

Pension Application for John James

W.9068 (Widow: Fanny) Married Fanny Horton September 6, 1805. John died November 8, 1852.

State of New York and orange County SS.

On the 20th day of April 1818, before me the subscriber one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for said County of Orange personally appears John James aged fifty two years.

Resident in the Town of Cornwall County of Orange & State aforesaid who being by me first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the late act of Congress entitled an Act to provide for certain persons engaged in the Land and Naval Service of the United States in the Revolutionary War, that he the said John James was inlisted by his Father in the Spring of 1776 for thre[e] years or during war (being then only 10 years of age) for a drummer, Col Lewis Dubois's Reg and Gen Clinton's Brigade in said United States was taken at Fort Montgomery by the British came to New York and imprisoned with my father when his father was sick and taken out of prison his Father then enlisted him in the British Army a Drummer he [?] for one year when his Father died on the death of his father he soon left after deserted and returned to Peekskill in Westchester County to join his Regt & they was on the Northward Campaign he had a [?] from an officers names Major John Morney to New [provisions?] and go when he pleas'd until call'd on he returned therabout being young and not knowing what to do did not join his Regt [?] nor was he any other ways discharged he was at the battle of Ft Mont'Gomry [Fort Montgomery] after being in the service one year and 1/2.

That he was left fatherless very young in now in very reduced circumstances and needs the assistance of his county for support. And this is the only evidence found in his Town of his services. Sworn to and declared before me the day and year aforesaid. William A. Clark.

Southern District of New York

Orange County SS.

On this sixth day of September 1820 personally appeared in open court in the Court of Common Pleas it being a court of record for the said County of Orange by virtue of the statutes and constitution of said State John James aged fifty four years resident in the said County of Orange who being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath declares that he served in the revolutionary war as follows;

Inlisted [enlisted] some time in one thousand seven hundred and seventy six in Capt. Burns, Col. Dubois Regt York Troops as a drummer for thre[e] years or during the war. [?] during war was taken by the British and carried to New York remained then one and ½ years or more & until his Father who was taken with him died, ran away and returned to the continental village & reported himself to Major Campbell and Major Morney who gave him a travelling pass his Regt was then to the northward—they were discharged in the State of New Jersey.

And I do solemnly swear that I was a resident citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818; and that I have not since that time by gift, sale, or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of the act of Congress, entitled "An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war", passed the 18th day of March 1818; and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property or securities, contracts or debts due to me; nor have I any income other than what is contained in the following Inventory and by me subscribed viz; two two year old Heffiers [heifers] one calf, two old horses old waggon old case drawers—six old chairs bark bottoms, five old plats [plates] and knives and forks cups and saucers pail pot and kettle tea kettle wife and six children at home one son a soldier in the army oldest of the six children is twelve those six by a second wife that live with me unable to earn their bread—get my living by daily labour am very infirm—Declaration 20 April 1818 No. Warrant 8665. Signed with his mark) John James.

Sworn to & subscribed on this sixth day of Sept'r 1820 before me in open court. Jas McClintock, Deputy Clerk, County of Orange.

Letter in folder dated May 6, 1929, written in response to an inquiry.

I advise you from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim, W.9068, it appears that John James enlisted in the spring of 1776 and served as a drummer in Captain Burns' Company, Colonel Lewis Dubois New York Regiment; he and his father (name not stated) were captured at Fort Montgomery and taken to New York, after which his father enlisted him as a drummer in the British Army. In a year or two his father having died, he deserted and reported at Continental Village where he was given a pass to go where he pleased until called for and never rejoined his regiment.

He was allowed pension on his application executed April 20, 1818, at which time he was living in Cornwall, Orange County, New York, aged fifty-two years.

He died, November 8, 1852, in Monroe, Orange County, New York.

The soldier's first wife died about 1803, there are not details of their marriage. He married September 6, 1805, at Canterbury, orange County, New York, Fanny Horton.

She was allowed pension on her application executed March 9, 1854, while a resident of Monroe, New York, aged seventy-six years.

Children by the first wife; a son, whose name is not stated, was in the army in 1820, and Hannah Rose, who was sixty-seven years of age in 1854 and living in Monroe, New York.

Children by the second wife: David, Selah, Margaret, John, Mehala, and Benjamin; their ages are not given.