

Pension Application for George Loucks

S.13793

State of New York

Montgomery County SS

On this 7th day of Sept 1832 Before me Henry J. Dieffendorf one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the County of Montgomery, and State of New York.

George Loucks, resident of the Town of Palatine, County of Montgomery & State of New York, aforesaid, aged seventy three years 4 Months & 1 day.

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 the applicant declares, that emmediately [immediately] after the Commencement of the War he belonged to the Regt Commanded by Col. Jacob Klock (1) & Lieut. Col. Peter Waggoner, and I enrolled in the Company Commanded by Capt. Christoph'r W. Fox, (2) Peter Loucks, Lieut, Henry Miller Lieut and Sam'l Van ETTY Ensign.

That he this applicant declares that conformable to the orders and directions of his superior officers as well than in compliance with the laws and resolutions passed in the year 1775 by both as well by the old Congress of the United States, than those of the State of New York, furnishing himself with lawful arms and accoutrements, and always ready at a moment's warning in serving his country or the United States.

This Applicant further declares that as Early than in the year 1776, he must have performed duties & services far exceeding three months as appears by abstract or copy of pay roll. (3) Allowed him for the amount of £8..19..10..2/5 for more services performed and £1..18..6 ½ computed to \$5.56.5 for milage [sic mileage] and for services performed, the amount of \$22..47..5 at the rate of £2..13..4 per month, could average at the rate of services, about three months 7 days if that much duties and services was performed in the year 1776. Almost at the commencement of the War what calculation ought to be made for 5 or six years in succession thereafter where danger, trouble, & duties & services became double & Tribble [triple] after the year 1776 and at an average which more than for the first improbable and not in the power of any Militia Soldiers to describe.

This applicant further declares that in January 1776 ordered out under Capt. Fox to go to Caughnawaga in mass with the Militia there joined Gen'l Schuyler (4) with the Militia from Albany & Schenectady. There assembled together for some days, when under the command of the aforesaid Gen'l Philip Schuyler went to Johnstown, there mett [met] Sr. John Johnson with three or four hundred men then causing surrender of arms of Sr. John the particular object of Sr. John this applicant did not ascertain but supposing either intended to go to Canada joining the British or calculated to exercise depredations on those friendly towards achieving the liberty and independence of our Country.

Next he was ordered immediately after Oriskany Battle (5) ordered to drive cattle from the Indian Castle to Herkimer. When arrived at Herkimer then informed that Gen'l St. Leager (6) [Leger] with his army from Canada had left his encampment & marched away from Fort Stanwix then ordered and immediately Gen'l Arnold then at Herkimer with a considerable force on his march to Fort Stanwix [is written over as a correction and cannot be clearly read].

Next this applicant declares that on the 22nd day of May 1780, (6) when Sr. John Johnson with a large party of his incendiaries vizt Tories & Indians from Canada on surprise and unexpected to the inhabitants round about the vicinity of Caughnawaga and at the Village of Caughnawaga in the morning at day break apprized the inhabitants in that part of Johnstown, with their murdering weapons vizt with their merciless scalping knife, tomahawk and combustible they set fire to buildings &c &c murdering & sculping, burning taking prisoners, men, women and children and when the Militia were joined and mett, under the command of Col. John Harper (7) marching on in pursuit of the Enemy, marching to the Village of Johnstown by which time the enemy had left the Village, seeing them marching along across the Hall farm into the woods, and this claimant thinks why the Command of Americans did not follow or in pursuing the enemy into the woods, was done in order to save the lives of those distressed those women & children which their habits were in doing if pursued in Consequence of Col. Harper abstaining in following all the women and children were permitted to return.

Next, This Claimant declares that he hath been in battle on the 19th day of Oct. in the same year 1780, then under the immediate command of Col. Brown (8) in the Town of Palatine, Generally called Brown's battle, in Capt. Henry Millers (9) Company against Sr. John Johnson with triple [triple] the number & more to ours, when Col. Brown was killed at the commencement and ours were put to flight, and while retreating about 45 of the Militia and Brown's men killed, and in the course of about three hours the enemy causing a General Havoc, round about the old settlement of Stone Arabia with the exception of the Fort, (10) and some few houses, which did not take fire to when attempted [sic attempted] by the incendiaries with their combustibles.

On the same day in the Afternoon, this Applicant declares that in pursuit of the Enemy at the distance of about eight miles up along the Mohawk River, this claimant again with others in battle on Failings, & Klocks Flats (11) and continued Until Sr. John with his incendiary crew took flight.

