

Pension Application for John Persen

S.14117

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

On this First day of September one thousand eight hundred and thirty two personally appeared before me William Tolley one of the Judges of the court of Common Pleas of said County John Person a resident of the Town of Catskill in the County of Greene and State of New York aged seventy seven 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 7, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States in the Militia as a private soldier under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

That Anthony VanBergen was Colonel, Cornelius Dubois Lieutenant Colonel, Ignatius VanOrden Major & Habartus VanLoan Adjutant were Field Officers. That Samuel VanVechten was Captain and John Rouse & Jacob VanVechten were first and second Lieutenants and Benjamin Dubois Ensign.

That claimant was enrolled in the Militia & marched with his company to Johnstown in the County of Montgomery.

That Claimant and his Company went there for the purpose of taking Sir William Johnston [He means Sir John Johnson] a British Officer & the forces under his command but they surrendered to the American Forces. How long Claimant remained at Johnstown he cannot with certainty state.

That after the surrender of Sir William the company were dismissed & he returned home. That Claimant shortly after his return home again went with his company to Caghnawaga [Caughnawaga] where he remained some time but how long Claimant cannot positively state. That Claimant was twice ordered with his Company of the City of Albany where he remained for a short time each tour.

That he resided at Catskill when he entered the service. That Claimant was at Fort Edward with his Company at Fort Edward with his company when Genl Burgoine & his Forces were pursuing the American Forces which were then commanded at Genl Schuyler when they retreated to Stillwater. How long he was in service at the last mentioned places he cannot with certainty State.

That in the retreat above mentioned there was a Skirmish and that a firing ensued between the American and British forces.

That Claimant was also engaged in a skirmish at or near Bemiss's Heights in which some of the Americans were killed.

That claimant has not been engaged in any battles except as above stated.

That claimant was almost constantly on Guard when not abroad on Scouting parties and as a Minute Man (so called) in watching the Hostile Indians &c.

That claimant cannot distinctly state all the different posts at which he did duty. But is confident that he has been in actual service for more than three years. That he did not finally leave the service until the close of the war.

That Claimant served with his company at Schenectady & at Johnston's Hall on the Mohawk River for some time but cannot state with certainty how long.

That Claimant had been in the service about two years as near as he can recollect as a private, when he was promoted to an Ensign by a vacancy occurring in said Company, and that he received a Commission as Ensign in said company, Signed by Geo Clinton (then) Governor of the State of New York and dated the 5th day of August 1778 and which said Commission is now produced by Claimant & is hereto annexed.

That Claimant was afterwards promoted to a Lieutenancy in said Company and received a commission accordingly signed by said George Clinton, but is unable to produce or State the time when it was issued, in consequence of its loss—but thinks it must have been on or about the year 1779.

That Claimant was sworn into office on receiving the last mentioned commission from the Secretary's Office by one Henry Oothout (then) a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Albany (now deceased) together with John Schumerman also an officers, whose affidavit is hereto annexed.

That Claimant has been confined to his House for nearly twenty years in consequence of being a Cripple & other bodily infirmities, that he is destitute of property and is wholly dependent on his connections & friends for a support for himself & family.

That most of the officers & privates with whom claimant was acquainted during the war have been removed by death or otherwise.

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. (Signed) John Persen

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid the day & year aforesaid before me. Wm Tolley, one of the Judges of the court of Common Pleas in & for the County of Greene aforesaid.

Interrogatory 1st. When & in what year were you born?

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

3rd Where were you living when called into service. Where have you lived since the Revolutionary war, and where do you now live?

4th How were called into service? Were you drafted, did you volunteer or were you a substitute? And if a Substitute for whom?

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops, were [where you served; such Continental & Militia Regiments [Regiments] as you can recollect & the general circumstances of your service.

6th Did you ever receive a Commission and if so, by whom was it signed, and what has become of it.

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your Character for veracity & their belief of your services as a Soldier of the Revolution.

To the first Interrogatory claimant answers & says that he was born in the town of Catskill and County of Greene on the 28th day of July 1755.

To the Second Interrogatory he answers & says that he finds his age put down in his Father's Family Bible in the words & figures following (viz) "1755 July 28th my son John was born".

To the third Interrogatory he answers & says that he was living in the town of Catskill in the County of Greene when he was called into service and that he has resided there ever since the Revolutionary War and that he now resides there.

To the fourth Interrogatory he answers and says, that he was regularly enrolled in the Militia & as set forth in his said declaration.

To the fifth Interrogatory he refers to his foregoing declaration as to the officers under & with whom he served, and as to the general circumstances of such service, as set forth in his said declaration as near as he can now recollect.

To the sixth Interrogatory he answers and says, that he has had two commissions during his service as Ensign, which is set forth in said declaration & produced and the other as Lieutenant which is lost, as is particularly set forth by him in his said declaration.

To the Seventh Interrogatory he answer & says that he refers to the Rev'd Isaac N. Wyckoff a Clergyman, William VanBergen, John Schuneman & Wessell Salisbury as persons in his neighborhood who can testify as to his character for truth & veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution. (Signed) Wm. Tolley, one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in & for the County of Greene in the state of New York.