

## **Pension Application for Joseph Rockinstier**

S.22953

Declaration. In order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by an Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

State of New York

County of Albany SS.

On this sixth day of November 1843 personally appeared before the Albany Justices Court now sitting Joseph Rockinstier, a resident of the town of Watervliet in tehi County of Albany in said State of New York aged eighty six years & upwards, who begin first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the provision made by an Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

That this Declarant has never made application for a pension before as he has hitherto been unable to find witnesses to his revolutionary services—That a number of years ago he “fell in with a fellow revolutionary” by the name of John Lind who went with him to a lawyer in the City of Troy, for the purpose of having his papers made out but that said lawyer being then engaged could not attend to his business and shortly afterwards the said John Land died.

Declarant believes that said John Lind was a pensioner. That Declarant not knowing of any other witness & not having the means to prosecute his claim has since done nothing therein and does not know that any papers have ever been filed at Washington. That he is now persuaded to make another effort from the advice of his children who volunteer to assist him.

And Declarant further saith that he was a private of militia during the war of the revolution & served as such during the whole of said war upon various occasions or whenever his services were requested. That Declarant was born in the city of Philadelphia but has no record of his birth. That from Philadelphia he moved to the city of New York while yet a boy & before the war of the revolution & afterwards up the north river to East Camp in the State of New where he bound himself to one Conrad Lasher a harness maker of the place to learn his trade & that this was still before the war of the revolution.

That when said war commenced this Declarant was about eighteen years of age. That while at East Camp to wit, in the spring of 1776 he was drafted into the militia under Captain upon an expedition to Fort Edwards, to wit in the spring of 1776. This tour was at least one month.

That shortly after his return from said tour to wit In the Summer of 1776. Declarant moved from East Camp to Brunswick, adjoining the town of Greenbush, Rensselaer County NY. That he was thereupon drafted into the company of militia commanded by Captain George Sharpe, and shortly thereafter to wit, early in the fall of the same year 1776 he was engaged in and the expedition to Fort Edward & returned on duty there for upwards of two months under Captain Sharpe aforesaid & Lt Col VanRensselaer. That a large proportion of said Regiment of Col. VanRensselaer were on duty at this time.

That a large proportion of said Regiment of Col. VanRensselaer were on duty at this time. That during the summer & fall of the next year 1777, he again served with said company & Regiment during the expedition against General Burgoyne & his army, at Saratoga, Stillwater, Bemis Heights & other posts of the American Army. That said service commenced early in said summer & continued until after Burgoyne surrendered, during a greater part of which time this declarant was on duty, and declarant is well assured for upwards of three months. That the next year 1778, this Declarant was engaged with a detachment from said Militia in transporting a lot of ;cannon balls & militia stores from Saratoga to Albany for a period of about six weeks.

That in the fall of Declarant believes the same year, Declarant was engaged in an expedition to Saratoga & Fort Edward, but is onto able to say how long he was absent. He thinks however that he was on duty at this time more than six weeks. That Declarant also served in the fall of the next year, (he thinks) with a detachment from said Militia upon an expedition to Fishkill & was employed in building & defending barracks at that place for upwards of a month.

And Deponent further saith that afterwards, in the fall of the year (the precise year he cannot remember), he was ordered to proceed with a detachment from said militia of about forty men, to apprehend a lot of Tories who were reported to have quartered at Douglass Tavern, a little above the village of Waterford. That upon arriving there they surrounded said tavern, but the Tories had made their escape & in retreating fired upon their said party killing one man & wounding two others. One of the men then & there wounded was Garret Peek who was of said detachment (That Declarant has been informed that David Garret Peek died in the receipt of a pension & ifs so, prays that his papers may be refered [referred] to in support of this declaration.) That from said tavern, said Detachment marched to Schenectady, thence to Beaverdam & thence home, having been absent upwards of three weeks.

That this Declarant has served upon other occasions during said war with said militia, but owing to great age & loss of memory he cannot relate any further particulars. That during said war Declarant knew a great number of militia officers, to wit, those already mentioned Springer, Adjutant VanAlstyne, Ensign Staats Lieutenant McChesney, Captain Gardinier, Husted, Riley & many others, but that his various services above related were performed under Captain George Sharpe or the officers of his company.

That Declarant knows of no witnesses to his said service except George Sharpe son of said Captain & Adjutant VanAlstyne whom, (he is informed) are still living & have testified for him.

And Declarant hereby relinquishes all claims to pension except the present & declares that his name is not upon the pension roll of any state. (Signed with his mark) Joseph Rockinstier