

Pension Application for Silas Reynolds

R.8720

State of New York

City and County of New York SS.

On this twenty fifth day of September one thousand eight hundred and thirty four personally appeared before me, John R. Scott one of the Justices of the Marine Court of the city of New York.

Silas Reynolds a resident of the City and County of New York and State of New York who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

That he was born in New England in the year 1750 as appears by the family bible containing the record of his age; that his parents removed in his infancy to the State of New York, that he was living in Smith Clove in Orange County of said State In the year 1776 with a family of his own which he supported by the cultivation of a piece of leased land.

That at this period the enemy threatening the forts along the North River, he was called out to do duty in the militia of the State of New York; and a company being formed in his neighborhood under the command of Colonel Jesse Woodhull he was enrolled in said company as Corporal, but though named as Corporal he never did duty as such, but always served as a private soldier. That the officers of his company were Colonel Jesse Woodhull, Major Samuel Strong, Captain Francis Smith and Lieutenant Jacobus Galloway; that he was almost all the time out on tours of eight & ten days; that he did duty in garrisoning & erecting fortifications at West Point, Fort Montgomery and Fort Clinton; marched after the Indians to Peenpack and Minisink, where they had committed depredations by burning and destroying lives & property; that he marched frequently after the Cowboys; was out constantly watching and reconnoitering and preformed various other duties in contending with the enemy often times beyond the boundaries of the said County of Orange; that he was thus liable to be called out on duty throughout the whole of the war until the evacuation of the City of New York by the British, and that he performed actual and active service for a space of three years.

That about [28?] years ago he was run over by a gig which fractured his skull and otherwise injured him so severely as almost to deprive him of life. That though up to that time notwithstanding his old age, he was able by his own industry to support himself comfortably, without asking assistance from any, yet since that sad accident he has been utterly helpless and confined most part of the time to his bed, and has been supported by his two daughters ever since, one of whom is a widow and both of whom are compelled to labor for their own support; that he never received any pecuniary compensation for these services; that he never received any discharge but continued until the end of the war.

While on duty he was engaged in no civil pursuit, but used to work day and night on his farm when he got home for a day or two; that Abner Cunningham who

now resides in the City of new York used to live in the neighborhood of this deponent in the said County of orange during the Revolutionary war and must know his character for veracity and many of the facts relating to his service in that war.

That he deponent resided in said County of Orange from the close of the Revolutionary War until the year 1815, when he removed to the City of New York and lived there until the year 1828 when he removed to Northfield in the county of Richmond and lived there until about a year ago when he returned to the City of New York where he now resides.

And he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state. (Signed with his mark) Silas Reynolds

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. John B. Scott. Justice of Marine Court

Letter in folder dated April 28, 1929, written in response to an inquiry.

I advise you from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim, R.8720, it appears that Silas Reynolds was born in 1750 in New England.

He applied for pension, September 25, 1834, while residing in New York City, and stated that while living in Smith Clove or Smith Cove, Orange County, New York, he served from in 1776 in the New York Militia as private and sergeant in Captain Francis Smith's Company, Colonel Jesse Woodhull's Regiment in tours of eight and ten days, did garrison duty at Westpoint, Fort Montgomery and Fort Clinton, was out against the Indians and served until the close of the war.

The claim was not allowed as he failed to furnish proof of six months service as required by the pension law.

In 1834, he referred to two daughters, one a widow.

In 1836, a daughter, Mrs. Mary Decker, wife of Thomas Decker, was aged about forty-nine years.

The name of soldier's wife is onto given and there are no further data as to children.