

Pension Application for Elijah Drake

W.16243 (Widow: Phebe)

Elijah died July 6, 1834

State of New York

Cayuga County SS.

Elijah Drake of Niles formerly Sempronius in said County being duly sworn deposes and says that during the Revolutionary War he resided about eight miles from and in the immediate neighborhood of Crompond in the County of WestChester and State of New York that he resided immediately upon the lines between the British and American Armies so much so that it was impossible for him to attend to any civil employment with any degree of Safety or Proffit—that some party of Col. Drakes Regiment & residing farther up in the County and more remote from the lines could attend to their ordinary business with more safety and consequently did not engage in sais service except when regularly drafted or otherwise called into service to perform their regular tours of duty—that he the said Drake was not regularly ordered into service for the length of time mentioned in his declaration heretofore made by any law of the state or the United States but that he entered & contain said service voluntarily and from choice owing to the fact that he could not & should not have been engaged in his ordinary business without leaving his home and going back farther from the lines, and from the scene of constant skirmishing and depredation which was carried on at and near his residence.

That his place of residence was so near Crompond, the general place of rendezvous of the American troops in that section of the country a place where a greater or less number of troops were kept constantly stationed, that it would have been of but little use for him to engage in agricultural pursuit if he had been disposed to do so. That the country around Crompond was a constant scene of skirmishing carried on between detachments of the British troops and Americans as they came in contact in ranging the country—

That Col. Samuel Drake lived about one half mile from the father's house of this deponent—that Capt Boyd lived about four miles from Crompond & Major Strang lived in Crompond and also his Lieut Col. John Hiat – that Col. Luddinton held the command of the troops at Crompond a part of the time – he further says that the soldiers in his company were mostly or all volunteers like himself.

And that here was no regular relief in the company under his command as in other militia companies, but that his company was kept full by volunteers who came in & filled the places of those who left said company that said volunteers were not confined to the men living in the beat of his own company but many of them came in from other companies –

He further says that his services were continued without any interruption during the whole time except once in a while when he would obtain leave of absence for a half day or a day to go home and visit his friends but that his whole term of absence as eh believes as above stated would not amount to one month—that during the whole time of his service as Lieutenant as aforesaid he was a member of the Court

Martial at Crompond and was frequently called upon to act upon the trial of delinquents for some misconduct either as soldiers or for holding unlawful intercourse with the enemy such as carrying them provisions, or giving them information of the movement of the American troops—that after the close of the war he was also a member of the board of Court Martial to try torys for their conduct during the was and that during his services as a member of said last mentioned court, was the first time according to his best recollection of his having signed his name “Elijah Drake” instead of “Major Drake” —that detachments or parties of troops were kept constantly on the lines to guard them and given notice of the approach of the enemy.—

That said parties were sent out from Crompond and were regularly relieved as eh believes once in about three weeks.

That he this deponent took his regular tour as commander of such guard but how many times he was so out he does not now remember—

That when not so on guard he was frequently engaged in scouting through the surrounding country—that when not so engaged as aforesaid the returned to Crompond and continued stationed there until it became necessary to go out again.—

He further says that the country around Crompond was kept in a constant state of agitation and alarm by the depredations of the enemy who came out in small parties to plunder—and also by the depredations of the torys and cowboys—

And this deponent further says that he might go on and set forth different tours of service during said term for the purpose of giving satisfaction to the war department, but that such statement would he as he believes an unjustifiable prevarication and untrue in fact; and that he cannot consent to do so although he may be deprived of a pension by the means thereof.

He further says that during the whole time there was equal need of a complete organization of troops in the winter as well as the summer.—and that the incursions of the enemy were more frequent in the winter than in the summer.

That Col. Sheldons Regiment of Horse were stationed part of the time about twelve miles from Crompond, and parties of said horse frequently patrolled the country around Crompond—He further says that he never was drafted, or served as a substitute for others—that he would probably have been drafted had he not continued voluntarily in service as aforesaid.

That other of said regiment only served when regularly drafted or called into service by authority and then continued in service until the time for which they were called into service had expired—that detachments of regular troops frequently stopped at Crompond and remained a short time, but that no such detachments were regularly stationed there for any length of time—that there was a Continental Regiment stationed about four miles off for about six months at one time and Crompond was frequently visited by Continental Officers. (Signed with his mark) Elijah Drake

Sworn & subscribed this 21st day of March 1834 before me. Chauncey Abbot, Justice of the Peace.