

Pension Application for Christian Haynes

R.20139

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

State of Ohio

Lorain County SS.

On this 4th day of November 1834 personally appeared in open Court before the Hon. Ezra Dean and associate Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the County of Lorain in the State of Ohio now sitting Christian Haynes a resident of Spencer Township in the County of Lorain and State of Ohio aged seventy nine years of age, who being 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 7th 1832.

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

That he entered the service as a drafted militiaman in Schoharry in the County of Schoharry [Schoharie] in the State of New York having been drafted out and served from the 1st of April 1777 to the first of July 1777 and served during the months of April, May & June and served said three months in the militia of said County of Schoharry, in the State of New York.

That this applicant served said three months, under the command of Captain George Richtmeyer, and Lieut of the company was one John Lawyer, the Sergeant of the company was one Marcus Bellinger, and the Corporal of the company in which this applicant served was one Peter Shaver, and the Major of the Regiment in which this applicant served was Major Zeeley.

That this tour of duty was served as a guard in the Forts or Stockades, erected in Schoharry as a shelter to shield and protect the inhabitants from the continued incroachments [encroachments] and attacks from the Indians, the tories and the British. That whilst this applicant was on this tour of duty of three months. The Indians frequently skulked into the village of said Schoharry and killed and murdered a number of the people where and often took off a number of prisoners and that the Indians caught a number of small children, hung them up by the feet and ripped open their bellies and left them in this cruel and barbarous situation as a spectacle of horror. This this applicant after having served out his said tour of three months duty as a drafted militia soldier he was verbally discharged from the service by his commanding officer Capt. Richtmeyer.

And this applicant was again in the service as a drafted militiaman of the County of Schoharry in the State of New York.

That he was drafted out to serve in the militia of said Schoharry County, N. York to serve for a tour of six months. That this applicant served from the first of July 1777 as a drafted militia man in the County of Schoharry under the command of Captain "John Groat" and the name of the Lieutenant was "John Ecker" and the name of the Ensign of the company to which this applicant belonged was "John VanAllen".

The serjeant of the company was one William Marenus, the drummer was one "Nicholas Dander" who officiated as drummer for the three Forts or Garrison stockades. The fifer was a coloured man by the name of "Jack" all of whom served with this applicant during the said Garrison duty of six months under the command of Capt. John Groat as above set forth. That Peter Zeeley was the Col of the Regiment [Regiment] in which this applicant served – his said tour of six months.

That this six months duty was served during the months of July, August, September, October, November and December 1777 as a guard stationed in the said Forts at Schoharry aforesaid. That during this tour, the soldiers in the garrison would sometimes kill or shoot some of the Indians who were secreting themselves in the vicinity of the forts & were trying to murder and scalp the inhabitants in and about Schoharry.

That the duty was actual, arduous and severe on account of the "Tories & the Indians" who were constantly watching to destroy the lives and the property of the People—that the most severe part of the duty was performed during the night time. That this applicant's clothes were often from stiff as ice by being exposed to the cold severe night watching.

That the roll of the company was called regularly mornings and evenings. That this applicant after having served out his said tour of six months as a drafted militia soldier he was verbally discharged from the service by his commanding officers.

And this applicant was again drafted out to serve a tour of six months—That he served this said tour under Capt. "John Meyers" and the Lieutenant's name was "Abram Becker", and the Major of the Regiment was Major "Bineough" (who was a doctor) and he was called by the soldiers sometimes "Dr. Bineough" and served in the Regiment of Col. Vrooman" as a drafted militiaman under the aforesaid officers during the spring and summer of the year 1778. That this applicant joined a company of militia under the command of Capt. John Meyers in Schoharry County in the State of New York in the month of June and served until the 14th of December 1778 as a drafted militiaman for said six months as a private soldier the whole period of said time.

That this applicant served said six months commencing on the 10th or 12th of June 1778 and served till the 14th of Dec'r 1778 making a tour of six months and two days. That the duty which this applicant performed was actual, arduous and doubly severe that at one time the "Tories" and Indians" combined in a large body and fired a bomb shell into one of the Forts which struck a feather bed and whirled the feathers about so furiously that the soldiers in the fort for a time could not distinguish each other—the circumstance of the shell's falling into the feather bed prevented its destroying any lives.

That this applicant performed Garrison duty in said Schoharry County, N. York for said six months and at the expiration of said period of time he was verbally discharged from the service by his officer under whom he served the above tour of service.

And this applicant was again drafter out to serve a tour of three months, in the militia of the County of Schoharry in the State of New York.

That this applicant was placed under the command of Capt. Peter Shaver, or Albany Co., New York—the Lieut was “Laurence Schoolcraft” that this applicant was marched from said Schoharry Co., N.Y. to the City of Albany and from thence to a place near Albany called at that time “Albany Hill”, where there was a considerable body of militiaman stationed, doing Garrison duty—that there were some Barracks in which the soldiers were quartered—that this applicant served said three months at Albany Hill aforesaid—that this tour of duty was served after harvest in the year 1779, commencing on the 1st of September 1779 and ending on the first December 1779 making a tour of three months, as aforesaid. That this applicant after having served out his said tour of three months was verbally discharged from the service by his commanding officers.

And this applicant further declares that he was out as a volunteer for a period of one month in the year 1780. Shortly after harvest in the month of August and September from the 16th of August till the 17th or 18th of September 1780. That this tour was served under Capt. “George Richtmeyer”, that this applicant was marched with two other companies of the Schoharry Militia up as far as Saratoga, where this applicant was stationed & where the said militia were ordered to make a Fort—this applicant thinks it was the order of General Sterling sometimes called Lord Sterling.

