

Disability Application for John Little

Dis. No Papers
Little, John

His name appears on a list of applicants for invalid pension returned by the District Court for the District of New York, submitted to the House of Representatives by the Secretary of War on April 25, 1794, and printed in the American State Papers, class 9, page 93.

Rank: Captain

Regt: Col. Fisher's

Disability: wounded in the shoulder in an action with the enemy, under Major Ross.

Where disabled: Johnstown

Residence: Johnstown

Remarks: No disability. There are no militia rolls in this office.

Evidence transmitted by the District Court incomplete, viz: Disability from known wounds not properly proved. No authentic proof of his being in service, and in the actual line of his duty. No examination by surgeons. No testimony of freeholders, or of the continuance of disability.

John Little's Petition.

5th March 1798. Referred to the Committee of Claims.

17th April 1798, report made, and ordered to lie on the table.

15th January 1799, Committed to a committee of the whole House tomorrow.

13th March, 1800. Referred to the Committee of Claims.

3d May, 1800 Committee of Claims discharged from further consideration.

To the Honorable The House of Representatives of the United States in Congress Assembled. (1)

The Petition of John Little of the County of Montgomery and State of New York. Humbly therewith.

That your petitioner was a Captain (2) of Militia in the late war. That in an Engagement between the American and British Forces near Johnstown (3) in the then County of Tryon, your petitioner was wounded in the right shoulder which wound so disables him that he is wholly incapacitated of obtaining a livelihood by labour, owing to his certificates having been informal heretofore he has been as yet neglected, but having obtained new & sufficient certificates, he now prays your honorable Body to take his case into consideration & to make such immediate provision in the premises as to you shall appear just & right.

And your petitioner as In Duty bound & Shall Ever Pray. John Little.

Additional Vouchers for Capt. John Little an Invalid viz.

No 1 & 2—Evidence of being wounded in Service.

3—ditto of three Freeholders, who have known him ever since.

4—Examination by two Physicians.

5—Commission from the District Judge.

6—Letter from ditto to the Secretary of War.

7—ditto from John Little to ditto.

8—John Little's Commission.

NB. This former Evidences are in the office of the Clerk of the House of Repress.

I certify that John Little Esqr, entered as a Volunteer in my Regiment in an Expedition against General St. Ledger (4) in the year 1777, then commanding the British Troops at the Seige [Siege] of Fort Schuyler, that from his knowledge of the Country on our march to the Relief of the Garrison of Fort Schuyler he was peculiarly serviceable to the American Army and distinguished himself upon every occasion during that Campaign as a Zealous Friend to the American Cause—That shortly after the Campaign above mentioned he was appointed a Major (5) in one of the Regiments of Militia commanded by Col. Frederick Visscher of the County of Montgomery and State of New York, and was wounded at the battle near Johns Town and to the best of my knowledge, he has never received any Compensation for the same.

Jas. Livingston late Colo. (6)

Given under my hand this 15th June 1792.

Johnstown Feby 20th 1798

Honor'd Sir,

I received your letter last fall inclosing the Law respecting Invalid Pensioners I wrote to a Judge Troup who appointed three Commissioners to Examine the Evidences & Physicians which they have done and inclosed the certificates to Judge Troup. I have procured the Bearer Mr. Shurtleff to convey the Letter to Judge Troup who will I suppose forward them on to you. I trust your honor will make a speedy decision on the Business as the Bearer will wait the Issue—You Informed me that the certificate respecting my not applying for a pension previous to 88 was sufficient the others that are required I believe have been obtained, as I have been for these some years expecting some relief in this way. I pray that something may be done immediately to supply my needy family.

I am in due respect, Your Very Hble Servt. John Little

Hon'r J. McHenry Es.

Montgomery County

State of New York

Be it known that on the fifty day of January one thousand seven hundred and ninety eight came before me, James Livingston Richard Dodge and John McArthur, three persons specially authorize by Commission from the honourable Robert Troup Esquire Judge of the United States for the district of New York in virtue of the laws of the United States in that case made and provided. Thomas Read (7) and Caleb Smith two physicians who being duly sworn depose and say—that they were, each of them personally acquainted with John Little in the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty four that the said John Little did then to each of them respectively complain of a wound which he said he had received in an action between the American and British troops near Johnstown in the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty one, and that they did each of them respectively examine the said wound of the said John Little which was in his right shoulder, which appeared to have been given by some blunt instrument that the said John Little did appear to be much injured by the said wound so said to have been received—that they the said deponants have been personally and intimately acquainted with the said John Little from the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty four until the present time and that they do each of them respectively believe that from the said wound so said to have been received the said John Little has been and still is wholly incapacitated from obtaining a living by Labour. Thos. Read, C. Sweet.

