
Pension Application for Zopher Hawkins

S.46261

State of New York

County of Suffolk SS

On this second day of October in the year eighteen hundred and thirty two, personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for said county, Zopher Hawkins, a resident of Brookhaven in said County and State, aged seventy five 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 provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he enlisted in the army of the United States at New Haven State of Connecticut in the month of November 1776 as a private in the company commanded by Capt. Samuel Sacket (1) of which Nathaniel Norton (2) was first lieutenant—

That he afterwards belonged to the company commanded by Capt. Fowler (3) but whether by the transfer of himself or of the officers he cannot tell. That he marched with the company from New Haven to Fishkill in New York where he spent the winter.

That the following spring and summer he was marched into New Jersey and Pennsylvania and from thence in August or the first of September he was ordered to the north and was at the battles of Stillwater (4) and Saratoga when General Burgoyne was defeated. That he is unable to state the particulars of his service for the two or three succeeding years further than that being for the most part of the time stationed near the frontiers he was frequently engaged in skirmishes with the enemy and particularly the Indians.

Then in the fall of 1780 as he thinks he was ordered to Fort Stanwix (5) when he with other troops remained through the winter. That in the morning of the second day of March (6) following he was one of a party sent out of the Fort to cut and bring in firewood for the use of the garrison and that while that employed he with the rest of the party were surprised by a company of Indians under the command of Col. Brandt (7) and made prisoners. That he was then conducted to Niagara where he was detained as a prisoner by the Indians until peace took place. That he arrived at home at the place where he now resides sometime in the fall of 1783. (8)

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state. (Signed) Zopher Hawkins

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. Joseph R. Hunting Clk

End Notes—S.46261—Zopher Hawkins

1. Zopher enlisted on November 21, 1776 as a private for during war in captain Samuel Sackett's First Company in Colonel Henry B. Livingston's Fourth New York Continental Regiment. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls, 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 71, folder 56, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
2. Nathaniel Norton was appointed first lieutenant on November 21, 1776, in Captain Sackett's Company. Norton was appointed Captain on April 23, 1778 to command the seventh company.
3. On January 1, 1781 the Fourth New York was consolidated with the Second New York Continental Regiment. Colonel Philip VanCortlandt being the senior Colonel remained in Command of the Second New York. Captain Sacket had died on April 11, 1780 and First Lieutenant Silas Gray was commissioned captain of the company. When the regiments were consolidated Captain Gray retired from the Continental service but Hawkins was transferred to the Second New York since he enlisted for the war and was

placed in Captain Theodosius Fowler's Company. Captain Fowler also transferred from the Fourth New York to the Second New York. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls, 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 67, folder 24, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

4. The Fourth New York was part of Brigadier General Enoch Poor's Brigade and fought in both Battles of Saratoga on September 19 and October 7, 1777. Lieutenant General John Burgoyne surrendered remnants of his crown forces and allies on October 17, 1777. Zopher doesn't mention the Battle of Monmouth, New Jersey, on June 28, 1778. The Fourth New York was also part of the Sullivan and Clinton Campaign in 1779 against the Iroquois in Western New York. Private Simon Peterson of Captain Sacket's Company was wounded in the Battle of Newtown on August 29, 1779.
5. The Fourth New York was sent to Fort Schuyler to replace the garrison of Lieutenant Colonel Commandant John Harper's Regiment of New York State Levies under the command of Major James M. Hughes. Harper's levies term of service ended on November 30, 1780. The Fourth New York arrived on November 22 and Major Hughes with his detachment marched out the gate of the fort on November 23. On January 1, 1781, the Fourth New York no longer existed and the remaining officers of the late Fourth New York left the fort and returned home and several joined or commanded the levy regiments that were formed as early as April of 1781.
6. On March 2, 1781, a wood chopping party was sent out under Corporal James Betts with a covering party to protect the woodchoppers for a total of sixteen men plus the corporal. Captain Joseph Brant attacked them, killing William Morpeth who attempted to resist and captured the rest of the party including Hawkins.
7. Joseph Brant was only a captain. He Had his own unit called Brant's Volunteers which usually consisted of 50 to 80 whites and Indians. They worked with other Indians war parties and Butler's Rangers.
8. Zopher or Zophar on July 8, 1790, was issued 600 acres of Bounty Land in Township 2 (Hannibal), Lot 39. FROM:" The Balloting Book and Other Documents Relating to Military Bounty Lands, In The State of New York, Albany 1825, Packard & VanBenthuisen, Page 40.