

Pension Application for Garret Thew

R.10491

State of New York

County of Clinton SS.

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of said County Garret Thew of Peru in said County applicant for a Pension who being duly sworn deposed and saith that he believes that Daniel Winters was the Captain under whom he served & that he belonged to Col. Cooper's Regiment. Deponent belonged to Capt. Orra Smith's Company of Militia, Col. Hays Regt, New York Militia & Deponent volunteered out of that Company at Clarkstown, N.Y., as a private for six months into Capt. (he believes his name was Daniel Winters Company) Col. Gilbert Coopers Regt & New York Militia, Major Hutton belonged to our Regt New York Militia, Major Hutton belonged to our Regt Deponent signed an enlistment the day he entered the service at Clarkstown and took the usual oath.

Deponent served as a waiter to Col. Gilbert Cooper who was an uncle of Deponent during the whole six months for which he enlisted and this is one reason why deponent does not recollect the names of the other officers—

Deponent enlisted as a Private in said Company & Regt and served at the place stated in his original Declaration made before Judge Wanford on the 27th day of ;Nov 1832. Deponent was discharged from the six months service at Clarkstown N.Y., on the 4th Jany 1777 when deponent & the whole of Col Coopers Regiment were discharged. (I stated that I received no written discharge. I may have received one, but if I did, it has been lost or destroyed.)

Deponent further says that he has stated that he enlisted into Capt Orra Smith's Company Col. Hays Regiment New York Militia. Deponent should with more propriety have stated that he was enrolled as said belonged to that company, and that he was called into actual service at the time stated by Deponent to with in October 1777. Deponent in that month was called upon to go on guard at Haughton's landing NY to watch the motions of the Tories and British who then had vessels lying at anchor in the River Hudson. There was a Sergeants guard consisting of about fifteen. Deponent believes Abraham Snyder was the Sergeant of the guard to which Deponent belonged.

That deponent & said guard served two weeks on guard at Slaughters landing in the month of October 1777 and that while deponent was on guard and while he was actually standing as a sentinel on his post.

During the night a party of British & tories surprised deponent and the whole of said Sergeants guard and took us prisoners of war. And men were in a barrack by the [?] Road Reading to Slaughters landing & deponent was captured with said Guard. Deponent cannot state the name of the officer who commanded the party who captured him. The party consisted of about thirty Tories and Refugees & they compelled our guard to march in the center & they occupied the front and rear of us. They surprised us by taking a circuitous route through a cornfield & the first we knew of their approach, they presented their Bayonets, & demanded Deponent and the said

guard to surrender. It was excessively mortifying to us that we were taken without an opportunity of fighting. Deponent and said Sergeants guard that night were put on board of a sloop lying in the North River in the service of the enemy & deponent & said guard were taken In said vessel to New York City. (The British then had possession of that City). The same party of Tories which captured Deponent and said Sergeant's guard on the next morning after we were taken, proceed[ed] to the house of Capt Smith & Major John Smith & burnt their houses and barns.

Deponent stated that he was captured by the British, he should have stated as above that the party which captured him were tories, in the service of the British Deponent & said guard after we landed from the vessel before mentioned at the City of New York or rather about two miles above the City of New York were put into a prison called the Sugar House, and deponent with about one hundred other American prisoners of war were confined there two months and two weeks and until January 1778, when deponent & said Sergeants guard were exchanged and released.

During our imprisonment we were every night locked up in the upper part of the prison, & our names were called over every night. The house was fenced in by a high bard fence. The British officers who commanded the prison was called Cunningham, an equal number of British Prisoners were exchanged for us. Deponent actually served on guard at Slaughters landing two weeks before he was taken prisoner as aforesaid and was a prisoner of war in the Sugar house aforesaid (a most filthy prison) for two months and two weeks. (Our food while in that prison was of the coarsest & [?] kind), making three months of service and imprisonment as aforesaid.

Deponent may have misstated the dates of the time he was taken a prisoner & the time he was discharged from the prison house, but he believes he has stated the time correctly, & he recollects the fact that while passing through an orchard situated between the place where we landed and the Sugar house (while a prisoner), he filled his pockets with apples which were there lying on the ground, from this & some other circumstances, he is convinced that he was captured during the month of October as before stated. Deponent is clear that the time he was imprisoned & served as aforesaid was three months.

Deponent states in his deposition made before Eland Larking Esqr, Jus Peace Sept 6, 1833, that he enlisted into Capt. Orra Smith's Company &c. Deponent should have stated that he belonged [to] that Company which was a militia Company & that he [?] not actually sign any enlistment. Deponent further says that during the same month of January 1778 he joined his said company at Clarkstown, land staid as a militia man. Our company was not called out until the spring of 1778. Then on the first of May of that year deponent was called upon to go upon guard duty at Haverstraw Landing, Dobbs Ferry, Slaughters Landing, Niac [Nyack] & Clarkstown on the North River, and he served at those places from the first of May 1778 to the first of November of the same year, two months being one third of said time.

Deponent cannot say whether any other company of Col. Hays Regiment was required to serve on guard duty one third of the time during the season of navigation, but he knows that Capt. Orra Smith's company to which Deponent belonged was

divided into three and four parts, and that we were required to take our turns in serving as guard in said company, and that during the seasons of 1778, 79, 80, 81, & 82.

He, Deponent actually served two months in each year, making ten months of actual service. Deponent is confident that his time of actual service in said Capt. Smith's Company during said years was in fact more than he has stated but he [??] stating the time shorter than it actually was, rather than claim that he served longer than he really did. Deponent further says that while we were on guard at the places before mentioned & those mentioned in his aforesaid declarations he drew rations a part of the time & some times—we took our provisions from home. When stationed at Capt. Smith's house we drew rations, and also when at Major John Smith's. But for our services we received no compensation, save the reflection that we were doing our duty.

Deponent further says that during the whole of the war in the summer season, Guards were constantly kept along the North River to prevent the British from plundering the inhabitants residing upon its borders. Deponent would limit the last sentence to the time the British took possession of New York in 1776 till the war closed.

Deponent further says that the company to which he belonged (Capt. Smith's) were required to perform guard duty during the summer seasons as aforesaid every other week and Deponent did actually perform such guard duty as before stated and so deponent says that during the Revolution he actually served six months as a private in Capt Daniel Winters Company, Col. Gilbert Coopers, Regt of New York Militia, and that Deponent served and was imprisoned three months as aforesaid and that in addition he actually served as a private on guard as aforesaid for then months and for nineteen months service & imprisonment during the Revolutionary War, Deponent claims a Pension. (Signed) Garrett Shew

Affirmed and Subscribed to before me this 11th December 1833. And I certify that Deponent is a highly respectable citizen and I hereby declare my opinion after investigation of the matter that the said Garret Shew did serve nineteen months as a private during the revolutionary war as he has stated. Wm. F. Haile. Judge of Clinton Common Pleas Counsellor &c.