

Pension Application for Thomas Son

R.9933

Note: the following was obviously written by Mr. Son, the spelling is as it appears. Sound out the words. Memorandum of my travels in the Revolution in the year of 1776.

I was then cald [called] out to go to Johnstown under Colonel Abram Vanalstine, Captain Trusedell Leftenant [Lieutenant Tanallen, thare to guarde the Fort & Frontiers for the space of two months. My brother Moses Son being one of the company served about two weeks then hired a substitute in his place & returned holme. Mr. Vanskoik tells me his name is found on the Reckord & mine is not at the expriation of two months we was all discharged & returned holme in the year 1777. Following I was hired to go to Westpoint for a pair of silver buckles with Captain Follick & another man from Claverack to guarde three Dezerters after I returned back thare came another oner for the buckles & it was my misfortune to lose them in the year of 1780 I took a small bounty then went under Captain Christopher Miller from Claverack Three companies of us went from Hudson to West Point the last day we went on parade the Colonel had orders from head quarters to take out so many men to go to head quarters to New Jersey to fill up companies of Infantry, we then marched from West Point to Kingsferry we thare had to return our arms & draw New Ones we then crossed the river into New Jersey about Eight miles thare. Served under Lafayette Colonel Coartland, Captain Fowler, Sergent Dickerson. This was in the year Arnold sold Wespoint & Major Andrew [Andre] was executed served as a private for the space of about six months about two weeks before I got my dischare I had my pack stolen worth abot [about] twenty dollars. About the last of November we had our discharge we then came back ware we received our new arms had to return our arms in store ware we Drawed them. Expecting to git our old ones. They told us they were sent up to the Fishkills then cald as the British was coming up the River they was afraid they would be taken. We then came up to the Fiskills they told us they had not been thare. They told us they thought likely they had gon up to Pokeepsie wen we come thare. The told us they had not been thare we then lost our arms worth about fifteen dollars each one we then made the best of our way holme myself to the twonof Kinderhook when I came holme they had heard I was killed in action. My small bounty I had taken I left at holme with my mother in care in a small trunk my stepfather being a Tory with another one broke open my trunk and got the money which was a great disappointment to me as I had calculated to have a little when I got holme to clothe myself with after having so much bad luck.

I never drawed as much as one shilling month wages which was customary then while I was gon.

I once employed lawyer Vandeuzen to git a pension for me he told me I could git it without doubt he would not charge me but a trifle if he did not get it for me. He did not make out to git he then charged thrity three dollars I then told Mr. Vansoick the circumstance of my serving & brought to substantial witnesses to prove services. Mr. Vanskoick told me by proveing what I did that I was entitled to a pension I have also given in my testimony before Judge Hogobome likewise before and ther Judge in Hudson Mr. Vanskoik has sent to Washington & it has been granted that I am intitled for a pension he also has searched the records at the Postal Office in Albany and my name is not to be found he tells me that two of the record books has been lost wich contained about seven or eight thousand [record ends here]

Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

State of New York

Columbia County SS.

On this ninth day of July in the year one thousand eight hundred & thirty nine personally appeared in open court before the Justices of the Justices Court of the City of Hudson—now sitting Thomas Son a resident of the town of Chatham in the County of Columbia & State of New York aged seventy nine years on the twenty seventh day of September in the year one thousand eight hundred &

thirty eight last past 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 in the service of the United States under the following named officers & served as herein stated – That he was drafted as a Militiaman in the year one thousand seven hundred & seventy six & then entered the service in the month of June under Colonel Abraham J. VanAlstyne, Captain Gersham Truesdell, Lieutenant Peter L. VanAlen & Sargeant Christian Smith—That he marched to Johnstown in the (then County of Tryon or Albany((now) County of Montgomery & State of New York under the above named officers to guard the frontiers & to watch the Indians – That he was stationed in a fort at Johnstown aforesaid during this service & remained there two months & was then discharged & returned home—That he resided in the town of Kinderhook in the (then County of Albany (the now) County of Columbia when he entered the service as aforesaid—That he did not at this time serve with any of the Continental Regiments—That he has no documentary evidence to prove his said services and that his brother Moses Son is the only person whose testimony he can procure and who can testify to his said services—That said Moses Son went in company with this deponent to Johnstown aforesaid as a teamster and remained there a few days & then returned home—that he has no original discharge & never had any to his recollection.

That in the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty, there was a call or draft for every fourth man & Adam Emerick then residing in the town of Clavarack in the (then County of Albany) (now Columbia) was drafted to serve for the term of six months—That said Adam Emerick hired this deponent for a small bounty as a substitute to serve out said term of six months for said Adam Emerick. That in said year one thousand seven hundred and eighty in the month of May or June, this deponent entered the service of the United States as a substitute for said Adam Emerick under Captain Christopher Miller & marched to West Point. The day after arriving at West Point the troops were called on parade and a Colonel (whose name deponent cannot recollect) from the Continental line from head quarters required upwards of one hundred men to fill up vacancies in companies of Infantry which had occurred by death in Battle or otherwise. This deponent was taken to supply one of said vacancies and marched from West Point under said Colonel to KingsFerry & thence crossed the river & marched about seven miles into the state of New Jersey and there joined the Continental troops of Infantry under General Lafayette, Colonel Cortland, Major Steuben, Captain Fowlder, Sargeant Dickerson & Sargeant Talmage-- General Washington was with the troops at this time—Thence marched with the Infantry under General Layafayette to Liberty Pole in New Jersey & from thence to Powles Hook in New Jersey for the purpose of taking it, in which attempt was prevented by the British shipping from thence marched to Bergen & thence marched to take Staten Island, but was prevented by the British shipping – marched thence to Morristown in New Jersey & from thence to a bridge in New Jersey when stood sentry & thence marched towards West point to a place deponent does not recollect & was discharged & returned home—Major Andre was hung as a spy during this service—That he was in this service six months—that at the time of entering this last service this deponent resided in the town of Kinderhook aforesaid—That there is not person whose testimony he can procure to prove this last service and that he has no original discharge & never had any-- (Signed with his mark) Thomas Son

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. P. Dean Carrigen, Clerk of the Justices Court of the City of Hudson.