

Pension Application for John Cooper

S.45998

State of New York

State, City and County of New York SS.

On this twenty seventh day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty two personally appeared in open court before the Honorable John T. Irving, First Judge of the Court of Common Pleas for the City and County of New York now sitting John Cooper a resident in the said county 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 seventh 1832.

That he was born at Fishkill in the County of Dutchess, State aforesaid on the fifth day of September seventeen hundred and fifty five—the record of which is not now under his control, but is in the possession of Mrs. Charity Teller who resides at Fishkill in said County of Dutchess about three miles from the river.

That he was residing at Fishkill aforesaid when called into service, and since the Revolutionary War has resided at Peekskill, Kaatskill other parts, of the State, and where he now lives in the County of New York.

That in the year seventeen hundred and seventy six. He enlisted as Sergeant in the Minute Service under Captain James Weeks of Col. Baileys Regiment, Genl Swartwout's Brigade, and was called down to New York, and done duty there for three months.

That in the same year he was called out and marched down to Crumb Pond under the command of Captain Swart—during the same year—similarly down to White Plains under Major Fish.

In 1777, served a fortnight at Fort Constitution under Capt. Thomas.

During the same year was called out with the levy 'in mass'—Governor George Clinton commander.

That he was with Colonel Abraham Brinkenhoof's Regiment who were on the banks of the Hudson opposite to Fort Montgomery during the attack of the British upon the Fort and which results in its capture.

That they were prevented from crossing to aid in defending the fort in consequence of all the boats having been moved up the river, in which the Regiment was to have been transported over. That he continued in service until the return of the British to New York.

That about this time a law was passed to facilitate the raising of a standing army, which law exempted every individual who should furnish a substitute and guarantee the fulfillment of his term of service, from all further military duty. That the situation of Deponent's family requiring his care and presence at home, he availed himself of this law, but hiring a man as a substitute, and had him duly mustered by Adjutant Dubois of Col. Dubois' Regiment.

Notwithstanding which Deponent determined as soon as possible again to enter the service, and accordingly in seventeen hundred and seventy eight he accepted a commission as Second Lieutenant in Gen'l Swartwout's Brigade, Col'n Brinkerhoofs Regiment Captain Van Wyck who succeeded Captain Swart commanding the company—and served as such until the close of the Revolutionary War—which in his possession – bearing date Aug't 20th 1778.

That in like manner he has in his possession a List of Capt VanWyck's Company bearing date August 9th 1780—headed with the names of Capt VanWyck, Abraham Shultz 1st Lieut, John Cooper, being deponent[']s] 2d Lieut.

Also a list of names comprising a detachment from all the companies in Col. Brinkerhoof's Regiment and put under the command of deponent March 24.

Also a receipt which was returned to deponent and explains itself—the following being a true copy.

"Fishkill 26 March 79.

Rec'd of Lieut A. Baldwin twenty two Cart' Boxes and eighteen guns for the use of a detachment of Militia under my command belonging to Col. A. Brinkerhoofs Regt—which I promise to return when I am relieved.—John Cooper Lieut.”

That Capt. Thomas Storms commanded one of the companies from which four men was detached as aforesaid, and who is still living and can testify as to the fact of Deponent's Rank and Services.

Deponent finds it difficult to recollect and particularize the details of services performed while holding his commission. – A large proportion of the time was occupied in repeated Tours of duty to West Point –To and through the Highlands. Among the Mountains in search of and pursuing Tories, who were frequently prowling in the neighborhood for purposes of robbery and plunder.—While more stationed, he was employed in barrack duty—its guards—and frequently patrolling the streets during the night—part of which time he served immediately under the command of Capt Storms afore mentioned.

Deponent further says that he applied to Government for the pension as having served by substitute in the Continental Line, during the Revolutionary War, which application was granted and that he now receives a pension as having so served by substitute.—that the Law of 1832 having provided a compensation for the services performed under his commission, which no previous law had provided for.

We now submit the present application relinquishing all claim to the said existing pension should it be determined that under the law he is not justly entitled to both. (Signed) John Cooper

Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. Abm Astten, Clerk Comm. Pleas Cty & County of New York.