

Pension Application for Jonathan Gazlay

S.23650

State of New York

County of Cortland SS.

On this twenty third day of August 1833, personally appeared before me, Oliver Kingman, one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the county of Courtland aforesaid Jonathan Gazlay, a resident of the town of Willet in the said county of Cortland and State of New York, 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 benefit of the Act of Congress, passed June 7th 1832.

That he was born at a place, then called Charlotte Precinct now the town of Clinton in the County of Dutchess and State of New York in the Year 1760.

That eh has no record of his age, but thinks there is a record of it in the hands of his sister in the town of Balltown and the County of Saratoga and State of New York in the family bible. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein after stated.

That in the spring of the year 1776, he, then living at said town of Clinton in his fathers family, with his fathers consent volunteered into the service of his country, and joined Capt. Conklin & Company of Militia, at Poughkeepsie in the Regiment of Col. Freer—Reuben Spencer was Lieut. of the Company.

He cannot remember the names of any other officer this tour. He cannot remember the month he entered the service. On joining said company and regiment at Poughkeepsie he went therewith to Fishkill & from thence by Peekskill to Croton River, and lay there two months keeping guard—there was no other troops in Company—at the end of two months went to Peekskill and was there dismissed—Was dismissed by the Colonel –no written discharge—The service consisted wholly in keeping guard—He thus served as private—

That he again in the month of June or forepart of July, 1777 volunteered at said Clinton where he resided, in the company of Capt. Delavan and joined said company at Poughkeepsie—That he thinks said company joined the Regiment of Col. Swartwout but is not certain—

The regiment left Poughkeepsie and marched by Fishkill to Peekskill and there joined other troops—He thinks his regiment was attached to Gen. Parsons Brigade—

He recollects Gen. Putnam was there and had command—Gen. Varnum was there with his brigade—

He thinks Col. Webb, land Col. Brown were there in Parson's brigade – The troops lay in this place for some time doing common duty and guarding the country— While the declarant was here an alarm was made and the troops mostly, with Gen. Putnam, left the place and went & he was informed up the North river to watch the movement of Sir Henry Clinton who declarant heard was going to the relief of Gen. Burgoyne—At this time the declarant was sick in the barracks—

He was carried form the barracks to Crum Pond where he lay sick, he believes, three weeks, when he was again removed to the Red Mills, lay there about eight days,

when he was again removed back to Crum Pond, and remained there till his brother came home after him and carried him home, he still being very sick and law, he got thus home after a service in this tour of at least four months—The foregoing services were as a private of Infantry—

That at said Clinton where he resided then, he again volunteered in the Spring of 1778 as he believes, and joined the company of Capt. Samuel Smith at Poughkeepsie and went from thence to West Point and joined Col. Herrick's regiment—Col. Herrick, told me that I should have the [birth?] and do the duty of quarter master of the Regiment—That deponent entered upon said duty, in said regiment and continued in the same doing duty at West Point for six successive months, when he was discharged by the Colonel as well as the whole Regiment, he believes.

He received no written discharge, nor did any of the regiment to his knowledge—Gen. Glover had chief command he believes during the tour—Kosciusko, was there as Engineer—The regiment to which deponent belonged was Militia—Whether there was any other militia regiment at the place he does not know—but a large number of other troops, being continental as he understood & believes—He is not certain but this last tour was in the year 1779—but thinks it was in 1778—

The next tour he served was in 1779 as he believes—when he again entered the service at his old residence, Clinton aforesaid—He again volunteered and entered said service in the spring of said year, and joined the company of Capt. Newcomb at Fishkill, in the Regiment of Col. Freer or Col. Humphrey and he is not certain which—The regiment was some part of the time under different commanders—

The regiment continued at Fishkill about three months doing common duty and guarding the country, when it left there and went to West Point, where he continued with it, for three months more when he was dismissed at West Point and went home—

He was in the service this tour for six months as aforesaid—He did the duty of Lieutenant this entire tour, and part of the time had the command of the company when Capt. Newcomb was absent, this was for most of said tour—it is so long since said services, that he is in much uncertainty whether this tour of three months at Fishkill and three months at West Point was in 1778 or 1779—He may be in mistake [sic] and have put one service for one years, and the other for the other he served as aforesaid, as a Lieutenant in one of those years—and the other as a quarter master as above related.—

He had no commission, as such, in either year—he received from the Colonels a warrant simply to perform such duty – and such he did—

That in the spring of the year, 1780 still residing at said Clinton, he again volunteered as a private soldier in the company of Capt. Delavan and joined the regiment at Fishkill barracks, under the command of Major VanBenscoten of Poughkeepsie and went from Fishkill to West Point where he served in said company and regiment for two months, when learning his family was sick at home and needed his services there, he hired a substitute to serve out his term which was for five months, and he, at the time, understood and believed that he served out said term—

This deponent on getting said substitute was allowed to go home, Capt. Delavan, then giving him a written discharge, which has been lost or destroyed.—

That while he was at West Point he was engaged in the ordinary duties of the station, fortifying the place, and the services, and doing common duty.

He was never engaged in any battle while in the service.

He recollects Gen McDougal at West Point, and Capt. Churchman in addition to others before named—and Baron Steuben at Fishkill, being officers at those places while he was there as aforesaid.—

That by reason of old age and the length of time which has elapsed he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his services, nor can he recollect the names of officers more particularly now than he has stated. He thinks, if they were named, he could then call them to mind more easily—

His services were therefore as a private soldier of infantry in the whole for eight months—and for six months I served as a Lieutenant, under the Warrant of my Colonel, not having a commission—and for six months I served as a quarter master, under a colonel's Warrant, not having a commission—All of my said services were done as a Volunteer in the Militia—and for such services I claim a pension—I do not know whether my said services as a Lieut. to Quarter Master without a commission, will entitled me to the Rank and pay of such officers—if not, I trust they will to that of a private—I [?] it to the Department.

He has no documentary proof whatever of his said services—for the Warrants he received he laid many years ago among old papers [?] and he has not seen them for many years—They are either lost or destroyed—and he never rec'd a written discharge, except the one from Capt. Delavan—He does not now know of any person he can procure by whom he can prove his services—

That for many years immediately after the Revolutionary War, he resided in said Clinton, his native town, after which he removed to his present residence in Willet, Cortland County, State of New York, where he has ever since resided, being for over twenty seven years.

He is known, and has been, he believes, ever since he has lived in Cortland County, to John Kingman and Reuben Fish, in his present neighborhood, and who can testify as to his character for truth and veracity, and their beliefs of his services as a soldier of the revolution.

That there is no clergyman in their town of Willet, nor is there any in the neighborhood, a vicinity convenient to be called upon, and such has resided in Cincinnati, but a short time, and with whom I have not conversed.

That 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—That owing to his infirmity of body, he does not feel able to attend the sitting of the court to make this declaration, that he resides above twenty miles from the Court House in his county, the roads are quite bad, and he is too feeble and infirm to attend. (Signed) Jonathan Gazlay

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid—before me. Oliver Kingman, Judge of Courtland County Courts.