

Pension Application for John Nettle

R.7598

Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.
State of New York
Saratoga County SS.

On this 4th day of September AD 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas held in & for the County of Saratoga now sitting—John Nettle a resident of the town of Halfmoon in the said County of Saratoga and State of New-York aged seventy five years & upwards, who being duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

The he entered the service under the following officers and served as herein stated. When he entered the service he was a member or private in a Company of Militia in the town of Halfmoon then in the County of Albany, now Saratoga, of which Jeremiah Vincent was captain, Ezekiel Taylor was Major, Jacobus VanSchoonhoven Colonel in the Regiment.

He was first employed in transporting cannon about six weeks he thinks from Waterford in the county of Saratoga to Fort George on Lake George in Warren County. He passed up along the North River through Halfmoon, Stillwater, Saratoga to Fort Edward & thence north to Lake George. This was the beginning of the war—he does not recollect whether it was before or after the declaration of independence. He remembers one piece was so heavy & the roads so bad it was drawn by nine span of horses. He recollects that the second piece drawn got mired at Fort Miller (Washington County) & the Stillwater men came up & took it out with oxen.

He was afterwards in service as a waggoner one season of nearly eight months in transporting provisions, munitions &c from Waterford to Stillwater in the County of Saratoga. It was in 1775 or 6 he thinks. Is not certain as to the year it is so long ago & his recollection so impaired by age. In that service he passed along the north river through Halfmoon. One Wendell now dead he thinks, was wagon master a commissary as he was called. He gave orders concerning the number, route & loads &c of the wagons. He was sometimes at Albany, at Waterford and at Stillwater.

After this he went once with a load of Hospital stores in the winter but cannot tell the year to Ticonderoga from Albany he thinks it was about a year before Burgoyne came down to Saratoga, may have been more —He passed up thru Saratoga & Washington & Warren Counties into Essex to Ticonderoga. They went through or by Stillwater, Fort Miller, & Fort Edward. He was then pressed to go to Spous about 60 miles below Albany in Ulster County to Carry some sick. There were eighteen sleighs of them. They went on the ice chiefly. Was engaged from the time he started for Ticonderoga to the time he reached Sopus he should think at least a month.

After this but the particular year he cannot state, he was in service as a waggoner about 8 months from Waterford to Stillwater and from Albany to Lake George passing the route before mentioned. The transports were of baggage & munitions. It seems to him this was in 1776 or 7. He recollects there was a Regiment

rifle men then said to be from Pennsylvania then passing up. The captain of one of the companies was called [Borst?]. He recollects them because they were much dissatisfied a[nd] abused the waggoners a good deal. He cannot recollect the names of other officers or regiments. It is so long since this situation not being him much in contact with them nor connected with any interesting scenes.

General Schuyler had the Chief Command during this period in this quarter. He was going backwards & forwards frequently & appeared to [direct?]. He remembers one time in getting cannon across the river to Fort Edwards. General Schuyler found fault with the deponents team and spoke to him harshly.

In 1777 or 8, he was in service about 3 months as a Batteauxman from Albany to Fort Edward up the North River & from the overslaugh to Albany where vessels were aground at the overslaugh & from Albany to Waterford. He was employed in boating provisions also iron ware as box stores, pickaxes, spades & other implements & utensils.

He was also impressed as a waggoner from Waterford to Stillwater after this, in transporting boards, about a week.

He was not employed as a waggoner, batteauxman or soldier as aforesaid by contract or agreement to do the work, but was ordered, appointed and directed to do the duty. He enlisted in the Batteaux service. L H volunteered in the wagon service generally or being ordered out but was pressed once or twice.

The first time he went as waggoner he was ordered out, but had his father's team. At one other time from Waterford to Stillwater the horses were pressed & deponent had to go and by order out but had his father's team. At another time from Waterford to Stillwater their horses were picked & deponent had to go and drive them by order of Winne was [??] never went out served by his father orders.

When he was not in service as before stated, he was called out a number of times on alarms & expeditions while a private in Vincent's Company. He was a minute man or under constant orders to be ready at a minute's warning & prepared with three days provisions. He was out he thinks in the whole as much as two months while Vincent commanded. He cannot detail the particular times, for the occasions were not attended with any matters of interest & it is long ago & he has not treasured them in his memory. He recollects he once went on an expedition to Fort Edward where some of the enemy were reputed, was gone several weeks.

