

Pension Application for Timothy Crane

S.29102

Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress of the 7th of June 1832.

State of New York

County of Saratoga SS.

On this 27th day of August, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-three, personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of common Pleas in & for said County now sitting—Timothy Crane—a resident of the town of Charlton in said County, aged seventy-three years and upwards, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

He was born in the town of Newark, in the County of Essex, State of New Jersey on the 27th day of May 1760, as he was informed by his parents, and as appears from a record thereof made by them in their family bible. Than this there is no other record of his age that he knows of. The said record of his existence is in New York aforesaid.

When called into the service of the United States in the war of the revolution, he was living in the aforesaid town of Newark he has lived in said town since said war and continued there to reside until the year 1791, when he moved to the aforesaid town of Charlton where he at present resides—

In the month of January or February 1777, he the declarant was called into said service. He was then enrolled at Newark aforesaid in a company of Militia commanded by Captain Joseph Hays in Colonel Cortland's Regiment. His other company & field officers whom he recollects were Nathaniel Camp Lieutenant, Elias Baldwin Ensign & Samuel Hays Major Commandant, &c Aaron Ogden Commissary.

He the Declarant after his enrollment as aforesaid served in said company as a private from the month of January or February aforesaid in the year 1777 until the close of said war, except during the periods of time as herein after set forth when he served in other companies. More than half the time during the whole of said period of six years or thereabouts, this declarant was in service against the common enemy & the Tories on alarms in the field of battle, in skirmishes, and in the garrison from place to place in said State of New Jersey & elsewhere by the command and orders of his superior officers.

By reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory, this declarant cannot swear positively as to the precise terms of his active service & stations, but according to the best of his recollection, he served in the grade of a private soldier as aforesaid but less than the periods mentioned below.

This declarant would state that he believed and understood the fact to be that the militia of said state were divided into six classes, two of which were ordered out at one time to be constantly on guard at the different military posts & passes in said State, and on extraordinary occasions, as when the enemy made an incursion they were all ordered out. The declarant of course belonged to one of these classes, and his

term of service on his own account during said six years was not less therefore than eighteen months.

But the declarant in addition to said service of at least eighteen months on his own account, served for a term not less than, and this declarant honestly believes for a period greatly exceeding six months as a substitute for other persons whose names the declarant cannot now recollect.

The declarant mounted guard at Newark aforesaid immediately after his enrollment as aforesaid in the month of January or February 1777 for the full term of two months. The British had a fort about five or six miles from Newark, and parties of the refugees in British pay often made predatory incursions on Newark which gave rise to skirmishes in which the Declarant with detachments from said Regiment engaged every few days.

In the month of August thereafter, as a substitute for some person whose name the declarant cannot now call to mind, he served not less than four weeks in Captain Samuel Hunting's Company of Militia, he believes in the same Regiment before named and was employed during said term in mounting guard at Newark aforesaid.

In the month of September thereafter (whether on his own account or as a substitute his memory does not serve him to say) he did military duty under the Captain first named or rather in his company, for he thinks Lieutenant Camp then had the command, for a term not less than four weeks.

During this last term of service, a party of refugees came over at Elizabethtown and carried off all the cattle they could find. They did the same at Newark aforesaid.

The Declarant with his company marched to Bloomfield & under command of General Wines of the militia attacked the refugees, and drove them down to the river. Here it seems they had cannon. General Wines ordered declarant's company back to Bloomfield where they lay encamped all night. The next day they pursued the refugees but could not overtake them. The detachment with which the declarant served followed them about ten miles when they forded a river.

The detachment aforesaid did so like-wise & pursued them as far as Hackensack or near that place. Here the detachment encamped over night on the following morning the enemy had crossed the river, and so the pursuit ended & the detachment returned to their quarters at Newark aforesaid where they continued to perform garrison duty.

In the year 1778, Captain Camp aforesaid, being transferred to a company of Artillery Elias Baldwin aforesaid took the command of the company first named, and the Declarant performed garrison duty under said Baldwin at Newark aforesaid for the full term of two months.

