

Pension Application for Silas Hoyt or Hoit

W.21410 (Widow: Amy) Married March 4, 1790. Silas died May 20, 1846.

State of New York

County of Saratoga SS.

On this eleventh day of April 1843 personally appeared before me Abel Meeker a Supreme Court Commissioner with Town of First Judge of said County Silas Hoyt of the Town of Greenfield in the County of Saratoga and State of New York aged eighty years, who being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

That he entered into the War of the Revolution under the officers hereinafter named.

That he was born in the Town of Poundridge in the County of Westchester in the State of New York in the year 1762 that at the commencement of the Revolutionary War he resided with his father Gideon Hoyt in the town of Poundridge in the County of Westchester in the State of New York where he resided until February or March 1783 when he with his father's family moved to the Town of Greenfield in the County of Saratoga (then Albany) in the State of New York aforesaid, where he has continued to reside ever since and where he now resides, that about the year ____ when he resided in the town of Poundridge in the County of Westchester in the State of New York and belonged to the Company of Militia Infantry Commanded by Captain Dan'l Bouton in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Thadeus Crane, being situated on the lines of the enemy.

He with his company was frequently called into the service of the United States to Guard the lines against the enemy who made frequent excursions from New York Island; in order to plunder from the Inhabitants to and others horses, Cattle and other property (these plunderers were called Cow boys) they would return to New York with the property so plundered, such incursions were made in the night season that he performed duties as a private in guarding the lines to Bedford, Kings Bridge and other Towns on and near the lines from the time aforesaid to wit:

Until 1782 or 3, he performed duties as a private aforesaid, when so ordered by his officers, on these tours he served on guard and patrolling the lines aforesaid under several different officers of Colonel Crane's Regiment to wit Captains Samuel Lawrence, Benjamin Chapman, David Bouton besides the officers named above; he served in Col. Thomas Regiment, in Capt. R. Sackett's Company,

He further states that by reason of Infirmities incidental in extreme old age, having for many years last past labored in much pain of body on account of the Rheumatic Complaint in consequence of which his bodily strength and mental facilities have been and now are greatly impaired, he is thereby (from loss of memory) unable to State with precision the circumstances of his Revolutionary Services.

He therefor relies on the proof hereto annexed, and such other evidence, as he may hereafter be able to procure, to support his claim for a Pension.

That in March AD 1782 a regiment of American Troops was raised for one year in the State of Connecticut in the Town of Stamford in the County of Fairfield to keep guard as Fort Necessity, erected by General Waterbury at Stamford, or Stamford that in April 1782.

He went to said Fort Necessity and enlisted under Captain Grander & served under Capt. Granger & Capt. Curtis who was from Litchfield, Colonel Samuel Canfield commanded the garrison in said Fort, which was made of Logs and an embankment of Earth thrown up for an embankment on the outside, said to have been made two or three years previous, here I enlisted, passed muster and joined the Regiment under the aforesaid officers, and Lieutenant Wilson and Ensign Tibball the private soldiers were encamp in Log huts, erected for the purpose within the Fort. There was a mess of about ten men in each hut in my mess was Jonathan Weed, Gideon Scofield, Jonas Scofield, ___ Beacher, and Joshua Ferris. I don't recollect the names of any others and they are all dead, as I have heard and verily believe.

There were no other troops in the garrison except our Regiment consisting of about 500 men here I performed my regular tours on guard and and [sic] went out of the fort is Cut and back wood into the Fort for the use of the Regiment and continued performing duty on scout after the refugees who were in the habit of coming out for plundering goods cattle, horses &c.

We generally went out under a Sergeant, in the night, the time they choose for plundering and we frequently captured small parties of the enemy consisting of the British and refugees, who attacked General Putnam at horseneck, [Horseneck?] Genl Putnam had about two hundred men, under him, that the number of the enemy was supposed to be 7 or 800 men.

A part of Colonel Canfield's Regiment turned out of the fort (to wit: Fort Necessity) to assist General Putnam, and this deponent was one of the party so turned out. The said party of British Soldiers were then in possession of horses & cattle taken and plundered from the Inhabitants by the said party of enemy but they were principally retaken from the enemy; at the commencement of the skirmish the enemy drove General Putnam down a steepy place with his horse, which was afterwards called Putnam's Stairs, after this General Putnam gained an advantage over the enemy and retook the plunder with some prisoners the enemy retreated and our men returned to the Fort (to wit: we who belonged to Fort Necessity) where this deponent continued and performed duties as aforesaid except the times he went home to visit his Friends by permission of his officers, he recollects one circumstance in particular, in the winter (December or January) he obtained a furlow [furlough] to go home on account of a swelling on his back, and returned to the Regiment when able to perform his duty and continued in the service as aforesaid under the aforesaid officers under February 1783. When he with his said Regiment was discharged at Fort Necessity, he received a written discharge to the best of his recollection it was signed by Colonel Canfield.

Which said Discharge was consumed in his home at Greenfield among other papers and property in his dwelling house, when destroyed by fire in the year 1784 or 1785.

And he father states that that [sic] he knows of no person or persons now living who served with him, nor any other person by whom he can prove any part of his said services except by the certificate of the Comptroller of New York and the annexed affidavit.

He hereby relinquishes all claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares his name Is not n the pension roll of of [sic] and State. (Signed) Silas Hoyt

Subscribed and sworn the day and yea first above written. A. Meeker Supreme Court Commissioner.