

## Pension Application for John I. or J. Best

W.20706 (Christina)  
State of New York  
Columbia County SS.

On this 21<sup>st</sup> day of August in the year of our Lord 1833 personally appeared before J. W. Fairfield one of the Justices of the Justices Court of the City of Hudson of the County of Columbia & state aforesaid John J. Best a resident of the town of Taghkanic in the County of Columbia and State of New York aged seventy seven 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 act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

This declarant John J. Best being duly sworn says that he entered the service of the United States in the Revolutionary War under Captain Peter VanGaasbeck as Captain, Samuel Ten Broeck as Lieutenant, Bortle Hendricks as Ensign and one Thomas Hops as Orderly Sergeant this deponent believes it was for nine months and the time expired sometime in the winter of 1777—recollects that the troops lay a part of the time in Fishkill and a part of the time lay at Colonel Vandeburgh's at or near the Mills [?] Ingersolls where were publick stores to guard & protect. The Colonel of the Regiment this deponent thinks was Colonel Livingston and Derick Johnson and Samuel TenBroeck were first and second majors.

The term of service in 1776 & 1777 up to the latter part of the winter of 1777 was nine months as a soldier in the service of the United States.

This deponent further says that he was again in the United States service from the first of April 1777 until first of August of the same year served under Colonel Hay, Henry Pulver was captain and John Stall was lieutenant and this deponent further says that he also lay at Peekskill in the fall of 1777 two months.

The term of service in 1777 was six months as a soldier of the Revolution.

This deponent further says that he served in 1778 he thinks and believes under Captain Leonard TenBroeck marched to West Point and lay there in the encampment is certain he was there one month the exact time he cannot state recollects of seeing the great chain that lay across the Hudson River at the time. That this deponent was at West Point.

The active duty that this Deponent did in the United States Service in 1778 was three months and more.

This deponent says that the active duty he rendered in the United States service in 1779, 1780 & 1781 was at least two months each year in patrolling the road and guarding public stores in and about Major Derick Johnson's who kept the public stores at Clermont was Colonel Livingston's and during the time above mentioned and that further this deponent was engaged in no civil occupation or pursuit.

This deponent further says that he performed a part of the service at Stillwater at Fort Miller at Fort Edward at Saratoga and under Colonel Hay and the other officers named by this deponent in 1777 from April till August recollects that he served under General Schuyler was at his house at Saratoga this deponent assisted in destroying the grain driving horses through whole fields of grain and pulled up the Indian Corn by the roots, this deponent further says that he recollects of seeing General gates at Stillwater who commanded there.

This deponent further says that he was at Peekskill and Fishkill at Fort Montgomery and at West Point and also lay apart of the time at Pockquayack so called and that deponent says that from old age and the consequent loss of memory and from his extreme debility and bodily infirmity he cannot more distinctly state the time of his service so performed by him during the Revolutionary War more fully than he has heretofore stated the same but says that he is confident he performed the following terms of service in the following grade viz he says he served as a private soldier during the Revolutionary War for the term of two years and for such service he claims a pension.

This deponent hereby relinquishes 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.

To the following interrogatories this deponent answers as follows—

1<sup>st</sup> Question: Where in what year were you born? Ans. I was born in Clermont Columbia County in 1756 on the 7<sup>th</sup> of March then called Albany County.

2d Question: Have you any record of your age and if so where is it? Ans. I have no other record of my age than my recollection.

3d Question: Where you living when called into service, where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where now. Ans. I resided in the Town of Clermont Columbia County during the war and have resided where I now reside since the war in Taghkanic.

4<sup>th</sup> Question: How were you called into service where you drafted did you volunteer or were you a substitute? Ans. I always went for myself once I enlisted for nine months and the other terms I volunteered as a soldier.

5<sup>th</sup> Question: State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served—such Continental and Malitia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service? Ans. I would state General Clinton, General Schuyler, General Gates also General Putnam at West Point or the Highlands also Colonel Hay, also Colonel VandeBurgh, also Colonel Livingston. Major Johnson, Maj. TenBroeck, Captain VanGaasbeck, Captain Pulver Captain TenBroeck and for a more full detail of my service I would refer to my declaration.

6<sup>th</sup> Question: Did you ever receive a discharge from the service & if so by whom was it given & what has become of it? Ans. I did not receive any discharge in writing but once that I received it from Colonel Hay, I was always regularly discharged from the service by my other officers. The discharge I received from Colonel Hay is lost and destroyed.

7<sup>th</sup> Question: State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood & who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your service as a soldier of the Revolution? Ans. I would refer to Jonathan Lapham & any [?] of Taghkanic to Revd Edwin Holmes and Genl Lamb, TenBroeck & others who know me and can state what my character is in the neighborhood or County where I am know. (Signed) John J. Best.

Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid before me. Henry Avery, Justice of the Peace and Commissioner of Deeds &c.

Letter in folder dated November 12, 1928, written in reply to an inquiry.

I advise you from the papers in the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim, W.20706, it appears that John I. or J. Best was born, March 7, 1756, in Clermont, Columbia County, New York.

While residing there, he enlisted and served as a private in the New York Troops as follows:

From in 1776, nine months in Captain Peter VanGaasbeck's Company, Colonel Livingston's Regiment; from April 1, 1777, six months in Captain Henry Pulver's Company, Colonel Hay's Regiment; in 1778, three months in Captain Leonard TenBroeck's Company, Colonel Peter B. Livingston's Regiment and in 1779, 1780, and 1781, two months each year, officers not stated.

He was allowed pension on his application executed August 21, 1833, at which time he was living in Taghkanic, Columbia County, New York.

He died May 10, 1835.

The soldier married, November 7, 1780, Christina Ham, who was born in December 1760.

She was allowed pension on her application executed January 19, 1843, at which time she was living in Taghkanic, New York, aged eighty-three years. She died there December 2, 1846.

Their children were: Jacob I. Best, born April 7, 1781, in 1837 he was living in Milan, Dutchess County, New York; Margaret, born March 4, 1783, in 1838 she was the wife of Peter I. Rossman, of Claverack, New York; John I. Best, Jeremiah Best, in 1837 a resident of Taghkanic, New York; Robert Best in 1846 a resident of Livingston, New York; Polly Best in 1846 a resident of Kinderhook, New York; Laura

Horton; in 1846 a resident of Clyde, New York; Catharine Clapper, in 1846 a resident of Adrian, Michigan.