

Pension Application for Jason Horton

R.5241 (Widow: Mary) Married in 1783. Jason died December 28, 1837. Jason received pension during his life, his wife Mary did not.

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

State of New Jersey
Somerset County SS.

One this thirteenth day of August in the year of our Lord personally appeared in open Court before the Judges of the Inferior Court of Common Pleas, now sitting at Bridgewater in the County of Somerset and State of New Jersey Jason Horton a resident of the said Township of Bridgewater in said County aged seventy four years in December next, who being 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.

I was born on Long Island, Suffolk County in the State of New York on the 18th December AD 1758—my parents moved to Orange County near Goshen in the same state when I was a child, and soon after the commencement of the Revolutionary War, I arrived at sufficient age to bear arms and was enlisted as a militia soldier in Capt. John Jacksons Company at Chester a Village near Goshen in said Orange County.

The regiment was commanded by Col. B. Tustin where I continued to do duty.

That most of the time during the war I acted as Sargeant.

I kept myself completely equipt for duty at my own expense & always turned out when called upon by my officers & never deserted the post assigned me.

In the year 1776 was on command at Fort Montgomery on the North River in the same county and laboured at erecting the Fort—was there many time doing soldiers duty—how long each time I cannot precisely recollect but think it was generally two weeks. In the same & successive years until peace was declared I was many time on militia service on the lines towards New York near forty miles from Goshen.

I have been on service at New City at Paramus at Tapan [Tappan] and several other places in the County now called Rocklands in the State of New York—Was at Hackensack and Bergen in New Jersey when the Malitia of Orange County kept Garrison—was employed against the Savages at Minisink, when I was many times on guard & over when we were alarmed by the Savages I was sent on Express to Col. Phillips at the Wallkill for assistance & performed the duty to the Satisfaction on my officers.

In the fall of 1777 the British Army attacked Fort Montgomery, our regiment was immediately under marching orders. We had proceeded but a short way when news came that the Fort was taken. We were then ordered to turn our course toward New Windsor.

The enemy's shipping soon appeared before that place, we were prepared for them had they landed.—Some of our men took two strangers on horseback going with dispatches from Burgoyne to the commanding Gen. at New York. We were immediately under orders to march to Esopus about 40 miles from New Windsor, under Genl Clinton—We had a considerable body of Militia & one regiment of Continental troops commanded by Col. Webb of New England. The shipping of the enemy had proceeded up the North river and was expected to land at Esopus—we endeavoured to get there as soon as they did—but when we were within a few miles we saw the smoke which told us they had been there & it was in ruins—on the afternoon of the same day we heard the official news of the surrender of Burgoyne to Genl Gates we encamped at Esopus a few days until the British shipping returned down the river—

The 2 men I have before mentioned we brought with us as persons under a strong guard. They were tried by Court Martial & one of the condemned to be hung as a spy. I saw him executed near the town. He was suspended on an apple tree—

Soon after this we were under marching orders to return home. I think I served about one month at this time.

In, I think July 1779 the Indians made an attack on the inhabitants of Minisink & made great destruction. A detachment the Goshen Militia commanded by Col. B. Tustin & the Warwick Regiment Commanded by Col. J. Hartshorn were under marching orders in a few hours—arrived at the place of destruction in the afternoon of the day in which the Indians had left. We pursued them, marching all night some on foot & some on horse back—about break of day our Com. Office was informed that the Indians had encamped about 4 miles in advance soon after sun rise we left our horses & baggage under a guard. We then hastened under the [?] of Cap Duncan, who was well acquainted with the county—

I think it was the intention of the officers to take them by surprise. But the enemy became apprised of our immediate attack and was prepared for us. Capt. Duncan was well acquainted with Indian warfare & much [?] was placed on him. He was the first man killed. We in a few minutes perceived we were surrounded. Their leader was Brandt. Our men fought until our ammunition failed. When the officers gave orders for us to retreat in which many were killed. Col. B. Tustin was supposed to have fallen, & Cap Jones & Capt Little both of Col. Fisher's Regiment.

I think not more than one fourth of our men ever returned home. This battle was near the mouth of the [Sacrawack?] – Capt. John Wood was taken prisoner by them & conveyed to the British Garrison at or near Detroit.

On the retreat I feel in with two men – one a Capt Harken from Sussex County was badly wounded we arrested him to Minisink. We arrived at a fort two days after the battle much fatigued, having been nearly three days without provision. There was with us a small detachment from Sussex County commanded by Maj. Meeker. He was wounded in the shoulder.

There was also with us one company of Artillery commanded by Cap Brown of the standing army. At another time when on duty at this place we now alarmed by the

following circumstance. A family named Brooks –consisting of father mother— daughter & daughter’s husband named Chapmen was supposed by the Indians about break of day. Chapman in all [?] to escape was that dead. – They plundered & burnt the house. The family was taken prisoners but were soon permitted to return. They never came & informed us what had happened & I was one of those who buried Chapmen.

Soon after the war ended I moved into Somerset County New Jersey where I have mostly ever since which is about 40 years—

I am in the 76 year of my age & unable to work for a support for myself & wife I cannot positively affirm that I served more than 2 years, nor would I now certify that I served less but I’m ready to declare that I served a great number of times on Military duty for nearly six years.

I am at the distance of 70 or 80 miles from the place where I was enlisted. I cannot therefore have the benefit of the Testimony of those who were with me & who knew of my services to my country. I was out under the following officers at different times. Viz Cap Jackson when Chapman was killed Lieut McDowell, Cap Sweezy, Cap. Jones, Cap. Sawyer, Capt Little, Lieut Tryon, Maj Hatfield –

Has no documentary evidence of his said services.

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) Jason Horton.

Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. Wm. B. Gaston