

Pension Application for Thomas Boyd

S.28649

State of New York

Washington County SS.

On this 20th day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand Eight hundred and thirty two personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Washington and State of New York now sitting Thomas Boyd aged seventy two 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 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States in the spring of the year 1778 at which time he resided in the town of Salem in the county aforesaid and has resided there ever since.

That he entered the service under the following named officers to wit: Thomas Armstrong was Major, John Armstrong (1) Captain it was in the malitia [militia] he was a volunteer the malitia in that town generally turned out head quarters was at Whitehall in the County of Washington aforesaid at which place he staid four or five months traveling about on the borders of Lake Champlain as far north as Crown Point he further states that from that time up to 1781 or 1782 he was out a great number of times thinks in the whole at least ten or twelve times some times to Whitehall some times to Lake George and some times to Saratoga once he went to Vermont to intercept the passage of some tories at which time the whole malitia of the town turned out they were surprised and captured sixteen persons who were conveyed to Bennington where a portion of the American Army were then stationed at that time he was at work in the Harvest field and his brother brought him his gun and equipage and he went without returning to his father's house the length of time he was out each time or the times of the year he cannot particularly state during the time above stated he kept himself in a state of readiness to go at any time at a moment's warning at all times the officers were the same as above stated but some time only one would be with them Captain Stockwell (2) had charge of the regular troops when he was at Whitehall (then Skeensborough) thinks he was out at all the above named times over fourteen months.

In 1781 or 82 he went into the service in the following manner. The malitia were classed and there were nine in each class each had to furnish one man he went as the man from his class and was out at this time about the middle of April to the last of December.

He first went to Saratoga and then returned to Salem and there remained a great portion of the time once they went to Granville, Anthony Welp (3) was Capt. Marinus Willett was Col. Part of the time he remained in garrison doing duty and a part of the time in scouting about the country protecting the enhabitants [sic] and their property from depredations of the Indians and tories the company was discharged at Schenectady by Lieut Hunsdale (4) the discharge has been lost has no documentary evidence to prove his services he knew Asa Fitch & Robert Stewart when

out in the service he was born in the Kingdom of Ireland August 18th 1761 has a record of his age in his family Bible. He was living in Salem aforesaid when called into service. Resides there now & has ever since the Revolutionary War—at all times he was a volunteer cannot state the names of any of the singular officers or the circumstance of his service any more particularly than above. He is acquainted with Alexander Praudfit, Abraham Allen, Samuel Stevens, Asa Fitch, Robert Stewart, Jaspar L. Billings & others who can testify to his character for truth. He relinquishes all other claim to a pension & his name is not on any previous roll. (Signed) Thomas Boyd

Sworn & subscribed this day & year aforesaid. J. S. Leigh, Clk

End Notes—S.28649—Thomas Boyd

1. Thomas enlisted as a private in Captain John Armstrong's Company in Colonel John Williams' First Regiment of Charlotte County Militia. On September 2, 1843, the Deputy Comptroller Philip Phelps' affidavit cited 3 pay certificates for Thomas in Captain Armstrong's Company as follows:

April 2, 1780	No. 9073	£ 0 . 16 . . 0
August 26, 1779	No. 9135	£ 1 . . 10 . . 2
March 31, 1780	No. 9199	£ 1 . . 3 . . 1

And one for Captain Edward Long's company in the same regiment, June 6, 1780 no. 8459. Alexander Webster was the lieutenant colonel and Thomas Armstrong was the major of the regiment. Webster later commanded the regiment as Colonel Williams was dismissed for defrauding the Continental Pay Office by false pay-rolls.

2. Levi Stockwell was appointed Captain on May 11, 1780 in Lieutenant Colonel Commandant John Harper's Regiment of New York Levies. The regiment was raised for seven months and they all were discharged on November 30, 1780. Stockwell returned home and was appointed Captain in Colonel Webster's Regiment. He was commissioned Captain on April 12, 1782.
3. Anthony Welp was appointed Captain on April 10, 1782 in Colonel Marinus Willett's Regiment of New York State Levies. Each company officer had to recruit a quota of men to receive a commission for the rank to which he was appointed. The officers were "arranged" into a regiment and then into companies. Many times an officer would become "supernumary" and would be "deranged". It means there were not enough enlisted men to form a company of a captain and two lieutenants.

The following is an excerpt from Colonel Willett's Orders dated Albany 4th July 1782: "*Anest [sic, Annexed] to such compinies [sic, companies] have not thare [sic, their] Quota and the Officers become deranged.*"

Colonel Willett lists the officers that are to be arranged into Companies in his regiment and then orders what companies the recruits are to go and join as follows: *Capt henrys [sic Henry's] Company is to be Anest to the Companies of*

Capt Pearsee French Young Tierce & Newel Capt Grays to captain Harrison [sic Harrison] & Cannon and Capt Welps to Capt Livingston and Wright.”

The cited order was included in the Pension Application file S.23729 for Witter Johnston, who served as a lieutenant in Willett's regiment in 1782 and 1783.

Dep. Comptroller Phelps in his September 2, 1843 letter also included the following: *Dec 31, 1782 no 7221 for £18 . . 13 . . 1 for Boyd's service in Captain Abraham Livingston's Company in Colonel Willett's Regiment.*

4. John Hondson [Hudson, Hondson, etc.] served as a sergeant and private in Captains Long and Armstrong's Companies in Colonel Webster's Regiment.