

Pension Application for John Hyatt

W.5001 (Widow: Rachel) Married May 26, 1829. John died April 24, 1853.

B.L.Wt.71,187-160-55

At a County Court held in & for the County of Chemung in the State of New York on the 14th day of February 1851. Present, Hon. A. S. Thurston, County Judge.

State of New York

Chemung County SS.

Personally appeared in open Court before the Judge aforesaid now sitting, (the same being a court of record having a Clerk & Seal) John Hyatt of the town of Barton in the County of Tioga & State aforesaid aged ninety 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 at the declaration of Independence in 1776 he was a lad about 16 years of age & was enrolled in the militia of Westchester County New York where he then resided & continued to reside during the whole of the Revolutionary War.

That he was enrolled in a Company of Militia in Col. Samuel Drake's Regiment of Westchester County Militia. The name of the officer in command of the company at the time of the enrolment he is not confident of but is of the impression that it was Capt. Smith Heddy, who commanded it until some time in 1780 when he went on board the ship Trumbull in the Marine Service of the United States, and that Alvan Purdy was the Lieutenant & subsequently after Heddy left, became its Captain.

That the members of said Company were required to act as Scouts & patrols sometimes every other night, sometimes twice & oftener a week in defence of the Inhabitants who were in a state of agitation [agitation] and excitement during the whole contest, the British having possession of New York and a great many adherents of their cause resided in the said County of Westchester—besides most of their supplies were procured through these friends in Westchester, for the City of New York and a system of robbery constantly carried on, & if supplies could not otherwise be procured were taken by force by parties in the British Interest—Consequently the "Minute Men" and patrols were kept much in service—

The deponent says that from 1776 to 1783 inclusive he was thus engaged as a minute man & frequently called out, by the entire company & sometimes the entire Regiment was called out to scour the county in search of tories and refugees or to recover plundered property taken from the Inhabitants. It is utterly impossible for him at this late period to detail the amount of service in each particular year.

He well recollects that he performed more service in 1780 than any other one year; his general estimate has always been & now is that during the war he rendered an aggregate of 18 months service.

Several years since he made an attempt to procure a pension but is of the impression that his agent Thomas Maxwell of Elmire NY did not press the claim from the difficulty of procuring definite proof in relation to the time of his service, and was apprehensive that he could not then shew six months service, to bring him within the

act of 1832. The proofs then taken, he is informed by Mr. Maxwell were destroyed when his office was burnt at a fire which occurred in Elmira in 1841, & the persons are all now dead.

The deponent is confident that his service as a patrol & occasional calls to serve the county would average three months in each year.

The year 1780, in consequence of Arnold's treason and other important events required more service from the militia than any other single year. He thinks more than double. The entire Regiment of Col. Drake was called out several times that year from one to four or five weeks.

The details of the service of the militia were probably furnished by the officers of the Regiment or by Col. Drake to the authorities at Albany under the act for settlement for their pay, but whatever certificates may have been issued in his favour, the receipts did not reach the deponents hands, and he has reason to believe that few of the militia or levies received their pay, though reports were in circulation that the officers received friends for them which never reached their hands.

Since the year 1842 he has been informed that some evidences of militia service have been discovered in Albany and is informed that his name appears there as a private in Col. Drake's Regiment for the years 1780 & 1781.

He has therefore made the present application in consequence of having discovered evidences of his service which were not known to be in existence at the time of his former attempt to procure a pension.

He had in his former papers the proofs of John Jones, Richard Ferris & Joshua Ferris who served in the same regiment in Capt. Boyd's Company, but they did not in the opinion of his counsel shew conclusively as much service as he wished to prove & as the deponent rendered. Jones & the two Ferris' were applicants at the same time with deponent and were placed on the Pension Roll at \$80 per year, were subsequently struck off the roll & afterwards replaced & allowed for 7 ½ months service at \$25 a year.

The deponent was in service from '76 to '83. They as he recollects did not commence till '78. He refers to the affidavits & papers annexed for proofs of the discovery of the records in the comptroller's office at Albany which were not known to be in existence in 1832 the allowance to Mess'r Ferris his fellow soldiers—

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.

The court in compliance with the act of June 2, 1832 have propounded the annexed questions to the deponent above named and his several answers thereto are appended.

1st Where and in what year were you born?

Answer. At Crumpond in the County of Westchester State of New York (then colony) in the year 1760 as near as he can recollect on the 27 August.

2^d Have you any record of your age? And if so where is it?

Answer. He had one in her father's bible, but it was destroyed during the war.

3d Where were you living when called into service; where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live.

Answer. In the town of Yorktown, county of Westchester NY where I lived until about forty years since when I removed to the County of Tioga NY where I now reside.

4. How were you called into service; where you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute; and if a substitute for whom?

Answer. I was enrolled as above stated at about sixteen years of age in the militia of Westchester County in the Regiment commanded by Col. Samuel Drake and rendered service as a minute man, patrol &c. as above stated.

5. State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served; such continental and militia regiments as you can recollect, and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer. Genl Washington, Baron Steuben, Genl Poor, Genl Putnam, Genl McDougal & others. He was engaged in furnishing & carting forage for the French army near Pines Bridge. Of the Continental regimental officers he recollects Col. Greene & of the militia his own Col. Drake, Col. VanCortland. He does not know any one now living who knows his service except Thos. Strang of Westchester who is probably older than deponent & he could not conveniently get his testimony, if his memory still remains good, which is not probable—

6. Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, by whom given & what has become of it?

Answer. I never received a discharge. (signed) John Hyatt

Sworn & subscribed before me in open court 14th February 14, 1851. [sic]

Ariel S. Thurston, County Judge Chemung Co.