

Pension Application for James Henderson

S.16148

State of New York

Jefferson County SS.

On this 11th day of September in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred & thirty two personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in & for the county of Jefferson aforesaid now sitting, James Henderson a resident of the town of Henderson in the county aforesaid & State of New York aged seventy nine years last July 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 & served as herein stated, to wit:

On or about the first of May 1775 he enlisted in the town of Salem Washington County, as a private soldier for the term of eight months under Capt. Seth Warner who belonged in Vermont. Before Capt Warner had obtained a full company, he received a Commission as Colonel & he was put under the command of [?] Asable [?] who commanded a company of Continental troops at Salem.

The name of the Col. Of the Regiment was Pan Isaiah who resided at Albany & was now in [?] Command to his knowledge. He joined the Regiment at Albany when Maj. Gansevoort had command of the Regiment. He remained at Albany about two weeks & marched to the northward, as was said, to guard the frontier.

The first stop that we made was at Fort Edward, where we remained three or four days & from there we went to White Hall—where we staid about two days & marched to Ticonderoga & remained there & at Crown Point(some of the time at one place & the rest of the time at the other) about ten weeks.

While we were out at the two latter places, two large gun boats were built & some think was [?] & what was called a Cheva de frieze [cheval de fries] was built across Lake Champlain –

He was engaged in this work—Genl Schuyler had command of the forces until Genl Montgomery arrived, which was in August of the same year, according to his best recollection & belief.

John as his first Lieut & served [?] second Lieut.

John Stewart was first Sergeant. From Ticonderoga he went with the army to Isle au noix about one hundred miles, where he remained until about the middle of September following. Here the army was directed into several parts & that portion of it that he belonged to & which was commanded by Capt. McCracken went down the river Sorel through the woods. We crossed the river a little before Fort Chambly & left one half of our men (one hundred) to guard that Fort—The day following we went up the river on the north side of it in order to meet Col. Warner's Regiment in pursuance of a previous arrangement.

About three miles north of St. Johns & near where we expected to meet Col. Warner, we took the Baggage wagons carrying provisions, clothing etc., to the enemy.

These were secured. It was quiet in the evening—The [?] remaining forty men of our number went on (leaving the remainder to guard the Baggage wagons & property that we had taken) in order to meet Col. Warner. Instead of meeting him we met the enemy about 250 strong with two field pieces.

Our party was attacked & fired upon by the enemy & we fired in return, three or four rounds & finding that our chance was an urgent one, Capt. McCracken gave orders for every man to take care of himself & we fled into the woods. We had nine men wounded several killed & two of the wounded taken prisoners.

In about half an hour Col. Warner with his Regiment arrived & drove the enemy back into Fort St. Johns.

The day before this our main army had laid siege to St. Johns on the south. He was wounded in the skirmish in the thigh—a flesh wound mainly. He remained in the woods one night & the next day untied with the main army & remained there about a week, when a regiment was sent around, on the opposite side of the Fort to join Col. Warner.

He went with them under the command of Col. Butler—Col. Warner's Regiment was ordered down to Sd. Prairie, a few days afterwards & he went with it under the command of Capt. McCracken—He remained there with the regiment about three weeks & was ordered nine miles down the River St. Lawrence to a place called [Long Yale?] Here we remained until after the taking of St. Johns & until one main army arrived at La Prairie. While we were at Long Yale, the enemy about 800 in number attempted to cross the river in boats & we prevented them from landing & killed a number of them. We were ordered to remain there, until we received orders to cross the River in order to take Montreal. We received our orders & went across the River & found the enemy had gone & evacuated the city.

We remained at Montreal one week & then crossed the river & started for home by permission of our officers on the 19th or 20th of November. He arrived at home at Salem on the 19th or 20th of December making a little [rising?] of seven months after his enlistment. Before he went to Albany to join the Regiment. He started from Salem under the command of Capt. Warner to go to take Ticonderoga & Crown Point I went to White Hall & there learning that the forts had been taken we returned back—about the middle of Jan'y 1776 he again enlisted in a volunteer company commanded Capt. McCracken & the same of his before named, at Salem to go to Johnstown to take the fort, there that the enemy was in possession of [?] in a few days thereafter I went to Albany & there remained until the army was collected together.

He remained at Albany about two weeks & started for Johnstown, under the command of Genl Schuyler. After [?] about one day, we made a stop & staid about three days & marched to Johnstown with the main army.

The next day after we arrived at Johnstown the enemy surrendered, without any engagements. He then had permission to go home at the town of Halifax, State of Vermont & then his place of residence & when he arrived at home he had been absent one month.

About the last of July in the year 1777, he volunteered in the company of Capt. Caleb Owen & in the regiment of Col. William Williams. The regiment rendezvoused at the Cols house in Wilmington Vt & from thence they proceeded to Bennington Vt where they met the regiment of Col. Smith & from Mass—from thence they proceeded to Hoosick falls about 3 miles from the North River in the Town of Schaghticoke where a large detachment of them was stationed.

They staid there about a month during which time a battle was fought between the army under Genl Gates & Genl Burgoyne at the town of Stillwater about 5 miles from their station. From thence they a part of the detachment at Schaghticoke marched about 15 miles north to a place called [Fifes Mills?] where they staid about 3 weeks & thence marched to the banks of the N. River just opposite to Saratoga—where they staid a few days when they were engaged in opposing the retreat of Burgoyne by fighting, etc.

They were so engaged one day & one night when Burgoyne gave up his attempt to retreat—during the night the British army burnt Genl Schuyler's Buildings which were about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from the regiment where he was stationed.

In about 1 week after Burgoyne surrendered, after which he staid about a week when he was discharged & returned home about the last of October having been in the service as near as he can remember & as he has always calculated, three months in the last time.

That never had any written discharge or written evidence of his services, nor does he know of any person living who can testify to his serviced.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.
(Signed) James Henderson

Sworn & subscribed the day & year aforesaid. P. Burchard Clerk, Mr. Holland Weeks

Letter in folder dated November 12, 1930, written in response to an inquiry.

You are advised that it appears form the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim, S.16148, that James Henderson was born July 23, 1753 in Lunenburgh, Massachusetts.

While a resident of Salem, Washington County, he enlisted about May 1, 1775 served as a private under Captain Seth Warner of Vermont and in captain Joseph McCracken's Company, Colonel VanSchaick's New York Regiment, was in the expedition to Canada and while in a skirmish received a flesh wound in his thigh, length of service over seven months.

He enlisted about the middle of January 1776 and served one month in Captain Joseph McCracken's New York Company.

While a resident of Halifax, Vermont he enlisted about the last of July 1777, served three months in in Captain Caleb Owen's Company, Colonel William Williams' Vermont Regiment.

He was allowed pension on his application executed September 11, 1832 while a resident of Henderson, Jefferson County, New York.

There are no family data.