

Pension Application for James Hawkins

S.16846

State of New York

Steuben County SS.

On this sixteenth day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty two personally appeared in open court before the judges of the court of common Pleas of the said County of Steuben now sitting James Hawkins and resident of the town of Reading in the said County aged about seventy eight years show being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision and by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That eh entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

That some time in June one thousand seven hundred and seventy five being then a resident of the Town of Frederick (now Called Putman) in the county of Dutchess in the State of New York he was drafted from a company of militia [militia] commanded by one Consider Cushman, for the term of five months. That the recruits thus raised by draft was organized in a company commanded by one Comfort Littleton or Littleton and attached to the regiment of our Col. Swartwout, whose Christian name is not remembered but who resided in the Town of Fishkill in the same County.

That in eight or ten days after he was drafted, he marched with his company as a private to Peekskill on the North River. Having remained there five or six days, he marched to Tarrytown—thence to Tuckahoe when the company with the Regiment and Brigade remained about a month—after which he marched to near Kingsbridge and labored there in building a fort called fort defiance.

That after serving about two or three months the said James Hawkins was taken sick with what was called the camp distemper and being unable to do duty his brother David Hawkins obtained permission to take him home on condition that he the said David would during his sickness take his place in the army. He [?] to do so took him home where he remained about one month at the expiration of which—time he the said James so far regained his health as to enable him to return to his post at fort defiance where he continued to serve until the expiration of his aforesaid term of five months, and was duly discharged which discharge has [?] long since been lost or destroyed.

In the spring or summer of seventeen hundred and seventy seven according to the best of his recollection as to time. One Solomon Nixon a resident of the same town of Frederick above mentioned was drafted for nine months. That in this company of nine months men commanded by Elijah Townsend, the said James Hawkins entered as a substitute for a said Nixon and performed the whole term of service principally near Kingsbridge.

The named of his officers during this tour of duty according to his best recollection and belief even the following captain Elijah Townsend above mentioned

commanded his company in the Regiment of Col. Graham (Christian name not mentioned) in Genl Putnam's Brigade or division—During a part of this time General Washington on his way to the south as the said James understood was in command and he well recollects a personal interview with him under the following circumstances.

He the said James and a soldier by the name of Elijah Morehouse a lieutenant of his being barefoot, and having made fruitless applications to his under officers for a furlough to enable them to procure shoes, applied to the commander in chief at his quarters—Having been conducted into his presence by a [file?] of soldiers, they found the General (Surrounded by officers) who rose and pointing them to seats he himself took a chair and with the utmost consideration and kindness of manner, listened to their story of their sufferings.

The good general after a pause of a few moments replied—“My brain follows you in the condition in which I now place you [????] is the enemy should they advance (and we expect their every movement) I shall need every man of you – my soldiers are my life. Should they [retire?] Call again and you shall have your furlough.”—The said James from this service also was duly discharged, but the discharge is likewise or destroyed.

That after this service the said James returned home to Fredericks where he continued to reside until the close of the war acting as a minute man, turning out from time to time when the alarm was given by day and by night some times once or twice a week, sometimes longer and at other times yet shorter.—and the said James Hawkins further says that in view of this service last mentioned, he verily believes it did amount in all to at least one year.

And 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.

And 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 with his mark) James Hawkins

Sworn to and subscribed in open court the day and year aforesaid. M.S. Rumsey, Dep Clk, Steuben County.