The word wholly first interlined.

Sworn before us this 5th day of January one thousand seven hundred and ninety eight. Jas. Livingston, Rich'd Dodge, John McArthur.

The People of the STATE of NEW-YORK,
By the Grace of GOD, FREE and INDEPENDENT;
To John Little Esquire - - - GREETING.

WE reposing especial Trust and Confidence, as well in your Patriotism, Conduct and Loyalty, as in your Valour and Readiness to do us good and faithful Service; HAVE appointed and constituted, and by these Presents, DO appoint and constitute you the said John Little - Captain of a Company in the Regiment of Militia, in the County of Tryon, whereof Frederick Fisher Esquire is Colonel - - -

YOU are therefore, to take the said Company - into your Charge and Care, as Captain - thereof, and duly to exercise the Officers and Soldiers of that Company - in Arms, who are hereby commanded to obey you as their Captain - - and you are also to observe and follow such Orders and Directions, as you shall from Time to Time receive from our General and Commander in Chief of the Militia of our said State, or any other your Superior Officer, according to the Rules and Discipline of War, in Pursuance of the Trust reposed in you; and for so doing, This shall be YOUR COMMISSION, for and during our good Pleasure, to be signified by our Council of Appointment. IN TESTIMONY whereof we have caused our Seal for Militia Commissions to be hereunto affixed. WITNESS our trusty and well beloved George Clinton Esquire - our Governor of our State of NEW-YORK, General and Commander in Chief of all the Militia, and Admiral of the Navy of the same, by and with the Advice and Consent of our said Council of Appointment, at Albany - - the Eighth - Day of March - in the fifth - - Year of our INDEPENDENCE, and in the Year of our LORD, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty one

Passed the Secretary's Office, April 17th 1781.

By His EXCELLENCY's Command,

James Livingston
Secretary.

Secretary.

John Little

County of Montgomery

State of New York

Be it known that on the fifth day of January one thousand seven hundred & ninety eight came before us Thomas Read & Caleb Sweet two Physicians appointed and authorized specially by Commissions from the

honorable Robert Troup Esquire Judge of the United States for the District of New York in virtue of the Laws of the United States in that case made and provided John Little who being duly sworn deposed and saith, that he was present in a Battle Between Colonel Willett of the continental Troops and a Major Ross of the British, near Johnstown in the now County of Montgomery, on the twenty first or twenty second of October in the year one thousand seven hundred and Eighty one that he there received a wound by the head of a tomahawk, in the right shoulder, and that he has since that time by reason of said wound been incapacitated from obtaining his living by Labour. (Signed) John Little

Sworn before us this 5th day of January 1798. Thos. Read, C. Sweet.

Montgomery County
State of New York

Be it know that on the tenth day of February one thousand seven hundred and ninety eight came before us James Livingston Richard Dodge & John McArthur three persons specially authorized by commission from the Honorable Robert Troup Esquire Judge of the United States in & for the District of New York in Virtue of the Law, of the United States in such case made and provided. Henry Shew, who being duly sworn by us, deposed and saith that John Little in the commission to this deposition annexed named was in the year 1781 a Captain in Col. Frederick Fishers Regiment of Militia of the County of Montgomery and that on or about the 21st or 22nd of October 1781. That the said John Little was in the Battle called Willett's Battle in the Hall Field in Johnstown in said County in the actual line of his duty in the Service of the United States during the late war that they were there within ten yards of the Indians and that they were obliged to retreat. That on their return the said Little said he was wounded in the shoulder and this deponent deponent [sic] further saith that on their returning from the action the said Little several times told him to go and leave him and that he would give up to the Enemy for that he was unable to go any further. The distance from the American Garrison was about one & a half miles and that this deponent did assist the said Little with his hand in getting along and that he believes that if he had not so assisted him he would have fallen into the hands of the Enemy. (Signed) Henry Shew

Sworn before us this 10th February 1798—Jas. Livingston, Rich'd Dodge, John McArthur.

