

Pension Application for James of John Matthews

R.7022

State of New York

County of WestChester

On this fifteenth day of March in the year one thousand eight hundred & fifty four personally appeared in open court before the Supreme Court of the State of New York now sitting at the Court House in White Plains in the State and County aforesaid John W. Brown one of the Justices of said Court presiding in the County of West Chester and State of New York aged ninety six years, 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 enlisted as a soldier in the service of the United States at the Old Fly Market in the City of New York that he is unable to recollect the name or manes of any of the officers under whom he enlisted that he was sent over to the Barracks in Brooklin about two miles from the Ferry, that he was there about two or three weeks—

When the British came and drove them back across the river that it was night when they crossed & left fires burning to deceive the enemy that they did not all get over untill daylight that they went to Fort Washington that he was eighteen years of age when he enlisted that he received a wounds in that engagement that one wound was given because he refused to carry his musket butt upwards, that after the fort was surrendered he & four others one named Jack Ritch & one Nathan Young were placed in charge of a man named Thomas Andros who prepared to them to run away and that the same night they went to the River Stole a Boat tied, their pocket handkershiefs round the oars to prevent any noise and started that they were discovered when about halfway across the River & fired upon with a cannon that they succeeded in getting across the River & reported themselves to the Commanding American officer on the west side of the Hudson, that in consequence of his—wounds the officer directed him to go back in the County & stay untill he got well or go where he had a mind to that about a year after he joined a company of minute men & performed duty with them under Capt. Ganer and was doing duty along the shore of the Hudson as far up a Grassy Point, that he was doing duty at Haverstraw when Stony Point was taken & that Minute Men received no pay that he received no pay for such service & remained doing such duty for three years.

That he has never made any previous application for relief of any kind from the United States Government. That he has never received any schooling & cannot read or write that he does not know the name of any person being who knows of his being in the Army he thinks General Green was sick at the time they left Long Island. (Signed with his mark) James Matthews

Sworn & subscribed this 15th day of March 1854 before me in open court. Robt R. Oakley, Clk.