

Pension Application for Matthias Briggs

W.25288 (Widow: Margaret) Married Mathias Briggs May 4, 1792 by the Rev'd Mr. White, Presbyterian minister in the then town of Hampsted, now Ramapo.

State of New York
Rockland County SS.

On this seventeenth day of July 1833 personally appeared before me Cornelius T. Blauvelt one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas [Pleas] in and for said county Matthias Briggs who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following amendment to the annexed declaration. That, the company in which he served was the most of the time of the service by him set forth in the annexed declaration he spent a guarding along the Hudson River at Bulls ferry and Closter in the County of Bergen in the State of New Jersey, at the Slote near Tappan Town, at Nyack and at Haverstraw, and that he did march through different parts of the now County of Rockland and through the County of Bergen, and that he is now unable to state the particular routs [routes] of his marches as his memory now fails but that he while on scouts was almost continually on the march from place to place where his service was necessary, and he always believed that the militia was called into service by Order of the Governor of the State of New York, by whom his officers was commissioned, and for the time during which the service was performed he was not employed in any civil pursuit, but that he served two years as a musician in Captain Bell's Company and for which service I claim a pension. That he was born in the Town of Orange in the County now Rockland and state of New York on the thirteenth day of January `763, as appears by the Record of the Reformed Dutch Church at Tappan. Sworn and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid. (Signed) Matthias Briggs

Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid before me, JH. Edwards, George Onderdonck

State of New York
Rockland County SS.

On this twenty ninth day of November in the year A.D. 1832, personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the court of common Pleas [Pleas] now sitting Matthias Briggs, a resident of the town of Orange in the County of Rockland and State of New York aged sixty nine years the fourteenth day of January 1832, 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 in the month of August in the year 1776 he volunteered as fifer, in a company commanded by Captain John Bell, John Sicker Lieutenant in a Regiment commanded by Col'n Graham, at a place called Tappan, in the town of Orange aforesaid and served as a guard along the Hudson River from Sneedens to Nyack from that time until Peace was proclaimed, that during the first two years he was out with the company the greatest part of his time that they was obliged to keep a continual guard along the river to prevent as far as their force was sufficient, the men from the British shipping (which lay in the Hudson River nearly the whole of the war) from Landing to plunder and destroy the property of the Citizens which resided along the river, that the man that belonged to the company often took turns in guarding some would guard a while and then was relieved by others, but he as a musician had to be out on duty when ever any of the company was out which was nearly the whole year except in the severe part of the winter, and in the years 77-78 & 79 their duty was arduous often having small engagements with the enemy, in one of which at a place called Rockland, he was taken prisoner, but on his way to New York he was fortunate and made his escape and returned to his company.

In the years 80, 81 & 82 the company had considerable more rest, and that in the year 78 when Capt Bell was out on other duty than the company was commanded by the aforesaid Lieutenant, that he has no documentary evidence of his services, that from his infancy he has always resided in the town of Orange aforesaid where he is well known, and many of the Citizens can testify as to his character and

veracity and a few yet remaining who are known to his services, and that he is confident that the time he was out in the United States services far exceeds two years—

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 state. (Signed) Matthias Briggs

Sworn to and subscribed in open court the day and year aforesaid. In open court David Pye,
Clerk