That this applicant also declares that he was present in battle in July 29th 1781. Generally called Landmans Battle of its happening in the woods near Landmans farm on a Holy Sunday, against a party of Indians and Tories. About 50 or so strong. The Indian chief killed & several wounded, a few of ours wounded, the Militia commanded by Lieut. Sammons he believes.

Next this applicant declares that in the same year 1781, those under the immediate Command of Col. Marinus Willet, those belonging to the Company of Militia Commanded by Capt. Henry Miller in Battle against a large party from Canada, under the Command of Maj'r Ross (13) & Capt. Butler, after a contested conflict, attempted

with a number of lives lost, & Prisoners taken on both sides, the Enemy left the Field of Battle.

This applicant further declares that in the year 1780 Sometime in summer he was ordered out to march under the Command of Gen^l Van Rensselaer (14) & Col. John Harper to Fort Schuyler where Capt. Sam^l Gray with his Bateaman and Bateus, loaded with provisions and supplies to Fort Stanwix, hath been obstructed, calculated to have been taken by the enemy And there detained, until Gen^l Van Rensselaer with all of us came to their relief, those guarding Capt. Gray with boats & boatmen to Fort Stanwix, while passing along to Fort Stanwix, the Enemy Marching down to Minden, Fort Plain, (15) Burning & destroying, Murdering and taken prisoners, previous, our returning from Fort Stanwix.

This applicant further declares that he once was drafted & send to the Royal Grant to Fort OX there continued for about 3 weeks under Capt. Zielly, drafted when Springfield burned say 3 weeks, Also with the Militia to Cherryvalley, (16) when cruel Murder committed by Capt. Brandt & Capt. Butler, with their inhuman Indian and Tory incendiary crew, Murdering Women & Children, Men and Children Unborn.

Also watching and guarding against the incursions of the Enemy at Fort Blank [Plank], several times to Johnstown in service and duty independent of the foregoing declarations, preserving and guarding against the Incendiaries & also ordered out at least twice, Marching to Herkimer, once when the Indians and Tories from Canada have been murdering, burning German Flats, (17) at another time watching and guarding at Fort Dayton in Harkimer, [Herkimer] at each time under Capt. Miller, to the best of his knowledge.

This applicant further declares, he thinks late in the fall 1781 That Emediately after a large number of Tories and Indians from Canada hath approached & attacted the inhabitants around about Fort Timmerman, as understood the object of the enemy was to make an attack or attenting [attempting] taken the fort, but than burning Killing both men and beast, taking prisoners, This claimant declares he than according to his knowledge, under the Emedieant Command of Col. Willet went in pursuit of the enemy for about 30 miles, but searched in vain did not overtake the Incendiaries.

This applicant further declares that he hath resided a short mile from Fort Paris previous, during and even since the close of the war and that his claiming the year to the best of his knowledge and belief, at least at an average for five years in succession performed Military duty at a moderate rate for two months annually, guarding & watching at the fort, guarding against the incursions of the common daily expected enemy.

This applicant further declares, that the following, which ought to have followed in rotation. Emediantly after when in Johnstown Battle 25th Oct 1781, the next day under the command of Col. Willet again in pursuit of Maj^r Ross and his Incendiary crew and marching at a distance of about 50 miles to the West Canada Creek, (18) where the enemy were formed along and on the shore of the west side of the Creek, Willet with his men from the East in coming up to the creek, Maj^r Ross with his

incendiaries took flight leaving his position, of the enemy Capt. Butler then at the creek shot dead, several others of their party, killed before coming to the creek and a number of enemy taken prisoner.

And that this claimant declares that it is not in his power to describe the number of days or months in service and where ordered out upon duty, but flatters himself with an opinion that sufficient was done on his part to satisfy his hon'r the Secretary of War department that he has not only been in the service of the United States for two years, but according and in compliance the direction and orders of his superior officers as well than in conformity and compliance of the Resolutions and laws passed, relation to the Militia of the State of New York as well than by the old Congress who as early than May 27th 1775 when Congress hath passed a resolution, resolved that the Militia of the State of New York be armed and trained and in constant readiness at a moments warning and that it recommended to the provincial convention of New York to preserve the more vigorously in preparing for their defense on it was very very uncertain whether the earnest attention of the congress to accommodate the unhappy differences between Great Britain and the Colonies by conciliatory means would be successful

That this applicant further declares that although not daily and continually actually engaged in battle that by the foregoing declaration he will be enabled to make it appear that he has faithfully and strictly adhered to the engagement between the United States & the State of New York & himself, that he kept himself in readiness armed and acquipt [equipped] at all times & when called upon, considering it a duty incumbent on him to comply with the requisitions and emergencies of his country.

That this claimant hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that he is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state and further this applicant saith not. (Signed) George Loucks

Sworn and Subscribed before me. Henry J. Dievendorff a judge of othe Court of Common Pleas in and for the said County.

