as aforesaid.

Some Continental & other Militia Regiments were at Fort Edward, does not recollect their names, except General Arnold. That a few days after his return home he was called upon by his said Captain Van Alstine to command a scouting party of our company, in order to apprehend some disaffected persons at Kinderhook, Scodac &c suspected of Harboring the enemy.

That he served in scouting & keeping guard at Kinderhook. Scodoc & town s adjoining through the woods and other by places & was in actual service as first Sergeant & as aforesaid at least one month & returned home in November 1777.

That in the summer of 1778 he continued to serve in Captain VanAlstine's Company aforesaid at Kinderhook aforesaid he continued to do duty as 1st Sergeant that he was called out on duty to command scouting parties several times 2 or 3 & some times 4 or 5 days at a time, on alarms to guard against tories &c, lurking about, seeking to catch men & destroy property that from May 1778 until November 1778 he was in constant service at least one month. That he served as a sergeant in Captain VanAlstine's Company from the 1st July 1777 until November 1778 at least three months & three fourths of a month in manner stated above of which said services he has no documentary evidence and that he does not know of any person living by whom he could prove the same. Colonel Abm. VanAlstine & his Capt. Philip VanAlstine have been dead several years & if he ever had a Sergeant's Warrant, (of which he does not recollect) it has been long since lost or destroyed.

In the spring of 1779 he moved from Kinderhook to New Britain in the said County of Columbia where he was appointed Ensign & received an Ensign's Commission under Captain Jacob Fosburgh in Colonel Asa Waterman's Regiment of Militia, John Thompson was Lieutenant.

In June 1779 at the Town of New Britain aforesaid (now Chatham), in the County of Columbia he received orders from the said Captain Fosburgh to take about 10 or 12 men of said company & with them range through the town & woods & bye

places therein, in order (if possible), to discover and detect the enemy then Harbour'd & secreted by the tory inhabitants in order to harass & plunder the Whig Inhabitants, he with the men aforesaid under his command as aforesaid Ensign marched from New Britain aforesaid to Kinderhook & to Scodoc ranging in suspected places according to orders & in adjoining towns. This rout performed, he with his men returned home & soon after was again called out to perform similar duties at other times he was called upon to command a scout of from 3 to 9 or 10 men to make the tour through the places aforesaid, these calls were frequent & our duty almost constant. That in the course of the services aforesaid we captured several of the enemy who were secreted as aforesaid and delivered them to the guards at New Britain & Concord, that from June 1779 to November following he was in constant service as aforesaid at least four months and did duty as Ensign during the period aforesaid.

He has no documentary evidence of his said services & he knows of no person now living who can testify to his said services the aforesaid officers are all dead several years ago aforesaid, he has no documentary or other evidence of his services aforesaid.

To the question, state the names of some of the Regular officers who were with the troops where you served; such Continental and Militia Regiments as you can recollect, and the general circumstances of your services. He answers & says he can answer no further than he has already answered herein, above.

To the question, did you ever receive a discharge from the service; and if so, by whom was it given, and what has become of it? He answers, he received no discharge, not in writing.

To the question did you ever receive a commission; and if so, by whom was it signed and what has become of it? He answers & says. He received a commission signed by Governor G. Clinton, then Governor of the State of New York by which commission he was made ensign in Colonel Asa Waterman's Regiment of Militia & under Captain Vosburgh as stated herein, which said commission has been lost.

To the question, state the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood, who can testify as to your character for veracity, and their belief or your services as a soldier of the Revolution. He stated the names of Lebeus Armstrong who is a Clergyman living about two miles from this deponent—John Talmage, Samuel Hunter, or Justice of the Peace of said County living about one mile distant from deponent —Jacob Blair, Abraham Whig, Bushnell Benedict a Justice of the Peace of said county James Weeks, Isaac VanHyning.

In August 1780, he was ordered by the said Captain Fosburgh to take with him 7 or 8 men, which he did, and passed through the woods to near Scodoc (on an alarm) in order to discover the rout of the enemy. No discovery was made by us & we returned home after being on duty as aforesaid. Three days, the day after his return home as aforesaid an alarm was made that a mob of about 70 tories had assembled & robbed the House of Jon VanNess of said Town of new Britain or an adjoining Town of New Concord. That the tories had destroyed much property & killed a son of the said John VanNess. He with 8 or 9 men went to the house of the said John VanNess and from there went through the woods in order to espil [expel] the enemy, aforesaid &

returned home. That about 500 men were in pursuit but did not overtake them as they had dispersed & escaped. He with his men aforesaid served in the above rout or term at least half a month.

In the summer of 1781, on an alarm that the enemy had appeared at & near Schoharie and were making great destruction amongst the Inhabitant's he with seven men of his company, marched immediately to Schoharrie & on & through the country where the enemy had made their ravages. That he served in this rout at least three fourths of a month & as ensign aforesaid returned a few days after our return from Schoharrie, on an alarm he this deponent went with 7 or 8 men under his command to Sane lake, where a party of Tories had been lurking about as ensign, we pursued them but they escaped and we returned home after being on duty seven days at Sand Lake & places adjoining & returned home to New Britain.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State. (Signed with his mark) Samuel Darby.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open court. Wm. L. Goodrich, Dep't Clerk

Letter in folder dated January 28, 1839, written in response to an inquiry.

Reference is made to your letter in which you request the Revolutionary War record of Samuel Darby, who served in the New York militia and was a pensioner of Saratoga County, New York, in 1832.

The data which follow are found in the papers on file in pension claim, S.12741, based upon service in the Revolutionary War of Samuel Darby.

Samuel Darby was born January 30, 1752, in Tockonic, (probably meant for Taghkanic) Columbia County, New York; the names of his parents are not shown.

While a resident of Kinderhook, Columbia County, New York, Samuel Darby enlisted in April or May 1777, served as private and sergeant on different short tours until November 1788, in all about four months, in Captain Philip VanAlstyne's company, Colonel Abraham VanAlstyne's New York regiment, during which he was engaged in the spring of 1779 to New Britain (later Chatham), Columbia County, New York; he was appointed in June 1779, ensign, Captain Jacob Vossburgh's company, Colonel Asa Waterman's New York regiment, and served at different times a total of the summer of 1781, amounting in all to at least five and one half months, during which he assisted in capturing a number of the enemy who plundered the property and harassed the inhabitants in that vicinity.

The soldier lived in New Britain, New York, until 1766, when he moved to Half Moon, Saratoga County, that state, and continued to reside there until February 1830, when he and his wife went to Caldwell's Manor, Province of Lower Canada, to live with his son, John S. Darby they remained until October 1832, when they returned to New York State and lived in Malta, Saratoga County, with soldier's son, Peter. The name of the wife of Samuel Darby and the date and place of their marriage are not shown.

Samuel Darby was allowed pension on his application executed December 25, 1832, at which time he resided in Malta (formerly Half Moon, Saratoga County, New York).

In December 1832, John Darby, the soldier's brother, resided in Half Moon or Malts, New York, and had been a Justice of the Peace for Saratoga County for many years. John Darby stated then in the early part of the Revolutionary War and until about two years before the close of that war, he lived in the State of Massachusetts, after which he lived with his brother, Samuel Darby, in New York State.

There are no further data pertaining to the family of this pensioner, Samuel Darby.