

Pension Application for Salmon Child

S.21689

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

State of New York

Saratoga County SS.

On this 5th day of September 1832 personally appeared in open court, before the Judges of the Court of common Pleas for the said County now sitting, Salmon Child, of the Town of Greenfield, County of Saratoga and State of New York, aged sixty seven years the 19th day of this present month, who being first 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. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

That in the latter part of the winter and early in the spring of the year 1776, his Father, Captain Increase Child, then residing in the Town of Armenia, County of Dutchess, and State of New York, enlisted a company for one year, in the state service of this state, and entered the service of the United States, about the first of April on Constitution Island, opposite West Point on the Hudson river. The other officers of the company were Lieutenants, Floyd & Dodge and Ensign Ponderson. That this applicant was informed at the time the company enlisted. That he was to be a Waiter to one of the said officers. That after the said company had been something like 6 or 8 weeks at Constitution Island, his said Father returned home being a distance of about 40 miles and took this applicant with him to the said Island, where he entered the service of the United States, as a waiter or servant to the said Captain & officers, and that he continued to serve in that capacity until April 1777.

That Lieut Floyd took his son James Floyd, who was about two years older than this deponent as to his waiter, but being of a feeble constitution was absent a considerable part of the time.

The other two servants to the said officers were Vincent Janny, and one Merrit, both considerable advanced in years and somewhat infirm, the said officers all quartered together in the same room, and had no other waiter, or servants, during the year. That this applicant was furnished with a gun, and other equipments and he and the said James Floyd were instructed by the officers how to handle their pieces, and fire at mark, and at certain times were paraded with the company. That this applicant was told and often heard it remarked by his said Father, that he rec'd 53 shillings and 4 pence (York Currency) in Continental money per month for his services.

That General James Clinton, commanded the Governor, who had for a part of the summer with him about the age of this applicant. The only field officers at that station that he recollects were Major VanRansalier [VanRensselaer] and Schuyler. The company to which this applicant belonged and Captain Jackson's company of years men, were the only companies enlisted for that term, stationed at that place, which companies he understood belonged to Colonel Dubois's regiment. Captain Bentley's Company and a company or part of a Company of Artillery, commanded by Lieutenants Elsworth or Sutton, were all the troops on the Island until the latter part of the summer, when there were one or more companies of three months or Militia men that joined the Garrison. That said troops were employ in fortifying, building Barracks, and preparing a defence against British Vessels passing up the river, which after their taking York Island—Fort Washington and the retreat of Gen. Washington's army into the Jerseys, was daily expected would be attempted.

That about the commencement of winter Captain Jackson Company, and the company to which this applicant belonged were ordered to Fort Montgomery and were stationed at that part of the fortification, [fortification?] by a cove or inlet, which made a harbor for the Row Galley, and other small vessels belonging to the Fort. That there were no other companies at Fort Clinton through the winter, and then by enlistment for the three years, and during the war, which had just commenced, were so reduced that at one time the Waiters of the officers, were obliged to mount guard, and this applicant with the rest.

That as he understood, General Clinton commanded at Fort Montgomery. That there were no field officers at that part of the work, called Fort Clinton, and who they were at the other part of the Garrison, he is not able to say.

That he was discharged with the company as before stated in April 1777. That he has no documentary evidence, and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can prove, except the personal knowledge of Edmond Hewitt of same part of the said service.

And this applicant further states, that about the first of April 1778, he moved with his said father into Stillwater now in the County of Saratoga State of New York, within about one or a half miles of the ground where the two great were fought at the taking of Burgoyne.

That in the spring of 1781 (the date not recollected) he enlisted into Captain Holton Dunham's Company for nine months, and immediately joined said company at Saratoga near the plain where General Burgoyne surrendered his army to General Gates—that when he first joined said company, Colonel VanSchaick's regiment of regular troops, or a part thereof, have stationed there, but soon removed to some other parts, that then there were only Captain Gray's company and said Dunham's who were said to be attached to Colonel Willett's regiment and a few recruits enlisted into the regular service by Captain Job Wright, stationed there, which was commanded by Colonel Jon McKinstry & who at that time was a Major.

That there being no troops on guard between that place and the British lines at the North, this applicant with others was almost constantly employed in ranging parties, sent through the northern part of Saratoga County up the Hudson River and through the Forest to Lake George and Fort Ann, until sometime in August (he thinks the latter part) when a few companies of three months or Militia men, arrived and General Stark; who took the command of the garrison. About the same time Captain Dunham, and his Lieut. Benona Grant, were arrested for holding correspondence on having an interview with a party of the enemy (or Tories) down from Canaday, thence examined by a Court-Marshall, and sent for West-Point, and this applicant was taken from the company to serve as a Waiter to doctor Dilano, a Surgeon who had just arrived, and quartered with General Stark. A few days after one Loveless said to be a British Sergeant, and four others, Tories, who had been in the service of the enemy a long time all well armed, been discovered by an Inhabitant lurking in the woods a few miles distance from the camp, who informed Major Hezekiah Dunham (a brother of the said Capt. Dunham) thereof, who with one other of their neighbors, had pursued, and captured the said party & brought them into the Garrison (one of whom was Hendrick Cole brother-in-law to said Capt. Dunham), Loveless, was tried by a Court-Marshall as a spy, found guilty, sentenced, and executed, by the order of General Stark.

