

Pension Application for Stephen Hawkins

W.19700 (Widow: Mary)

State of New York

Jefferson County SS.

On this 11th day of September in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred & thirty two honorably appeared in open Court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in & for the county of Jefferson aforesaid now sitting Stephen Hawkins a resident of the town of Henderson, County & State aforesaid and seventy one years last December, 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 entered the service of the United Sates under the following named officers & served as herein stated, to wit; in the month of April 1776 but the day of the month he does not recollect, he enlisted as a private soldier in the militia, Niskauna [Niskayuna], about two miles from Albany in the State of New York in a company commanded by Capt. John Collins of the New York militia for the term of five months – One Gray was Lieut of the company & one VanDyke was the Col. Of the Regiment— and one TenEyck Lieut, Col. & one Gansevoort was Major.

He immediately after enlisting into the Regiment at Lake George where he remained about six weeks & was then marched to Ticonderoga where he remained about six weeks & was then marched to Ticonderoga where he remained two or three months—While at Fort George & Ticonderoga he performed garrison duties only.

From Ticonderoga he went to what was called the New City from Lansingsburgh where he remained a few days & was marched to Fort Edward where the remained until the expiration of the five months for which he enlisted & was then discharged from service from the Col. of the regiment & went home. Genl Schuyler had the command of Fort Edward, when he was there.

In the month of March 1777, he again enlisted at Albany for the term of nine months in the Batteau service in a company commanded by Capt. VanEvery & went immediately into service—The company were first ordered to Saratoga where they went & were employed in Cutting logs to saw in order to build the barracks at Saratoga & remained there about six or seven weeks.

He then went back with the company to Albany & there remained until the expiration of the nine months & was there & then discharged. While he remained or was stationed at Albany he was engaged in carrying prisoner's munitions of war, soldiers &c up & down the Hudson River, with Batteau. One Col. Lewis had the command of the men engaged in the Batteau, service at Albany.

About the first of May 1778 he again enlisted at Albany for the term of eight months in Capt. Fisher's company of Batteausmen & continued the whole time for which he enlisted in discharging & performing similar services to those he performed under the last enlistment herein before mentioned. The same Col. Lewis had the command, during this last period of service. He was discharged by Capt. Fisher & went home the fore part of Jany following—

In the month of May following he again enlisted in a company commanded by Capt. Wood for the term of seven months at Fishkill in the State of New York. The company belonged to the New York Militia—Col. Baldwin commanded the Regiment—He does not recollect the Lieut Colonel's name—was VanBenscouten or something like it.

He went into service immediately after his enlistment & the Regiment remained one or two days at Fishkill & then marched to Poughkepsie [Poughkeepsie] where [?] arrived in the afternoon & the next morning it was directed & that portion of the Regiment that he continued with, went directly to a town lying back of Esopus, which was called [Mapin, Chapin, Hapin?] where he remained about four or five weeks & then started to meet Genl Sullivan in the Indian country—under the command of the aforesaid major—from [Mapin?] he went with his portion of the Regiment to a place called Chemung in the western part of the State of New York, where it was ascertained that Genl. Sullivan had left & been gone six days. The number of days that he (Sullivan had been gone was ascertained by means of a letter found sticking upon a tree. A Council was then held by the officers to determine whether it was best to follow Genl Sullivan, or to return—There were three companies there, but he does not recollect the names of any of the officers except his captain (Wood) & Major Benscouten.

The officers concluded not to go on any further & all returned back to Mapin where we started home. He was absent on said tour about three weeks—He remained at Mapin until he was discharged, & had served out the time for which he enlisted being about the first of December following. He was discharged by the aforesaid major & returned home.

He never had any written discharge from the service, at any time during the war.

Some time in the month of May 1780 he again enlisted for six months in a company commanded by Capt. Isaac Bogart/not Capt Adial Sherwood as stated in the affidavits of John Hathaway & Benjamin Knapp hereunto annexed. They are mistaken in that part of their affidavits as they belonged to Capt. Sherwoods company & he belonged to Capt. Bogarts company. We all belonged to the same Regiment, which was commanded by Col. John Harper. He immediately went into service & joined the regiment at Schoharie

He performed duties as a soldier in one of the Fortes [Forts] at Schoharie & also on guard. He remained there about three months & a half, under the command of Col. Harper & then went to Fort Stanwix & had remained there about two months when he was sent out on a scouting party & was taken a prisoner at a place called [Cauesorayd?] – Col. Switt had the command of Fort Stanwix when he was there. Capt. Isaac Drake had the command of the scouting party when he was taken prisoner—Capt. Walter Forman also had command & Lieut Phelps—There were sixty three men including officers—Maj Carlton had the command of the enemys forces when he was taken prisoner. The number of the enemy including Indians was from

six to seven hundred.—He was taken with the other prisoners by water to Montreal, passing through a [?] thence [?] Lake Ontario & the River St. Lawrence—

At Montreal he was shut up tight in close confinement in a large stone house belonging to one Forbush & kept [?] the fore part of November until some time in the month of Sept. following about ten months—

He was let out of prison & went as a prisoner & staid with one John Lawes about three months during which time he had to report himself every day. He was then put in confinement in another stone building [?] by the Provost guard & kept a few days & then sent on to Prison Island at [Quota DuLake?] where he remained about three months. He was then removed a the Fort which was on the main shore at the [Quota?] ironed & confined in a dungeon three days & nights.

Here he was h'd only once a day & in the evening – On the night of the third day, after he as confined, he succeeded in making a hole through the wall & made his escape & went to Montreal & was then there taken prisoner--& was again confined in the guardhouse at Montreal where he had by bolts put on to him. He was there confined about three weeks & there sent to Quebeck [Quebec] where he was again & on the 15th day of April confined in a person & there kept a prisoner until the 1st day of October following—He was there taken out & put on board of the transport & went to Ne York, where he arrived in six weeks after leaving Quebeck—He was exchanged at Quebeck, before he went on board of the transport.

At New York he was put on board of the sloop Relief & carried to Dobb's Ferry, about sixteen miles up the North River & there set at liberty—by the officer who had the command of the guard at that place. He then returned home as soon as possible—He never had any written discharge or written evidence of his services nor does he know of any person living except Benjamin Knapp & John Hathaway, whose affidavits in hereto annexed who can testify to his services.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. (Signed with his mark) Stephen Hawkins, in presence of Thos. Cox

Sworn & subscribed the day & year aforesaid. P. Burchard, Clerk