

Pension Application for David Hand

S.23256

Suffolk County SS.

Personally appeared Samuel. L. Homediewe aged 86 years and a person to me well known & of good character who being duly sworn on oath by me deponent and saith that about the year 1776 he knew a certain Schooner called the spy commanded by Capt. Robert Miles on armed vessel and always understood he was a public armed vessel and does verily believe she was a public armed vessel before me the 10th day of July 1833. Saml L. Hommedue

J.B Havens Justice Peace

State of New York

County of Suffolk SS.

On this 2d day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty two personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the said County of Suffolk David Hand a resident of the Town of Southampton in said County of Suffolk and state of New York aged seventy three years who being 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 entered the service of the United States under the following named officers—to wit ___ Myers Captain ___ Thomas Colonel and Richard Montgomery General in the month of August in the year 1775 at Elizabeth Town in the State of New Jersey—for the term of one year. That he served two months of said service when the company received orders to join the Regiment and march to Canada. That he had permission to remain behind in consequence of being too unwell.

That afterwards, to wit on the first day of April 1776 he entered the naval service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated namely Robert Niles Captain, Timothy Parker first Lieutenant, and ___ Smith second Lieutenant, and sailing master [Kuris Wood associate sailing master—Benjamin Mortimer, Boatswain Benjamin Blankeny, Gunner Josiah Cary Carpenter.

That he continued to serve until the first day of January following.

And that he resided in the Town of Southampton County of Suffolk and State of New York when he entered the service.

That he served on board the National Schooner Spy. That the American Admiral Hopkins commanded the [?] the Columbus, the Andrewdore and the Cabott—Which Squadron was engaged by a British naval force between Montauk Point and Block Isle and – The Spy at the time of the aforesaid engagement was lying in the Harbor of New London—that after the said engagement and while the spy was lying in the Harbor of New London Admiral Hopkins, fleet entered the said Harbor of New London with the dead and wounded of his crews.

That he the said applicant had permission from Capt. Niles to return to his father at Stowington in Connecticut when he left the said schooner and service.

That he has no documentary evidence but that Nathan Fordham and Josiah Hand both of the Town of Southampton aforesaid can testify to his service.

He hereby relinquishes every claim 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 he was born in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and fifty nine.

That he has a record of his age which record is at present in the possession of his brother Gideon Hand. That he has lived in the parish of Sag Harbor in the Town of Southampton aforesaid.

Since the Revolutionary War and that he now lives there—that he entered the naval service as a volunteer. (Signed) David Hand

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. Joseph A. Hunting, Clk

Letter in folder dated December 2, 1936, written in response to an inquiry.

The data which follow were found in the papers on file in pension claim, S.23256, based upon service in the Revolutionary War of David Hand.

David Hand was born in the year 1759; the day of his birth, place of his birth, and the names of his parents are not shown. His father was living in Stonington, Connecticut, about the year 1777. David had a brother, Gideon Hand.

While a resident of Southampton, Suffolk County, New York, David Hand enlisted in August 1775, at Elizabeth Town, New Jersey, as a private in Captain Myers' company, Colonel Thomas' regiment under General Richard Montgomery to go to Quebec, was taken sick with fever while in a camp near the Hudson River, length of this service two months. On April 1, 1776, he entered the United States Naval service, when as a marine on board the armed vessel, "Spy", commanded by Captain Robert Miles, lay in the harbor at New London, Connecticut, and was discharged about January 1777; he had permission then to return to his father in Stonington, Connecticut. David Hand served subsequently on private armed vessels, names not given, was taken prisoner and held on the old Jersey prison ship, being one of the few to survive the pestilence.

After the Revolutionary War, he resided in Sag Harbor Parish, Southampton County, New York. He died there March 1, 1840; his son, Robert F. Hand, was executed of his father's estate. The name of the wife of David Hand is not shown, nor the date and place of their marriage, and date of her death; however, she died before the death of her husband.

March 5, 1855, Robert F. Hand, of Sag Harbor, Suffolk County, New York, applied for the pension which was due him and the other surviving children of David Hand on account of service in the Revolutionary War. The claim was allowed. The names of the other four surviving children were given by Robert F. Hand as follow: Sarah Pierson, widow of the late James Pierson; Clara (Clarissa), the wife of Oliver State, Susan, wife of Abraham Vail; and Julia, the widow of the late David Hand, Jr. They were all of Sag Harbor, Suffolk County, New York. Julia, the widow of David Hand, Jr., was living then with her children—David H., Silas, and Louisa Hand; Julia's maiden name is not shown, nor the date of death of her husband, David Hand, Jr.

In 1855, Susan and Abraham Vail stated that they were present at the death of the soldier, David Hand, in 1840.

In August 1832, one Josiah Hand was a resident of Sag Harbor, New York, and made affidavit in regard to the service of David Hand in the Revolutionary War, but did not state any relationship between them. In 1832, the soldier referred to his brother, Gideon Hand.