That this applicant continued to serve at Gen. Stark's Head quarters until in the fall or autumn, when he was sent with the said Surgeon into Dutchess County, for what purpose he cannot say—they stopped a few days, going and retiring at NobelTown (the residence of the said Major McKinstry), that they being gone several weeks, and on their return near Kinderhook—Mills they met an officer, he thinks Captain Charles McKinstry a brother of the said Major on his return from Saratoga, and after a little Conversation between him and the said Surgeon, the latter fold this applicant to return to Stillwater, and wait until he came on, he did so, and had been there but a few days, when the two said companies of nine months men, were discharged and returned, the said surgeon did not call on returns for this applicant. The terms of enlistment were considered as fulfilled; and that this applicant ha no written evidence of [blot] services and knows of no testimony that he can procure except what is presented to the court to wit.

That living in the said Town of Stillwater, from the Spring 1778, until the peace of 1782. Where the inhabitants were continually exposed to the depredations of a Savage and Cruel foe, were ever vigilant in their attempts to distress the scattered population of the frontier settlements. Alarms were numerous and every person old or young, were called out capable of protesting the enemy, or guarding the defenseless females and children, have frequently fled to some supposed place of safety in such

haste as scarcely to service one article of their affects, except the clothes on their persons. This applicant was so often for short intervals, employed in the defence of his country, that it would be impossible to describe, or substantiate them, in detail, but added to the aforesaid services of 1776 and of 1781 would amount (at least) to one year and nine months. The character of these services can be attested by witnesses if necessary.

That he has no record of his age, but was informed by his parents that he was born the 19th of September 1765, at Woodstock Windsor county State of Connecticut, and removed from that place to the said Town of Armenia where he resided when first entering the service as aforesaid. That in 1777 he moved into New Canaan now in the County of Columbia in the spring of 1778 into the said Town of Stillwater—in 1786 into the Town of Wilton, adjoining the said Town of Greenfield where he resided one year, then removed on to the former where he now lives and has resided upwards of 45 years. That he never received a discharge for any of the said services.

To the Interrogatories propounded by the court the applicant answered to the first six as embodied in the above application. To the seventh—His Hon. James Thompson, Daniel Couch, Howel Gardner, John Pettit, Esquires Silas Adams & Charles Deake.

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.

Sworn & subscribed the day and year aforesaid. (Signed) Salmon Child

Sworn & subscribed the day and year aforesaid, in open court the 5 September 1832. Thomas Palmer, Clerk

Letter in file dated November 20, 1939, written in response to an inquiry.

Reference is made to your letter relative to Salmon Child, a soldier of the Revolutionary War.

The record of the only Salmon Child that is found on the Revolutionary War records of this office is furnished you herein as found in the papers on file in pension claim, S.21689, based upon his military service in that war.

Salmon Child, son of Increase Child, was born September 19, 1765, in Woodstock, Connecticut, and moved to Armenia, Dutchess County, New York. The name of his mother is not stated.

While residing in said Armenia, Increase Child entered the service about April 1, 1776, served as Captain in Colonel Dubois' New York Regiment on Constitution Island, opposite West Point, on the Hudson River, about eight weeks, then returned home and took his son, Salmon Child with him to said island, and Salmon served as waiter to his father, Captain Increase Child, until April 1777. In 1777 Salmon Child moved to "New Canaan," and about April 1, 1778, he moved with his father to Stillwater, New York. Salmon Child enlisted in the spring of 1781, served as private in Captain Holtham Dunham's Company, Colonel Willett's New York Regiment; from about August, he served as waiter to Dr. Delano, a surgeon; length of service nine months. He also served a various times, on alarms, amounting to two months in all, in the New York troops, names of officers not stated.

In 1768, he moved to Wilton, New York, and one year later he moved to Greenfield, New York.

Salmon Child was allowed pension on his application executed September 5, 1832, at which time he was a resident of Greenfield, Saratoga County, New York, where he had lived forty-five years.

He served as First Judge in the Courts of Saratoga County, New York, for many years. He also served as Representative in the New York State Legislature.

Salmon Child's wife, died in 1825, her name not stated, and there is no further information in regard to her.

In 1833, Salmon Child, was living with his daughter, her name and age not shown, in Ontario County, New York. In 1848, Salmon Child, was residing in Walworth County, Wisconsin, with his only surviving son, William Child, he age not given. Their post office address was Rochester, Racine County, Wisconsin. There were no further family data.

Salmon Child died January 28, 1856, place not given.