

Pension Application for Ephraim Thomas

S.6227

State of New York

County of Washington SS.

On this twenty eighth day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty two personally appeared in Open Court before the Court of Common Pleas held at the court house in the Town of Salem in and for the County of Washington in the State aforesaid now sitting Ephraim Thomas a resident of the Town of Whitehall in the County of Washington and State of New York aforesaid aged seventy three years and five months who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath makes the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed 7th June 1832.

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

His first service was in the Militia of the State of New York commanded by Colonel Alexander Webster in a company commanded by Captain Levi Stockwell and Lieutenant Boggs, Major Childs was attached to said Webster's Regiment. He does not remember whether there was any General in Command at or near the place of his service.

That he volunteered his services in said Company of Militia and commenced his services In it some time in the fall of the year 1779 two years as he believes after Burgoyne was taken he cannot state the day of the month but is pretty sure it was in the month of September 1779 that he entered said said [sic] service. That he served at that time a little over six months during which time he was stationed at Skeensborough, now called Whitehall, in the County of Washington & State of New York and was frequently sent out with scouting parties as they were called as far north as Ticonderoga and Crown Point on Lake Champlain to watch the movements of the Tories & Indians, was in no considerable battle but there were two or three of his company wounded by the Tories and Indians.

That in March 1780 he was discharged for a short time but that in less than a month he was again called on and again volunteered under Captain Elisha Tozer of Skeensborough in the Militia of said State under Col. John Williams, the Major's name he don't remember and served under those officers off and on for more than half the time until some time in June of the same year, this service was also at and about Skeensborough in the County & State aforesaid where he resided when he first entered the service as aforesaid and where he has resided ever since that time except when absent in service in the revolutionary war as hereinafter mentioned.

That there were no regular of Continental regiments or companies in service at Skeensborough at the times of his services as above. That he knew Col. Seth Warner who raised a Regiment called "the Green Mountain Boys" and he also knew Col. Herrick and Captain Allen of Herrick's Regiment.

His next service as a soldier in the Revolutionary War was in a company commanded by Captain Adiel Sherwood in a regiment of State troops raised the State of New York & commanded as he believes by Colonel Copeland.

That in the month of June 1780 the day of the month he cannot remember he enlisted under the said Captain Sherwood for the term of three months.

That he enlisted as aforesaid at a place then and now called Sandy Hill in the Town of Kingsburg in said County of Washington, that he was then stationed at Fort Ann in said County, State of New York where he assisted in building a Picket fort, after building the Fort he was frequently sent on Scouting expeditions through the woods north as far as Ticonderoga and Crown Point. At one time the party consisting of twelve men discovered two British guard ships lying In the lake between Crown Point and Ticonderoga, three of his party served from this ambush on shore at the ships,, immediately two small boats were manned from the ships when these boats had approached within a few rods of the shore, his party fired and wounded some of the men when the boats put about and retreated to the ships.

He continued in this service at and near Fort Ann until some time in the month of September following when Major Carlton or Tarlton approached with the thirty fourth Regiment of the British forces, with Tories and Indians in all amounting to about sixteen hundred men and surrounded the Picket forts there, when Captain Sherwood this officer commanding the fort capitulated and surrendered the whole American force there consisting only of about seventy men were surrendered as prisoners among which was the said Ephraim Thomas the Declarant, Captain Sherwood Lieutenant Baldwin and Lieutenant Roberts.

That he the Declarant with the other prisoners were then taken by the British to Fort George at which plan the enemy met with a part of Col. Seth Warner's Regiment of Green Mountain boys and a battle or skirmish [?] and Warner's Regiment were many of them either killed or taken prisoners, Col. Warner was not there with his Regiment it was commanded by Major Chipman at Fort Ann and Fort George to Ticonderoga and then to Crown Point where all the said prisoners were put on board open boars and conveyed through Lake Champlain to the Isle Aux Noix and then to St. Johns, from thence to Chambly thence to Montreal where he was detained as prisoner till the month of March following where he was taken back to Chambly and kept about a month he was then sent with about fifteen other prisoners to Quebec and there imprisoned all summer and in October following was put on board the British Ship Isabella Captain Robinson and transported to the Cove of Cork in Ireland was then placed in a British seventy four called the Lenox and in about a week after was transferred to the Dolphin a 44 Gun Ship in the British Navy Commanded by Captain Robinson where he remained about a year when he deserted that ship in Barbadorg in the West Indies and went on board a Schooner bound for savannah -was pressed from that Schooner and placed on board the British Ship Leander a 50 Gun Ship and sailed to Togango where he deserted that ship and made his way to Grenado and from thence to Virginia and from thence he returned to his home at Skeensborough now called Whitehall where he arrived in the month of December next after peace was proclaimed.

That he was born in Tirningham in the State of Massachusetts in the year seventeen hundred and fifty nine—has no record of his age, the family Bible of his father contained a record of it but that was burned many years ago with the house of his brother Eliphalet.

He lived in Skeensborough (now called Whitehall) in the County of Washington and State of New York when he was called into the service and has lived there ever since with the exception of the time he was absent in service and now residing there.

He volunteered in the service both in the Militia and State troops and was not a Substitute. That he never received any written discharge from the service but was paid off on his return from his imprisonment by his former Captain Adiel Sherwood at Fort Edward for the whole time he served including the time he was detained as a prisoner as aforesaid which was more than three years, the amount he received for such service was ninety five pounds six and two pence it was paid in state notes with which he bought a small farm he now lives on at Whitehall aforesaid.

He knows of no officer now living by whom he can prove his said services nor any other person except those whose statement is hereto annexed.

He enlisted and served as aforesaid as a private soldier and has no documentary evidence to support his declaration & that he is known to Daniel Earll Esqr, Supervisor of Whitehall, Elisha Andrews, Melacton Wheeler & others in his present neighborhood who will he believes testify to his character for truth & their belief of his services.

He hereby relinquishes his every 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) Ephraim Thomas

Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid. J. S. Leighy Clk