Montgomery County SS. We, Isaac S. Ketcham a clergyman and Jacob Snell late judge both residing in the Town of Palatine in said county hereby certify that we are well acquainted with George Loucks who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration that we believe him to be seventy three years four months and one day of age that he is respected and believed in the neighbourhood where he resides to have been a soldier of the revolution and that we concur in that opinion and we further dertify that from bodily infirmity that he cannot attend court.

Sworn and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid before me Henry I. Dievendorff a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in and for said county. (Signed) Isaac S. Ketcham, Jacob Snell

End Notes—S.13793—George Loucks

1. Jacob Klock was the colonel of the Second Regiment of Tryon County Militia. Peter Waggoner served as the Lieutenant Colonel under Colonel Klock. Both were appointed on August 26, 1775.

2. Christopher W. Fox was appointed Captain of the Third Company on August 26, 1775 in Colonel Klock's Regiment. On the same date Peter Loucks was appointed the first lieutenant, Henry Miller was the second lieutenant and Samuel VanEtten as the ensign.
3. "Memorandum how much Money each Man of Capt. Christopher Wm Fox's Company is to receive for the last Milage, Subsistence, and Pay Rolls". George is listed as Corporal on this roll. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 75, folder 121, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
4. Major General Philip Schuyler of the Continental Army. During this meeting Sir John Johnson signed a parole note to take up arms against the inhabitants of Tryon County.
5. The Battle of Oriskany was fought on August 6, 1777.
6. Brigadier General Barry St. Leger with a mixed force of British Regulars, German Mercenaries, Canadian Militia, Loyalists and Indians laid siege to Fort Schuyler (Fort Stanwix) on August 3, 1777. The siege lasted to August 22, 1777 when they abandoned the siege as Major General Benedict Arnold was approaching with a relief Column. On May 22, 1780, Sir John Johnson with a large force destroyed what is today the Town of Mohawk, the Village of Fonda and the Town of Johnstown. Sir John went to his home in Johnstown to recover important papers and silver that he had buried in the cellar of Johnson Hall in May of 1776 when he fled to Canada.
7. Lieutenant Colonel Commandant John Harper Commanded a regiment of New York State Levies in 1780. Several pensioners mentioned a skirmish to start between Harper's and Johnson's men and that Johnson sent a message to Harper that if he continued the attack the Indians had threatened to kill all of their prisoners. Harper called off the attack and Johnson remained on the Hall grounds unmolested until the next day.
8. Colonel John Brown commanded the American forces in the Battle of Stone Arabia on October 19, 1780.
9. Henry Miller had been promoted to Captain in place of Fox as he had been promoted to major in Colonel Klock's Regiment.
10. Fort Plain was built in 1776 and named after Isaac Paris. Sometimes it is referred to as Fort Brown by the soldiers in their pension applications and sometimes in official records of the time it is called the Stone Arabia fort.
11. The Battle of Klocksfield was fought in the afternoon of October 19, 1780 near present day St. Johnsville, Montgomery County.
12. The Battle of Lampmans was fought on July 29, 1781. Lieutenant Jacob Sammons of Captain Lawrence Gros' Company in Lieutenant Colonel Commandant Marinus Willett's Regiment of New York State Levies commanded the small group of Levies and militia in this skirmish.
13. The Battle of Johnstown was fought on October 25, 1781. Major John Ross and Captain Walter Butler led a force of over 600 men in a raid to the Mohawk Valley. Willett with a mixed force of Levies, militia a small detachment of

Colonel John Lamb's Continental Artillery Regiment under Captain Andrew Moody caught up with Ross at Johnstown. After a few hours of fighting Ross and his men retreated back towards Canada.

14. Brigadier General Robert VanRensselaer in late July of 1780 marched up to where Captain Gray had put his bateaus to shore to protect them from an ambush set by Captain Joseph Brant. A friendly Oneida Indian had warned Gray of the ambush. Gray sent one of his men to go get help. General Rensselaer led militia up both sides of the Mohawk River to where Captain Gray had put to shore. The bateaus were then guarded the rest of the way to Fort Schuyler.
15. Captain Brant circled around the militia on the south side of the Mohawk River and reached the present day Village of Fort Plain and the Town of Minden on August 2, and destroyed the area.
16. Cherry Valley was destroyed on November 11, 1778 by Captains Walter Butler and Joseph Brant. Captain John Zeely was in Colonel Klock's Regiment.
17. The German Flats, now the Village of Herkimer was burned on September 17, 1778 by Captains William Caldwell and Joseph Brant.
18. The Skirmish at West Canada Creek took place on October 30, 1781.