Montgomery County
State of New York

Be it known that on the tenth day of February one thousand seven hundred & ninety eight came before us James Livingston Richard Dodge & John McArthur three persons specially authorized by Commission from the Honorable Robert Troup Esquire Judge of the United States in and for the District of New York in Virtue of the Law of the United States in such case made and provided William Lard (8) and John Mason (9) who being duly sworn depose and say that John Little in the commission to this deposition annexed named was in the year 1781 a Captain in Col. Frederick Fishers Regiment of Militia of the County of Montgomery was present in an Engagement between the American Troops commanded by Col. Willet and the British and Indians commanded by Major Ross near Johnstown in the now County of Montgomery in the Actual Line of his duty and that he was there wounded in the right shoulder, which wound we saw the Evening after the Engagement which appeared to be a contusion by the head of a tomahawk or some other blunt instrument (this Engagement was on or about the twenty first or twenty second of October 1781—we have lived neighbours to the said John Little sever since the date above mentioned and he has frequently complained of the said wound ever since said action and further these deponents say that since the said action the said John Little has never done a days labour to their knowledge. His mode of Life has for some few years immediately after the aforesaid action been that of a Deputy Sheriff and Goaler, since that a Justice of the Peace and since that a Sheriff of the County but at present has no means of a living but his by hand and further they say that within three weeks from the time aforesaid or thereabouts they were dismissed from duty—and further say not--(Signed) William Lard, John Mason.

Sworn before us this 10th Feby 1798. Jas. W. Livingston, Rich'd Dodge (10), John McArthur.

Petition of John Little, of Montgomery County and State of New York.

23d January 1805, referred to the Committee of Claims.

24th January 1805, Committee of Claims discharged from consideration, and petition referred to the committee of the whole House, to whom was committed, on the 2d instant, the bill in addition to an act to make provision for persons that have been disabled by known wounds received in the actual service of the United States during the revolutionary war.

25th February 1806 Referred to the Committee of Claims.

28th March 1806, Case given to withdraw.

To the Honorable, the Senate, and House of Representative of the United States in Congress Assembled.

The Petition of John Little of the County of Montgomery in the State of New York; Humbly Sheweth:

That your Petitioner was Captain of a Company of Militia in Colonel Fisher's Regiment, in the Revolutionary War—that in an Engagement between the American and British forces, near the Town of Johnstown in said County, he received a wound from an Indians tomahawk, in the right shoulder, which so disabled him, that he has ever since been incapable of obtaining a livelihood, by labour, as will appear by the certificate and depositions, here with presented, taken before Commissioners appointed by Robert Troop Esquire, District Judge, pursuant to a law of Congress, for the relief of Invalids.—

That your Petitioner, had procured this necessary evidence, to establish his claim, to a pension, in the year 1798, when he expected to be placed on the pension list, without any further provision, but on his applying to the Secretary of War, with his voucher, he was told, that the time limited for exhibiting those claims, had expired.

That although, a law passed the Honorable Congress, in the year 1803, for the relief of the disabled officers, soldier, and seamen, wounded during the revolutionary war, and who had not been provided for, your Petitioner, is informed, that it does not embrace his case, because, he was serving in the Militia, and not in the regular Army, at the time, he was wounded.—

Her therefore prays your Honorable body, to take his peculiar case, into consideration, and grant him such relief, as shall be Just—and as in duty bound. He will pray, &c. (Signed) John Little. (11)

End Notes—John Little

1. Records of the House of Representatives, Record Group 233, 6th Congress, Series Title—Petitions, File Number HR 6A—F1.1, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
2. John Little (Little) was commissioned Captain on March 8, 1781, in Colonel Frederick Visscher's (Fisher, etc.) Third Regiment of Tryon County Militia. He was serving as Captain possibly as early as 1779.
3. The Battle of Johnstown was fought on October 25, 1781.
4. Brigadier General Barry St. Leger besieged Fort Schuyler (present day Rome, NY; Fort Stanwix) from August 2, 1777 to August 23, 1777.
5. Little actually served as Major after the War of Independence in the Montgomery County Militia.
6. James Livingston was the Colonel of the First Canadian Continental Regiment. Little served as a volunteer, which means he did not receive pay for this service in the First Canadian Regiment.
7. Thomas Read had served as Surgeon in the First Canadian Regiment.
8. William Laird (Lare, Lard, Lord), had served as a Lieutenant in Colonel Visscher's Regiment. In 1781 he served as a private in Captain Garret Putman's Company in Colonel Willett's Regiment.
9. John Mason had served as a Corporal under Captain Little in Colonel Visscher's Regiment. In 1781, John served also in Captain Putman's Company in Colonel Willett's Regiment. Mason also was wounded in the Johnstown Battle.
10. Richard Dodge, had served as a fifer in the Fifth New York Continental Regiment in Captain James Rosekrans Company. His brother Henry was the First Lieutenant and Samuel Dodge was the Second Lieutenant in the same company.
11. Although he doesn't mention it, he had been commissioned First Lieutenant on June 20, 1778 in Captain Thomas Wasson's Company in Colonel Abraham Wemple's Second Regiment of Albany County Militia. John moved sometime afterwards to Johnstown, New York. He died on September 29, 1822 and is buried in the Colonial Cemetery in Johnstown.