

Pension Application for Rusel Stevens

S.6145

State of New York

Putnam County SS.

On this seventh day of February in the year of our Lord 1833 personally appeared before the court of common pleas of said County Russel Stephens a resident of the town of Patterson in said County of Putnam & State of New York aged seventy one 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 provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following circumstances & served as herein after mentioned. That in the fall of the year 1777, he resided in the town then called Fredericksburgh in Dutchess County N.Y. now Patterson in the County of Putnam, he was enrolled in a company of Militia commanded by Col. Fields regiment were called out, Capt Hecock's company was called upon a part of this regiment & this declarant was also called upon & went with the company & regiment to a place then called Fallows Hill on the east side of Hudson river, nearly opposite to Fort Montgomery that whilst declarant was there the British came up the river & took Fort Montgomery which was early in October of that year. This declarant served in Capt. Hecock's company until they were discharged which was two weeks. That in the following year 1775 in May or June a draft was made from Col Field's regiment of a number of soldiers sufficient to form a company Capt. David Hecock had the command of the drifted men. This declarant was one of the drafted men & went with the company so removed to FishKill & there remained with the company for two months. That being the time for which the draft was made. That whilst this declarant was so in the service at Fishkill. Col. Pierce was the next officer in command over Capt. Hecock.

That in the month of April 1779, a party or Tories was discovered passing from the American forces above the lines to the British below, they shot and killed a Mr. Butler who endeavoured to stop them. This was three or four mile north from the residence of Capt. Hecock, an alarm was given & the whole of Capt. Hecock's company were by him ordered out & this declarant went with the company and scoured the woods & mountains & went as far as Peekskill in this alarm the company & this declarant were employed one week.

That afterwards in the month of June on the year 1779 the whole of Col. Field's Regiment was again ordered they assembled at the town of Fredericksburgh & with the regiment was Hecock's company and this declarant as one of that company the whole regiment went from Fredericksburgh to Fishkill the first night they remained on the mountain the next day they reached Fishkill where the regt. remained three week & this declarant served as a soldier for the said three weeks. Major paddock had the command during this time.

That afterwards and sometime in the latter part of the summer in the year 1780, another draft was made from Capt. Hecock's Company. The drafted men were each to performed a tour of duty of two months. Capt. Hecock had the command of the drafted men, the men who were drafted, were so classed, as to know who was to secede each other. It was the lot of this declarant to be the first who was to perform his tour of duty & it was the lot of Elisha Brown to be the person next to follow this declarant, this declarant went with the said company & remained in the service at Fishkill under Capt. Hecock for two months on his return after the expiration of the said two months he met Elisha Brown who was coming to supply the place of this declarant, but as the company had been discharged & the said Brown not wanted, this declarant & Brown returned together.

That afterwards in the summer of 1781 there was another draft from Capt. David Hecock's company for four months, this declarant was drafted & ordered to meet the army at Fishkill directly after the draft he repaired to Fishkill & was there attached to a company commanded by a Capt. Stephens, the Lieut was named Young, Paddock the orderly sergeant, one Welch was adjutant

Weissenfels the Col. who had charge of the regiment to which declarant belonged, the regiment remained in Fishkill about six weeks, when they went by water to Albany & from Albany to Saratoga, and encamped there on the ground where Burgoyne was taken, after arriving at Saratoga Gen. Schuyler took the command, declarant with his company remained at that place until the expiration of his term of service, which was four months from the time of his being drafted.

Declarant further says that on all occasions before mentioned when he was in the military service of the country (except the week when in pursuit of Tories) the provisions for the company to which he belonged were drawn from the public stores.

And this declarant further says commencing in the year 1777 when he was first old enough to perform military duty he was often called upon to go on alarms. When he was not in the service as above detailed, & from that that during the war when at home in Fredericksburgh he was engaged in hunting Tories & going from place to place to prevent their organization & watching the roads during the night, how much time declarant spent in this way it is impossible to state, but he is confident that during the five years after he was old enough to do military duty his employment could not have been less than two months in this way.

I do hereby relinquish every claim whatever to any pension or annuity except the present & declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

In answer to the interrogatories propounded by the war department the declarant says that he was born in the town formerly called Fredericksburgh in Dutchess County NY in the year one thousand seven hundred sixty one, he has no record of his age other than an entry made by declarant in his Bible about twenty five years ago. Declarant lived in Fredericksburgh aforesaid at all times when he was called into the service as aforesaid & since the revolution has continued to live in said Fredericksburgh until that town was divided when he was in that part of the town called Franklin & now called Patterson & has always lived within the original township of Fredericksburgh.

The following are the names of the officers who were with the troops where declarant served. Capt. David Hecock, Major Paddock, Col. Field, Col. Pierce, Col. Ludington, Col. Weisenphelps, General Putnam, came to Fishkill once or twice when declarant was at Fishkill, Gen. Schuyler was in command at Saratoga, declarant cannot remember whether the above named officers belong to the militia or to the regular army.

Declarant never received a written discharge from the service but when discharged at Saratoga received a pass to come home. Declarant never received a commission he always served as a private soldier.

This declarant is known to David Hecock, Esquire, of Patterson in Putnam County & to John Warren, persons living in his neighborhood & who he believes can testify to his character for veracity & good behavior & their belief in his services as a soldier of the revolution. (Signed) Rusel Stevens.

Sworn & Subscribed in open court February 7, 1833. J. Morehouse, clerk of s'd court.