

Pension Application for John Brooks

R.1251 (John Brooks died the 31st December 1834

State of New York

County of Orange SS.

On this third day of Septr. 1832 Personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common pleas now sitting John Brooks of the Town of Monroe County and State aforesaid, aged Ninety two years who being 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 the 7th 1832 and the applicant being duly sworn deposed and saith that he was born in the year 1741 in the City of New York Oct 7th and in the year 1777 he resided in the Town of Monroe and County of Orange aforesaid that he belonged to Militia and was Enrolled under Capt. Francis Smith (1) and served under him as a private in s'd [said] Company which Company was commanded by Col. Jesse Woodhull & Genl James Clinton. (2)

Deponentt saith that during the Summer of 1777, he was called out to Fort Montgomery [Montgomery] a fortification on the bank of the Hudson River. Several times for the purpose of keeping the enemy from landing at that place and was there as much as seven or eight days at a time but cannot recollect the days in which he was called nor the precise number of times but thinks as much as seven or eight times—deponent further says that he was at the battle of Fort Montgomery when the fort was taken by the Enemy and that he was then taken prisoner on the 6th day of October 1777 by the enemy and was carried to the City of New York where he was kept in prison one year and four or five days. Then returned to the Town of Monroe in s'd County where he has resided the most of his time since and that he now resides in s'd Town of Monroe and County of Orange aforesaid.

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 in the United States. (Signed) John Brooks

Sworn to and subscribed this day & year aforesaid before me. Asa Dennison Clerk

State of New York

County of Orange SS.

John Brooks of the town of Monroe in the said County of Orange applicant for a pension being duly sworn according to law makes the following additional declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he entered the Service under Captain Smith being enrolled in his company, that his service was principally at Fort Montgomery and along the Hudson that during the period of his service mentioned particularly in his former declaration he says upon reflection he served not less that the period of Two Months actual Service for which he claims—

That Gen. Clinton commanded at Fort Montgomery and that he recollects Col. McLanghry's (3) being in the service in the fort recollects Robert Dansford Who was a private -- that this deponent was taken prisoner at Fort Montgomery October 6th 1777. That he was carried to New York City by the enemy and was there kept in actual confinement for the Period of one year and four days for which period of time he also claims a Pension—

That all of his service was done in the grade of a Private soldier.

1. He was born in the year 1741 in the City of New York.
2. That he was a record of his age in the Town of Monroe aforesaid.
3. He was living at Smiths Clove Orange County aforesaid when called into Service, has lived there ever since.
4. He was enrolled in Captain Smith's Company and performed duty as Militiaman.

5. Never Recd a written discharge.
6. That he is known to James Weygart Esqr, Dr. Joseph Andrews, John McGanet Esqr, & others all of the Town of Monore in the said County of Orange.

From bodily infirmities as great an inconvenience he cannot bring his witness in Open Court. (Signed) John Brooks

Sworn in Open Court before me the 5th day of December 1834. Asa Dennison Clerk.

Letter of inquiry dated November 29, 1938 in the file.

Reference is made to your request for information relative to John Brooks, a soldier of the Revolutionary War.

The data which follow were obtained from papers on file in the pension claim, R. 1251, based on the military service of John Brooks.

He was born October 7, 1741, in New York City. The names of his parents are not shown.

It was alleged that while living in Monroe or "at Smith's Clove" in Orange County, New York, in 1777 he was enrolled in Captain Francis Smith's company of New York militia under Colonel Jesse Woodhull and during that summer served on various short tours of as much as seven or eight days each, amounting to not less than two months in all, as a private, and during the battle of Fort Montgomery on October 6, 1777, he was taken prisoner and held captive for a year and four or five days and was confined in the "Old Sugar House" in New York City.

John Brooks applied for pension on September 3, 1832, while living in Monroe, Orange County, New York, at which time he stated he had lived in Monroe most of his life. The claim was not allowed as he failed to furnish proof of the alleged service in accordance with the requirement of the pension law.

John Brooks died December 31, 1834, at Monroe, New York, and was survived by the following children: John who in 1853 was living in Monroe, New York, aged seventy-three years; Elizabeth Woodruff who in 1855 was living in Monroe, New York, aged Fifty-seven years; Catharine Gaffit who in 1853 was living in Albany, New York, aged seventy-eight years; and Mary Knapp who in 1853 was living in Albany New York.

The wife of the Revolutionary War soldier, John Brooks, predeceased him by several years. The date of her death and her name are not shown.

In 1853 one Samuel Woodruff was living in Orange County, New York, relationship not shown.

There are no further data relative to family.

End Notes—R.1251—John Brooks

1. Francis Smith was the Captain of the Fifth Company, Woodberry Clove Company in Colonel Jesse Woodhull's First Regiment of Orange County Militia.
2. Brigadier General James Clinton of the Continental Army.
3. Colonel James McClaughrey commanded the Second Regiment of Ulster County Militia.