

Pension Application for Peter V. Terwilliger or Williger

W.20083 (Widow: Rachel)

State of New York

County of Ulster SS

On this 5th day of September 1832 personally appeared before me John Jansen one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the County of Ulster aforesaid Peter V. Terwilliger a resident of the Town of Shawangunk in the County of Ulster and state aforesaid Aged 72 years 2 months, 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 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated Viz.

1st That in the month of June 1776 as this deponent thinks he volunteered for 5 month[s] as a private under Captain John Gilesby in the Regiment of Colonel Hardenbergh as a private that he volunteered in Sshawangunk aforesaid and was marched to New York—that he was in New York at the time of the battle at Brooklin [Brooklyn] that he was sent out from New York the day before that General Washington's Army evacuated the City he being sick at the time that he was sent home from Kingsbridge on parole being unfit for duty that he was home about a month and again joined his company in NewBurgh and was discharged at NewBergh after the said term of service as aforesaid.

That I was in no engagement only – Cannonading across the East River while in New York.

2nd That In the month of May 1777 he volunteered for 4 months under Captain Matthew Jansen in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Paulding as a private and was marched from Shawangunk to Fort Montgomery and was there during the said time and was there discharged.

That then was during said term of service & Regiment of United States Troops Lying at Fort Montgomery commanded by Colonel Dubois, also a company of Artillery men under the command of Captain Moody. That he was in the engagements during said term.

3rd That next on the 6th day of October 17777 the regiment of militia to which I belonged lying in Shawangunk aforesaid commanded by Colonel Johanns Jansen was ordered to Fort Montgomery—that he was in the company of Captain [?] Robinson that they immediately marched and were at NewBurgh heard that the Fort was taken that he was then marched to New Windsor—to where some chevaux de fries were placed in the river that he continued at New Windsor until the British fleet went up the Hudson River and then he was ordered to Kingston—that when at New Windsor a British spy by the name of Taylor was taken and he was discovered to Swallow something—That medicine was administered to him and the Ball of silver that was swallowed was brought from him which contained a message from the British General –at New York to General Burgoine of a Contemplated meeting at Albany—

That the Army of General Clinton was marched from Newburgh to Kingston and that on the way there and when they arrived in sight of Kingston they discovered that the same was on fire—that they was marched to Hurly and while there Taylor the said spy was hung on an apple tree.

That from thence he was marched to Saugerties and was placed there to guard that place for about 2 weeks from thence he was marched to Newburgh and was then discharged after having served for the full term of one and one half months.

4th That in the month of November 1778, he was called from the regiment lying in Shawangunk to serve for 2 months at Ramapoo in New Jersey, that he was marched from Shawangunk aforesaid as a private under the command of Lieutenant Commandant Johannes Bruyn in the Regiment of Colonel Paulding that he served the said term of time at Ramapo as a guard, that then was no regular United States troops lying at that place that he was in a battle at that time, that there was two men by the name of Capt. Cor's Jansen and Captain Greggs then raising or enlisting troops for three years and during the war.

5th That in March 1778 previous to the last engagement he was ordered out from the Regiment Lying in Shawangunk aforesaid to go to West Point and he don't remember under what captain he as placed but was in the Regiment of Colonel Wrisner & Major Strong that he was whilst there employed in building fortifications and served there for 2 months as a private and was discharged.

6th That in the month of April 1779 he volunteered in Shawangunk under Captain Levi DeWitt for 8 months to serve on the Frontier or the West Side of Shawangunk Mountain in Col. Paulding's Regiment that the said regiment was joined along the frontier in different places to guard the inhabitants from the Indians that during said service he was at different places in Mamakating & Warwarsing, Lurinskill, Napinock &c. that during said term of service he was engaged in no battles only a few skirmishes and small pursuits, that he served the said 8 months as a private and was discharged at Naponick.

7th That next in the month of March 1780 he again volunteered for eight months under Capt. Levi Dewitt as a private in the Regiment of Colonel Paulding—that during the jail term of service he was placed on the said frontier as aforesaid and served for the said full term of eight months and was discharged at Naponick in November following that there was neither engagements nor skirmishes during said term of service.

8th That next he was in addition to all the services above set forth, he was ordered out from and with the regiment lying in Shawangunk aforesaid under the command of Colonel Johannes Jansen on alarms to the full number of 12 times that he was absent from home for from 8 to 24 days at each time depending upon the occasion for which he was ordered at that he has no doubt but that each time upon an average would make 12 days service.

That he served as aforesaid for the full term of two years & 5 ½ months as set forth aforesaid exclusive of the alarms last set forth they being added would make 4 ½ months more.

That to the Interrogatories prescribed by the war department and put to the said Judge he answers to them.

First That he was born in Shawangunk aforesaid in the year 1760 on the 3rd day of July.

Second That his age is recorded in the family Bible and in Shawangunk Church that he was baptized by the Reverend Mr. Merchev as he is informed.

Third That he has always lived in Shawangunk aforesaid and lives there still.

Fourth That he was drafted twice or 3 times and was a volunteer as follows as a private in the militia 1st for 5 mo volunteered 2nd for [??] volunteer, 3rd for 1 ½ mo ordered out 4th for 2 mo drafted 5th 2 months drafted, 6th for 8 mo volunteer, 7th for 8 month volunteer 8th ordered out by Colonel on alarms all as aforesaid.

Fifth That when at New York &c in the 1st 5 mo engagement he was stationed with the army of General Washington was sick at the evacuation of New York. That in the 2nd 4 mo engagement while at Fort Montgomery he was stationed with Colonel Dubois Regular troops & Capt. Moody's Artillery Company, that Regiment of Militia was there that General Clinton was there. That in the 3rd & 4th Engagment at Ramapoo there was no regular troops except two Captain Enlisting troops for 3 years & during the war. That in the remainder engagement he as last placed in the vicinity of any regular or United States Troops but was engaged as a guard to the frontier against the Indians &c as aforesaid.

6th That he never received a discharge in writing.

7th That he is well known to many citizens of the Town of Shawangunk aforesaid who can testify to his good character and the clergymen of Shawangunk Church of which he is a member. That Evert Hoffman, John McCord, David Winfield, Benjamin T. Terwilliger and James Scott and James N. Mitchell who can testify to my services. That Benj T. Terwilliger and James Scott, West Claverack & James N. Mitchell are produced before the Judge, but that the remainder could not attend.

That he hereby relinquishes very 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) Peter V. Terwilliger.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and yea aforesaid before Mr. John Jansen one of the Judges as aforesaid &c.