In the month of June thereafter the declarant performed military duty as a substitute in a company of militia commanded by Captain Elijah Squire he thinks in the same Regiment afore-named with said company the Declarant marched to Elizabethtown; thence they embarked in boats, it was said for Amboy. The enemy fired upon them from Staten Island. Towards night they went up a creek some distance and encamped there all night. The next morning General Wines sent for

them, and they went back to Elizabethtown, and from thence they marched westward, in consequence of a report that the hostile Indians were butchering the inhabitants of Wyoming.

The declarant marched on this occasion with his said company about sixty miles, when information was received that the enemy had departed and so declarant marched back to Newark aforesaid, and there mounted guard with the militia company aforesaid in which he had been enrolled. In this last tour he the declarant served for a period exceeding two months.

The British having possession of New York parties of the enemy were continually making descents on the Jersey settlements. In consequence it was necessary to have the different posts and passes in that state continually garrisoned, and the services of the militia were in constant requisition.

In the summer & winter of the year 1779, the declarant served under said Captain Baldwin performing garrison duty at Newark aforesaid, this declarant is certified for period in the whole exceeding six months and [blank] days.

In the month of January 1780 a Scotch Regiment came over to Newark took one Joseph Heddent & some soldiers prisoners and burnt the academy at that place and then retreated. A party of four of which the Declarant was one went in pursuit, and succeeded in capturing three of the enemy who had strayed from their Regiment, and he conducted them to Morristown.

In the month of June thereafter Knyphausen made an incursion into New Jersey. He landed with his troops at Elizabethtown, proceeded with his troops to Connecticut farms where they killed a Mrs. Colwell & burnt several houses. They afterwards went to Springfield. In the course of their march they were constantly annoyed & opposed by parties of the militia with whom the declarant served, and were consequently obliged to return to Elizabethtown where they erected a fort and lay encamped about two weeks.

Knyphausen then received a reinforcement and advanced a second time toward Springfield. Here or near this town a battle took place in which the declarant engaged. Captain Squires aforesaid selected fifty men of whom the Declarant was one. These men drew two dozen cartridges each which were used with effect upon the enemy. The detachment to which the declarant belonged did not retire from the field til near sunset when they went back to their quarters. The enemy having burnt Springfield retreated to New York. The whole period of the active service of the Declarant during the year 1780, was not less than eight months and twenty days.

In the year 1781, the declarant served until Cornwallis surrendered to wit for a term exceeding six months Captain Baldwin aforesaid having resigned in the year 1780 the declarant served during this year under Captain Nicholas of the militia, he thinks in said Regiment first named.

In the years 1782 & 1783 the declarant served as a volunteer under Captain Hendrics, who commanded a whole boat, which played in Newark bay to prevent the enemy from entering the said bay. He thus volunteered at different times and for different terms of time as the exigencies of the case required. This declarant cannot

state positively the different terms of his service under said Captain Hendrics, but is certain they in the whole exceeded two months—and this declarant verily believes and accordingly testifies, that he served during said war for a period in the whole not less than three years, and accordingly claims a full pension.

This declarant would further testify that his said service was actual and active service, and that while engaged in it, he did not follow any Civil pursuit.

The following are the names of some of the regular officers whom he knew, or who were with the troops where he served, and such continental and militia regiments or companies with which he served, or as he can recollect, viz: Colonel Ogden, Colonel Dayton, Captain Reeves, Gilhan & Parsons of the militia, General Washington, General Schuyler & others.

He never received any written discharge from the service.

He has no documentary evidence, and knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify as to his character for veracity, and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution, to wit John Gilchrsit, Daniel Ostram, Samuel Baldwin, Daniel Shinner, Daniel Smith.

Her 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) Timothy Crane.

Subscribed and sworn to the day and year first aforesaid. A. Goodrich, Clerk