

Pension Application for James Oakley

W.19933 (Widow: Auley) Married Dec, 1784, James died 1801.

State of New York

County of Westchester SS.

Town of White Plains SS.

Samuel Youngs of the town of Greenburgh in the County of Westchester and State of New York being by me duly sworn saith that at the commencement and during a greater part of the Revolutionary War he resided in the said County of Westchester and In that part thereof where the American lines were established.

That the head quarters of the American Troops when on that station was kept at the house of Joseph Youngs the father of this deponent.

That early in the said War this deponent became acquainted with James Oakley who had formerly resided in the town of Westchester in the said County but which was then in the possession of the Brittish [British] Refugees.

That the said James Oakley was solicited by Col Burr in the year 1779 to takeup his home with him as one of his guides as he the said James Oakley was supposed to be better acquainted with those parts of the said County then in possession of the Brittish Troops and Brittish Refugees than any others of his guides.

That he said Col. Burr then held his headquarters at the house of this deponent & said father. That he this deponent frequently saw the said James Oakley while in that service.

That In the fall of the year 1779 Col. Shepherd commanded on that Station and the said James Oakley served as one of his guides until Shepherd was relieved by a Col. Thompson who continued his headquarters at the house of the said Joseph Youngs until the third day of February 1780 at which time Col Thompson was totally defeated and taken prisoner and the house of the said Joseph Youngs was burnt.

That during the command of Col. Shepherd and the command of Col Thompson the said James Oakley served under them. That after the defeat of Col Thompson a Col Mellen took the command on those lines and employed the said James Oakley as one of his guides.

That this deponent frequently went with parties of Continental Troops on Excursions to attack the Brittish refugees then hutted in the said Town of Westchester at a place called Morrissinia Woods. That in going and in returning the Americans had to stop at the house of Abraham Odell the father of Auley Oakley the present widow of the said James Oakley.

That it was well understood at that time that a marriage was intended between the said James Oakley and the said Auley Oakley (then Auley Odell) which marriage was to be consummated as soon after a peace should take place as convenience would admit.

That this deponent after peace was declared and the country had in a measure become settled lived in the neighbourhood of the said James Oakley and was frequently at his house and well knows that the said James and the said Auley lived together as man and wife. And that the said James Oakley departed this life about the

year 1801 and that he said Auley Oakley is now his widow and has remained his the said James' Widow ever since his death.

And this deponent further saith that some time in the year 1780 and in the summer of that year he saw the said James Oakley in the American Army doing duty and a Lieutenant in a Regiment of Levies whereof Lewis Duboys was Colonel. But this deponent saith that he cannot state the particular period for which he so served in the said Duboys' Regiment as Lieutenant.

And this Deponent further saith that in the Summer of the year 1781 he saw the said James Oakley in the American Army doing duty as a Lieutenant in a Regiment of Levies whereof Albert Pawling was Lieutenant Colonel Commandant.

That in the fall of the year 1781 this deponent was a Lieutenant in Col. Weissenfels Regiment stationed on the Northern frontier. That while this deponent was so stationed on the northern frontier he this deponent saw the said James Oakley doing duty as a Lieutenant in said Pawlings Regiment at Johnstown but this deponent cannot say how long the said James Oakley served in said Regiment after he saw him at Johnstown aforesaid. But this deponent believes the said James Oakley continued in the said army until the army was disbanded.

That the said James Oakley was always a brave and active officer and was a very useful guide to the American Troops while stationed on the American lines, and before he was so appointed a Lieutenant (aforesaid). That this deponent from his knowledge of the character and bravery of the said James Oakley saith that he believes that the said James Oakley served in said Regiments as such Lieutenant during the period for which said Regiments were levied which period this deponent believes to have been five months each. (Signed) Sam'l Youngs

Sworn & subscribed before me this 14th day of June 1839. Elijah Guion, Justice of the Peace.