

Pension Application for Philip Hemstrat

S.23257 [This rambles a lot!]

Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

State of New York

County of Schoharie SS.

On this 27th day of August 1832 personally appeared before me Silvanus Parkinson one of the Justices of the Peace in and for the County of Schoharie Philip Hemstrat a resident of the town of Root Montgomery County State aforesaid—Aged 82 or 83 years in Oct'r next, 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 and served as herein stated.

1st was born in the town of WaterVliet a little above the City of Albany in the year 1749 or 50, now 82 or 83 years of age next Oct.

2nd has no record of his age.

3rd lived in the same place when the War of the Revolution commenced and until the year 1809 then moved to the town of Root Montgomery County State of New York at which place he has resided until the present date (being about 23 years in said town).

4th he cannot recollect whether he was in the service in the year 1775 or not, but it was about 7th April in the year 76 went in the service of the Revolution as a Volunteer met in the town of Watervliet was placed under Capt. Peter Schuyler and Col. Schuyler. Continued in actual service when the first Independence was celebrated, and in actual service as a private soldier until the 19th day of Oct 76 at which time he received the annexed commission as Second Lieut of a company of Militia foot whereof Henry Ostram was Capt. and in the County at that time, and served under said commission every year until the war was ended, and there resigned. No other service in his place in said company during the war but was at all times and at all places ready himself.

Was marched in different places in that section of Country until about April in 77 was then marched to fort George. Continued there until the army commanded by Genl Burgoyne made their appearance then retreated (being under Genl Schuyler) from place to place to Saratoga, after being there a short time. (Genl Gates and Arnold now having the command) was sent in haste up the Mohawk night and day on the march (one or two regiments) to help Genl Herkimer who at that time had been in a terrible battle with an army from Canada of Indians Tories and Whites, headed he thinks by Sir John Johnson and Butler or St. Ledger, got to Ft Schuyler just long enough to save it and helped to chace [chase] the enemy when they retreated did not follow far, was immediately marched back to Saratoga night and day, got there in time to be in the Battle at Saratoga well recollects that Burgoyne Genl.

Sent a party of his men to Bennington to take the American Stores and was then defeated by he thinks Col. Warner and a good turn in favor of the American

Cause many being made prisoners—was present when Genl Burgoyne and Army surrendered. [?] Arnold when wounded, and was in the battle himself serving under his commission. Soon after the army surrendered was discharged for a time, now he thinks it was about the first of November. Served in this tour or turn from the first of April 76 to the first of November 77 making one year and seven months.

One year under his commission & from [Nov?] in 77 until April 78 he cannot remember when he was or what he done—But about April 78 was called in the service again. Cannot tell where was what he done until a little after harvest thinks he was in Schoharie the spring then marched to a place between Albany and Schoharie called the Beaver dam and Helderbarrick to meet a party of Indians and tories then and there had a battle or skirmish with them and drawn them from there, then marched to Schoharie to Schodack and was there something like a month then returned to WaterVliet was gone about three months—

About April 79 he marched to Fort Herkimer on the Mohawk River a distance of about 100 miles and to other fts [forts] near there. Continued there until harvest, was then discharged for three or four weeks went home returned again and continued in the service until Nov. Then returned home. Remember he served this fall a number of stack of hay and grain burning which the Indians and tories had set on fire—was in the service this summer not less than about five months, he cannot remember the particulars where he was nor where he marched from November 79 until (he thinks then) the fall of the year 80 if not mistaken in time, he was then at fort George when Carlton a Brittish commander—having a party of Indians and whites, took fort Ann and fort George, retreated from there — says there were a number made prisoners under Carlton at that time. Cannot remember how long he was in the service this tour, but thinks he must have been about three months.

From this time to the end of the war he cannot recollect the particulars but is positive he was in the service more or less every year winter and summer, recollects he was once marched to Johnstown for the purpose of doing something with Sir John Johnson and a party of Indians the business was arranged without any blood, and returned—thinks he must have been gone as much as a month, cannot tell what winter nor who commanded except his own Capt. Ostram and Lieut Weaver, from the year – 80 until the war was ended he thinks he undoubtedly served for 4 or 5 months in each year and tho says he served other years previous, more than he has stated but cannot give a more correct statement than the within — says that he frequently went in the service as a volunteer and says the oath of his office bound him always to be ready and attention and must only say he was always on guard and doing something for the safety of his country and that his Captain Henry Ostram lived in the town of Watervliet and also his first Lieut Jacob Weaver until two or three years [?] and has frequently seen them since the war—has he thinks a number of witnesses now living in WaterVliet and in the town of Glen Montgomery County who might corroborate his statement.

And he the said Philip Henstreet hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity except the present and declares his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state.

And further saith on his oath he is not able to appear in Court (the Courthouse in his County Montgomery being about 20 miles or more, and the court house of Schoharie not less than 15 miles) By reason of old age, hard labour, blindness, deaf and of his bodily infirmity by being feeble not able to walk but little. (Signed with his mark) Philip Hemstrat

Sworn to and subscribed by making his mark, day and date as above before me. Silvanus Parkinson.

Letter in folder dated November 22, 1923, written in response to an inquiry.

I have to advise you that from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim S.23257 it appears that Philip Hemstrat or Heemstrat was born in October 1749 or 1750 in Watervliet, New York.

While a resident of said Watervliet he enlisted April 1, 1776 and served as a private in Captain Peter Schuyler's Company, Colonel Philip Schuyler's New York Regiment until October 19, 1776 when he was commissioned Lieutenant and served at various times, in all nineteen months, to the end of war under Captains Henry Ostrom and VanArnum in Colonel Philip Schuyler's Regiment. He aided in the defense of Fort Schuyler and was in the battle of Stillwater.

He was allowed pension on his application executed August 27, 1832 while a resident of Root, Montgomery County, New York. He died April 29, 1843.

In 1855 his son John was living at Carlisle, New York and son Benjamin with whom soldier lived at time of death, at Root the adjoining town to Carlisle.

There is no further data as to family.