

Pension Application for Thomas Higgins

W.19783 (Widow: Abigail) Married March 21, 1781. Thomas died April 7, 1842.

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

On this eleventh day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty two personally appeared in open court before the Court of Common Pleas of said County being a Court of Record now sitting at Norwich in said County.

Present. Hon. John Tracy, Nathan Taylor, Levi Bigelow, Charles York, Hezekiah Reed Judges.

Thomas Higgins a resident of Sherburne, Chenango County N.Y. aged seventy seven years of age upon the 24th day of April last (having been born in 1755) 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 in the year 1777 in the month of April for nine months—at Stillwater Saratoga County N.Y. with Captain John Varner, the name of the Colonel of the Regiment he does not remember nor the no. of the regiment—He cannot now recollect the names of any of the company officers—He was engaged during the season in boating upon the North River in Batteaux & carrying provisions, Beef and flour from Stillwater falls to Fort Miller. After the river froze up they were engaged in getting wood at Coeymans Patent and bringing it up to Albany about the first of January after his nine months had expired by the Captain he thinks and returned to his friends to Stillwater.

In the next spring 1778 the time of the month he does not remember nor the month itself he again at New Concord Columbia County New York in the Continental Army in a company whose Captain or other Commissioned officers he does not recollect; but thinks Josiah Smith was a Sergeant for nine months.

The Col. Of the Regiment was Col. VanCourtlandt—They marched to Poughkeepsie & there crossed the River – They marched from there [to] New Jersey and through the Moravian towns to Valley Forge and there joined the army under General Washington—was taken sick there and carried to the Stone Church Hospital where he lay at the time of the Monmouth Battle—not long after the battle he marched with a company sent to Mumbacker (as it was called) to guard the Frontiers from invasions of tories & Indians. He was at Mumbackers till his time was expired which was in the winter and he was then and there discharged and returned home to New Concord.

He resided at New Concord in what he understands is now Columbia County, N.Y. at the last time he entered the service and the first time he entered he was on a visit to his friends at Stillwater Saratoga County N.Y.

His services were in the New York line—He cannot now from decay of memory and from never having supposed it would be of any benefit to him to give all the particulars of his services in the war or the counties he marched thro'. He has stated as fully as he can now remember.

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

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid P. B. Prindle Dep Clerk

Letter in folder dated December 18, 1936, written in response to an inquiry.

Reference is made to your letter relative to Thomas Higgins, a soldier of the Revolutionary War.

The data contained herein are obtained from the papers on file in the Revolutionary War claim, W.19783, based upon his military service in that war.

Thomas Higgins was born April 24, 1755, in Eastham, ;Massachusetts. The names of his parents are not stated.

While a resident of Stillwater, Saratoga County, New York, Thomas Higgins served nine months from April 1777 under Captain John Varner, boating from North River and carrying beef, flour and provisions from Stillwater Falls to Fort Miller; after the river froze up he was engaged in getting wood at Coeymans Patent and bringing it up to Albany on the ice. While a resident of New Concord, Columbia County, New York, he enlisted in the spring of 1778 and served nine months as private in Colonel VanCortland's New York Regiment.

After the Revolutionary War he lived in Northumberland, Stillwater, and Sherburne, New York.

He was allowed pension on his application executed October 11, 1832, at which time he was a resident of Sherburne, Chenango County, New York, where he had lived thirty years.

He died April 7, 1842, in Sherburne, New York.

Soldier married March 21, 1781, in Stillwater, New York, or in Saratoga, New York, Abigail Mershal, or Marshall. She was born May 21, 1765, place and the names of her parents are not stated.

Soldier's widow, Abigail Higgins was allowed pension on her application executed March 25, 1843, at which time she was a resident of Sherbourne, New York.

The following data are given from the family records:

Thomas Higgins born April 24, 1755.

Abigail Higgins born May 21, 1765.

Rhoda Higgins born December 17, 1781.

John Higgins born August 29, 1787.

Eliza Higgins born June 14, 1786.

Sally Higgins born October 13, 1787.

Thomas Higgins born May 1, 1789.

John Higgins born February 20, 1792.

Anna Higgins born March 4, 1794.

Seth Higgins born October 28, 1798.

Polly Higgins born October 28, 1798.

Ann Higgins born July 18, 1801

William Higgins born July 27, 1804.

Hiram Mershal Higgins born November 10, 1806.

Amy Higgins born May 20, 1808.

Thomas Higgins married Abigail Mershal March 21, 1781.

Rhoda Higgins married October 16, 1789.

Eliza Higgins married January 2, 1800.

John died December 13, 1786.

Anna died November 9, 1804.

Enoch Higgins died November 30, 1804.

Sarah Higgins died January 2, 1816.