

Pension Application for James C. Brown

R.1306

At a Court of Common Pleas held at the Court house in the Village of Elmira in & for the County of Tioga in the State of New York, commencing on the First Tuesday in September 1832, the same being a Court of Record so declared by the Constitution and laws of the said State by which it is constituted, and having a Seal & Clerk. Present: Hon. G. B. Baldwin, first judge, John R. Druke, Elijah Shoemaker, Darius Bently, Joseph L. Darling, Esquires, Judges &c.

State of New York

Tioga County SS.

On the 5th day of September 1832, personally appeared in open Court, before the above named Judges now sitting James D. Brown a resident of the Town of Elmira in the said County of Tioga, aged eighty two years and upwards, who being first duly sworn according to law, did on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

That during the Revolutionary War he resided at Fishkill in the County of Dutchess in the State of New York. That the inhabitants of that county and most of the counties bordering on the North River were greatly harassed in consequence of the great number of Loyalists who resided in that part of the country and kept themselves in the situations from which they could annoy the surrounding inhabitants whenever circumstances favoured their descent upon them. They were also much infested with gangs of marauders whose sole aim seemed the acquisition of plunder without much regard to the party from which it could be obtained.

The Tories & Refugees were countenanced & sustained till the close of the war of the British troops which continued to hold possession of the City of New York & consequently by their shipping had the command of a considerable part of the North River—These circumstances induced the inhabitants of Dutchess County at a very early period of the Revolutionary to form voluntary associations for mutual aid & protection & to establish a corps of patrols to guard the town during the night when they were the more liable to the attack of their troublesome foes above alluded to—a company was formed in the Town of FishKill originally under command of Capt'n Andrew Hill & afterwards on his appointment as a Major, commanded by Capt. William Swartwood whose specialty it was to guard the inhabitants by day & were distributed in squads, to act as patrols during the night alternating through the week. In this company the deponent entered early in the year 1776 & continued in the performance of that kind of duty until its close in the fall of 1783. Altho' during a part of the time & particularly in the year 1781 military operations were not carried on to much extent, yet in the neighborhoods about the North River, the attacks of the British Tories, Refugees, Skinners, & Horse thieves required a constant guard and patrol, until the evacuation of New York by the British Troops. Except about three months the said deponent was engaged in that service til the close of the war—The three months alluded to was while he was pressed with his team to have [?] full & various articles of food &c for the troops which during winter seasons were quartered in the neighborhood of Fishkill & what was called the Connecticut Huts where troops were encamped.

The deponent believes that these services all together would fairly amount to the two years full service required by the act of June 7, 1832 to entitle him to a full pension & therefore presents to his claim believing his services entitle him to it.

In answer to the Interrogatories propounded by the War Department he states that he was born at North Castle in the County of Westchester N.Y. 5 March 1750. That the record of his birth is in his family bible now in possession of John Moore at Middleburn in Virginia. That his father removed to Fishkill shortly after his birth & that he continued to reside in Dutchess Co. until about 1805 when he removed to Tioga County N.Y. in the neighborhood of the said Town of Elmira from whence in 1817 or 18 he removed to near Marietta Ohio in which state he continued until about three years since when he returned to Elmira aforesaid.

That he has no documentary evidence of his services & knows no person living by whom he can prove them. He knew Gov. Clinton, Col. Dubois & Col. Smith of the New York line in the Revolutionary War, and no doubt many others, but in consequence of his advanced age & loss of memory he can enumerate but few of them.

He would refer to Samuel Tuthill Esq of Southport & Rev. Simeon R. Jones of the same town in the said County who knew him during his residence in the said county for the belief in regard to his Revolutionary services.

He hereby relinquishes every claim in whatever to any pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. (Signed) James C. Brown.

Sworn & subscribed the day & year aforesaid. Green. J. Tuthill, Clk.