

Pension Application for John Bryan

R.1379

Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress, passed June 7, 1832.

State of New York

County of Albany SS.

On the sixth day of September 1832, personally appeared in open court, before the Justices Court of the City of Albany in the county of Albany and state of New York aged on 4 July last sixty seven 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 1832.

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

That he has annexed hereto his declaration which he has deposed unto, and which he hereby submits to the Honorable the Secretary of War of the United States, declaring as he hereby does, that his revolutionary services as a soldier, have amounted to a period exceeding twenty four months.

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) Jno Bryan

Sworn to and subscribed, the day and year aforesaid. J. G. Wasson, Clk

I was born in the City of New York on the 4th July 1765. I lost my father when I was about 4 years old; in the fall of 1774 I went to live with Alsop & James Hunt, brothers, Leather Dressers, then living in Queen Street (now Pearl) in the City of New York; they were good Whigs. When Gen. Washington left Long Island, they left New York, and took me with them, and went to West Farms; but the British landing on Throgs Neck, and likely to cut us off, we retired to White Plains; the enemy close on our rear, we moved to North Castle & from thence to Pound Ridge, when in 1778 the enemy followed us and burn't and destroyed every thing we had left; the brothers dissolved partnership and James Hunt was appointed one of the commissioners of Sequestration for the County of Westchester & entered on the duties of his office and took me with him; we were sometimes in one place and sometimes in another, till the spring of 1780 when he took a Tory farm in a place then called [Anewalk?] about 9 miles east of Peekskill; that one Griffin Corey had left and gone to the enemy; the winter of 1779-80 was very severe and the enemy had been locked up in New York; and as soon as the spring opened they began to make incursions into the county with Delancey's Light Horse and rob & murder every one that came in their way, the lines being unguarded the last of March or beginning of April, the Militia was ordered out to guard the lines, I was then not 15 years old till the coming 4th July.

I was enrolled in Col. Samuel Drake's Regiment and took my tour of duty on the lines under the command of Lieut. Elisa Scott a very brave and useful officer, we were on the lines about 20 days during which time I suffered the greatest hardships of hunger, fatigue and cold and not being more than 6 hours in one place during the whole time; being on the march, patrolling the country continually, Lieut. Scott's command consisted of about 20 men among whom I remember well was my friend Isaac Lawson we were relieved by another detachment and returned home for a few days, but was continually on the alarm and had to watch our horses and cattle every night, so that it may be said we were continually on duty, things continued in this way till some time in July, when it was ordered that the Militia should be classed and a company of 100 men raised to guard the lines the company was raised and the command given to Capt. Benjamin Stevens and Lieut. Peacock a Virginian a very fine soldier and a gentleman. I was one of this company and my friend Isaac Lawson was also one of the company, and the only one of the officers or man I believe now alive, as soon as we were mustered we were marched on to the lines. We were stationed no where and everywhere we were continually on the Reconnoiter for nearly 4 months till the weather became so cold we could not keep the field any longer without shelter. I was with the company the whole time. I was on the quarter guard at Col. Jamieson's Head quarters at Doct.

Flemings house a little below Bedford when Maj. Andre was taken and brought to Headquarters, Col. Jamieson was not in his quarters, but I saw Capt. Hoogland receive Maj. Andre and saw his first salutation and sign of distress.

During the remainder of the war I was continually on the alert under arms almost every day till the peace of 1783 since which time to the present day I have been an uniform Republican and sincere friend to Republican men and measures.

Fin th elate war with England I was one of six or seven who projected and raised at private expense a Volunteer Regiment chose the officers and had then Brevetted by Governor Tompkins, Col. John Mills commanded the Regiment and fill nobly fighting in his country's cause at Sackett's Harbor.

I with others contributed to the relief of the Niagara Sufferers. I never was one of those that thought it was "unbecoming a moral & religious people to rejoice at our victories". I am an old man 67 on 4th July last, I want but little for myself and shall not want that little long. (Signed) Jno. Bryan
Albany [16th?] Sept. 1832. Subscribed & Sworn to this day. John G. Wasson, Clk.