He does not recollect any other expedition under Vincent—tho he was often called out for brief periods—as in alarms. He does not recollect the names of any officers or regiments of the Continental line at this time for their were so few of them there.

After Captain Vincent resigned the command Joshua Taylor was Captain. Ezekiel Taylor Major [blank] VanSchoonhoven Colonel. He cannot state the time of this, thinks it was three years after the war began. Under Taylor he was called out also a number of times. At one time he went to Niskayuna in Albany County. Was out about one fortnight our object then was to intercept & arrest spies, at another time he

was at Dunning street in the County of Saratoga, was out about a fortnight. There was an alarm that the Indians were [exputed?].

There were no Continental Companies or regiments with which Taylor's Company then served. He was afterwards detached & marched with others also detached from several companies & went to the Lower end Lake Champlain in Vermont Col. McKinster of the Continental Line went before them. He thinks they were at fort Edward & then detached. They went from Fort Edward to the east & then north east. Capt. Ellsworth had command of the detachments. They took a great many cattle & sheep which the Americans were fearful would be taken by the British. He thinks this was in 1778 or 9. Was then under the command of Ellsworth in the detachment. Was gone about two weeks. He cannot tell the particular years of the above expeditions. There were other occasions also in which he was called out. He was out more or less till the end of the war, but cannot particularize the periods or occasions more fully, for they were too destitute of particular interest to be long remembered. He is sure he has stated the times above specified if anything too short.

He is sure he must have been out in actual service in the whole nearer three than two years. He never received one cent of pay while on duty as a soldier [?]. In the Batteaux service he received only five dollars. In the wagon service I received but a trifle—never anything like pay.

He lived in Halfmoon aforesaid when he entered the service & has lived there ever since.

He never had a discharge. He has no documentary evidence of his services. There are no persons living who can testify to his services except Jeremiah Vincent, Joshua Palmarter is now dead, since his papers were first drawn.

In 1778 or 9 he thinks, Deponent says he was drafted for nine months to go down the river, he thinks it was said for West Point. He passed muster & went to Albany. When there Deponent's father came down & wishing this deponents services at home" a substitute was procured by deponent; & he went. Deponent had a certificate from vanSchoonhoven Colonel certifying that he had furnished a substitute for that period & was clear of military duty till the expiration of it. He has lost the certificate. He does not recollect for a certainty what was the name of the substitute, but it seems to him it was Jacob Swartsfoger. He lived in Pittstown then & is dead as he supposes as he was about 40 years old then & has never heard of him since.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.
(Signed) John Nettle

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year first aforesaid in open court. Thomas Palmer.

Interrogatories propounded by the Court to the within named applicant.

1st Where and in what year was you born?

Answer. In Dutchess County—1756.

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

Answer. I have no record of my age. I know my age only by what my parents told me & what the family [??] and understood.

3d Where were you living when called into service; where have you lived ever since the revolutionary war, & where do you now live?

Answer. Halfmoon in the County of Saratoga & have always lived there since.

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute & if a substitute for whom?

Answer-Enlisted in the Batteaux, volunteered chiefly in the wagon & was drafted or ordered out in the militia service & was once drafted for 9 months for which he procured a substitute.

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served; such Continental & militia regiments as you can recollect & the general circumstances of your service.

Answer. Col. McKinster, Genl Schuyler are the only ones he recollects. He does not remember the names of any Continental or Militia regiments in particular. There were so few out in the expeditions in which he was concerned while engaged as a soldier and while a waggoner & Batteauxman his intercourse with them was so slight & transient, he cannot remember them. The general circumstances of his service were as a waggoner between Albany & various places to Ticonderoga & as a batteauxman between Albany to Fort Edward & intermediate places, and as a minute man called out in alarms, expeditions &c & once drafted for 9 months for which he obtained a substitute.

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

Answer. No

7. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood & who can testify to your character for veracity & their belief of your services as a soldier of the revolution.

[Answer] Benjamin J. Hall Esqr, Eleisha D. Hubble, a clergyman. Doct. S. W. Higgins. Elder Aleijah Peck, Joseph Lam, Jeremiah Vincent, & many others.