

Pension Application for Thomas Blain

S.958

State of New Jersey

Bergen County SS.

On this thirty first day of October 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Inferior court of Common Pleas in and for the County of Bergen and State of New Jersey, aged eighty 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 Act of Congress, passed June 7, 1832.

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

That he was born in the town of Warwick in the County of Orange & State of New York on the 24th of February 1751. [??] as appears by the Bible & family record kept by his father William Blain and which Bible is now in possession of his sister, Margaret Winfield. That Warwick was his place of residence during the Revolutionary War and at which place he first entered the service of the United States.

That in the month of June 1776 he volunteered as a Sergeant of Captn William Blain's Company of Militia and was marched to Fort Montgomery on the Hudson River at which place he continued to do duty for one month. Col. Hathorn commanded the detachment to which he belonged.

That in the summer of the same year he done one month's duty as a sergeant of Captain Blain's Company stationed at Tapon [sic] and Haverstraw, thinks that Lieutenant Thomas Wisner commanded the company a portion of the time and that Lieut Col. Henry Wisner had the command of the Regiment or Detachment to which he belonged.

That he performed six weeks duty as a private soldier of Captain Blain's Company which fully appears by a certain PayRoll hereunto annexed.

That he performed one month's service as a private soldier of Captain Blain's as will also appear by another certain PayRoll hereunto annexed states Augt 1777.

That he also performed a month's service as a private soldier of Captain Blain's Company as will appear by a certain PayRoll bearing date Octo & Novr 1777 and hereunto annexed.

That he only field officers under whom he now recollects to have served during the periods above mentioned are Col. Hathorn, Col. Wisner & Major Rossano.

That some time late in the fall or the early part of the winter of 1777, he recollects and knows that he entered as a volunteer Sergeant of Capt. [left blank] Company & was marched under the command of Col. Hathorn to Haverstraw and while stationed at that place he was detailed as first sergeant of a patrolling guard and marched from camp through various districts of the surrounding country watching the movements of the enemy and protecting the inhabitants against the refugees.

That he continued constantly on duty & in the service of the United States as a sergeant of said guard organized by Col. Hathorn until in the month of February 1778, no less than three months.

That in the month of February 1778 he received a Commission as Lieutenant which is hereunto annexed. That he then entered the service of the United States as a Second Lieutenant of Captain McCambley's Company and was attached to Col. Hathorn command and was marched to Newfound Land in the State of New Jersey from thence to the Hudson River in the County of Bergen from thence to Fort Montgomery in the State of New York cannot state the precise length of his service on that occasion but thinks it was not less than four weeks.

The next tour of service he now recollects to have performed as a lieutenant was at the Minisink on the Delaware River to which place he went with a detachment of militia in consequence of some depredation committed by the Indians he thinks that Col. Wisner had the command. That he has a distant recollection and knows that he performed three several separate and distinct tours of duty as a Lieutenant in the service of the United States on the Delaware River during the Revolutionary War but

cannot state precisely the different years or months in which they were performed, not the precise length of his services on the Delaware River but is satisfied that the three served tours of service could not have been performed in less than from 2 to three weeks each in all not less than two months.

That he performed one month's tour of service as a Lieutenant and attached to Col. Hathorn's Command at which time he was marched to a place called Hopper's Mills in the County of Bergen New Jersey a portion of the Regular Army was stationed at that place at the same time thinks that Genl Wayne had the command.

That he performed on month's service as Lieutenant in command of a detachment of men repairing the Fort at West Point & thinks that Henry Wisner Esqr superintended the work at West Point at the time.

That he was on duty as a lieutenant in the service at the taking of Stony Point and on which occasion he was detailed with a detachment of man in charge of the British prisoners taken at that place & marched them to Newton Sussex County New Jersey & thinks that Genl Wayne had the command at Stony Point.—Thinks he was in the service four weeks at that time—That he was in the service of the United States during the Revolution some time as a volunteer some times as a detailed militia man, and was doing duty at various periods of each year from the commencement til the close of the war the greater portion of his service was as a Lieutenant.

Thank after the close of the war he continued to reside at Warwick til the year 1826 when he removed to the County Bergen New Jersey and at which place he doth now reside.

That he has no documentary evidence to offer excepting the several slips of paper—PayRolls & his commission hereunto annexed, which have remained in his possession since the close of the war. That he knows no man in the State of New Jersey whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service. The only field officers that he can now particularly name are General Washington whom he once saw at Ramapough—Col. Hawthorn—Lieutenant Col. Wisner, Adjutant Fink, Major Possano are the only field officers under whom he now recollects to have served—There were many others whom he cannot recollect—The several papers retaining to his service have been in his possession since the Revolutionary War.

He 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 of the United States. (Signed) Thomas Blain.

Sworn to, and subscribed, in open court, the day and year first aforesaid. Abr. Westervelt, Clerk.

Letter in folder dated May 26, 1935, written in reply to an inquiry.

The data furnished herein were found in the papers on file in pension claim, S.958, based upon service in the Revolutionary War of Thomas Blain.

Thomas Blain, son of William Blain, was born February 24, 1751 in Warwick, Orange County, New York; the name of his mother was not stated.

While a resident of Warwick, Orange County, New York, he enlisted in June 1776, served one month as sergeant in Captain William Blain's company (no relationship between the Captain Blain and Thomas Blain shown), Colonel John Hathorn's regiment, after which he served as private and sergeant on different tours in Captain William Blain's company, and in Captain John Minthorn's company under Colonel Thursten, until February 1778, amounting in all to four months and fourteen days as private and five months as sergeant; during these tours of service, he was at Fort Montgomery in the summer of 1776, and in the fall and winter of 1777, was at Tappan, Ramapough and Haverstraw. Thomas Blain was commissioned in February 1778, 2nd Lieutenant of Captain David McCambly's company, Colonel John Hathorn's New York regiment, served on different tours, one under Colonel Wisner, amounting to at least six months, continuing until August 1782; during said tours, he was engaged in New Jersey, at Minisink on the Delaware River, was at the taking of Stony Point, and afterwards, at West Point.

Thomas Blain resided in Warwick, Orange County, New York, until the year 1826, then moved to Bergen County, New Jersey.

He was allowed pension on his application executed October 31, 1832, at which time he resided Salle River Township, Bergen County, New Jersey. Thomas Blain died February 11, 1841.

The soldier made no reference to wife or children.

In 1832, Thomas Blain referred to his sister. Margret Winfield.

In 1832, one William Windfield was a resident of Warwick, Orange County, New York. No relationship to the family of Thomas Blain was stated.