That the said militia for some cause which this applicant does not now know did not build the Fort as they were ordered to do, but that after having spent sometime at Saratoga in the said State of New York he was at the expiration of the said one month verbally discharged from the service by his old Capt. George Richtmeyer.

And this applicant was again in the service as a volunteer for a period of two months and one half of a month. That he joined a company under command of John Groat of the Schoharry County militia with State of New York and served said tour as a guard in one of the stockades at Schoharry aforesaid. One of the efforts was built on one “Vrooman’s” land. The other two were built at the extremities of Schoharry—they were called “The Upper, Middle and Lower Forts”. That during this tour of duty the Indians were very troublesome and did much damage & destroyed a number of lives.

That the Indians prior to this last mentioned tour together with the Tories set fire to and burned all the houses down in Schoharry aforesaid—and afterwards went to a place called Beaver [sic] Dam and there murdered a whole family—not leaving one alive.

That a part of the company to which this applicant belonged went in pursuit of some Indians who had been committing depredations. That they in their pursuit discovered a great tall Indian setting down on the top of a huge rock with his rifle and tomahawk. That one of his pursuers cocked his gun, and in the act of so doing alarmed the Indians who jumped off the rock—put his hand to his lips and gave an Indian yelp and then ran for his life leaving his rifle, tomahawk &c behind him.

That this applicant served two and a half months in the fall of the year 1780 and was at the expiration of said time verbally discharged from the service by his Capt. John Groat under whom he served said tour of duty as above specified.

And this applicant further declares on his oath that he was again in the service as a volunteer for a period of six months in the spring and summer of the year 1781.

That he joined a company under command of Capt "Vrooman" of the Schoharry County Militia in the State of New York and served from the 1st of April 1781 till the 1st of October 1781 making a tour of six months—during the months of April, May, June, July, August & September of said year 1781.

That this applicant was stationed at and performed Garrison duty at one of the Forts in Schoharry Schoharry Co., N. York, during said tour and that at the expiration of his said six months duty as a guard at said stationed he was verbally discharged from the service.

And this applicant further says that he was once more called out and drafted to serve a tour of four months, in the Schoharry County Militia in the State of New York. That he entered upon this tour of duty under the command of Capt. "Vrooman" of the Schoharry Col. Militia in the month of June of the year 1782 and served from the month of June till the first of October 1782 during the months of June, July, August, and September—making a period of four months, service in the Schoharry Co. Militia in the State of N. York. That this duty was served out in the Garrisons or Forts at Schoharry in said County & State.

That during this said tour this applicant was ordered after a party of Indians who had murdered some of the women and children in and about Schoharry—that they gave them close pursuit but was unable to overtake them that this applicant after having completed with the requisitions of his draft was a drafted militia soldier of said Co. of Schoharry he was verbally discharged by his commanding officer—who commanded the militia in the middle Fort in said Schoharry--& Col. Zeely had the principal command of all the troops stationed at Schoharry & in the County of Schoharry in said State of New York.

That this applicant served the above mentioned periods of duty as above in the capacity of a private soldier, except three months during which he served as quartermaster sergeant as a substitute for his brother who was sick & unable to discharge the duties of his station.

That this applicant was sent from the upper Fort to the middle Fort for provisions for his company while he served in the capacity of a quarter master sergeant. That this applicant served the full and complete period of thirty one months and a half, as above stated in the militia of the County of Schoharry in said state of New York.

And this applicant further says that no living witness can be had or procured by whom he can prove his services as above set forth—and that he was not at any time engaged in any Civil pursuit, but was wholly devoted to the army and the service of his country as above mentioned, that this applicant served the above tours under

Col. Zeely of the Schoharry Co. Militia, and under Col. John Rice who commanded the Regiment of militia stationed at Albany Hill.

That no living witness can be produced except the annexed deposition of John Bissard to prove the above services.

Interrogatories

1st When and in what year were you born?

Ans. I was born in Schoharry County in the State of New York in the year 1755 and am now seventy nine years of age.

2nd Have you and record of your age and if so where is it?

Ans. I had a record of my age kept in my family Bible—but my house was burned down and the Bible lost—but I know my age from the record kept in said Bible.

3. Where were you living when you entered the service, where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live.

Ans. When I entered the service I lived in the County of Schoharry in the State of New York and since the Revolutionary War I lived in Northumberland Co., in the State of Ohio and in Lorain County in the State of Ohio where I have lived for nine years past.

4th How were you called into the service?

Ans. I was drafted and volunteered as I have above stated.

5th did you ever receive a written discharge from the service.

Ans. I never did receive any written discharge from the service.

6th Did you ever receive a commission in the service at any time.

Ans. I never did but served the period of two years and seven months and an half month as a private soldier (except three months duty as a qr master [quarter master] sergeant) in the Schoharry County Militia N. York.

7th State the names of some of the officers who served with you during the time you served.

Ans. Col. Zeely, Major Peter Vrooman, Capt. George Richtmeyer, Capt. John Meyer, Lieut John Ecker, Capt Peter Shaver, Capt. John Groat, Genl or Lord Sterling and General George Washington had the command of the whole army.

8th State the names of persons in your neighborhood who can testify to your character for truth and veracity and their belief of your services.

Ans. Samuel Sooy Esqr., Philip Bizzard, Abel Wood, Henry Wood, John P. Mash, and John space—Reverend John Morey, Jr., Richard West. (Signed with his mark) Christian Haynes

Sworn to and subscribed this 4th day of Nov. 1834, in open court. Es H. Leonard, Clerk