

Pension Application for John McMichael

S.13889

State of New York

Orange County SS.

On the third day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty two personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the County aforesaid now sitting at the Academy in the Village of Newburgh it being a court of Record John McMichael a resident of the Town of New Windsor in the County of Orange and state aforesaid aged seventy one years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832, namely that he entered the service of the United States a private in the Militia under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

In the latter part of the month of March in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy seven this deponent enlisted in a company of Militia commanded by Captain William Tillford of the town and country—aforesaid in Regiment commanded by Colonel James McLaughry in which company James Faulkner now deceased and Alexander Beaty now Deceased were Lieutenants said Company was ordered to hold itself in readiness to march at one minutes warning and did march accordingly some time in the latter part of said month of for Fort Montgomery situated on the West side of the Hudson River in the State aforesaid in the Highlands—that in proceeding to said fort which was then threatened with an attack from the British Army which were preceding up said river from New York he embarked with said company at New Windsor and arrived in the evening of the same day at the place of destination and remained there eight days expecting an attack from the enemy—who then occupied New York and threatened to seize the Military Posts in the Mountains for the purpose of cutting off the communication between the Eastern States and the West side of said River.

That during the time aforesaid deponent was stationed with said company at Fort Clinton directly opposite with said company at Fort Clinton directly opposite to Fort Montgomery on the same side of the River but on the South Side of [Popeloes?] Hill under the immediate comand [command] of Colonel McLaughry Brigadier General James Clinton commanded at Fort Clinton and Major General George Clinton was commander in chief that at the expiration of said term said alarm having subsided said company returned home and remained at home in said town of New Windsor untill the month of April in the same year in which month according to deponents recollection—

Danbury in the State of Connecticut was taken and burned by the British troops immediately after which this deponent marched with said company to Fort Clinton an alarm having been given & the enemy being again expected to attempt a landing in the Highlands, said company proceeded by West Point to said Fort Clinton

and this deponent and said company served in said Fort under the officers before named eight days when said company returned home.

In the month of May following this deponent with ten other men belonging to said company were detached for one month to serve at the fort last named under the same officers before mentioned which he did at the expiration whereof deponent with said Detachment returned home.

In the month of August thereafter said company was ordered again to proceed to said fort in consequence of another alarm which they did by land and this deponent remained at the same under the command of the same officers ten days and then returned home.

In the month of September next thereafter this deponent together with apart, of said company were detached to garrison said fort and remained there one half month under the immediate command of Captain Vail said detachment proceeded to said fort by land on the fifth day of October in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy seven there was another alarm at said fort and this deponent together with all the men belonging to said company were again ordered to repair to said fort which they did by watter [water] by way of West Point and from thence by land under the command of the same officers.

That on the sixth day of October said fort was attacked as well as Fort Clinton by a detachment of the British army under the command of General Henry Clinton and Colonel Campbell the former led on this detachment against Fort Clinton and the latter that which attacked Fort Montgomery Colonel ____ Campbell was severely wounded and died about midnight Colonel McLaughry who commanded Fort Clinton was also severely wounded next day after said battle this deponent was ordered with said Company to New Windsor to prevent the enemy from landing on their way to Kingston to which they proceeded and burnt the said town a few days before the capture of Burgoyne after having served four weeks said company was discharged and returned home about the first of November thereafter this deponent together with said company under the command of the officers aforesaid were again ordered into actual service for the purpose of erecting a fortification at Nicolls Point Near New Windsor and continued in actual service one month and an half at the expiration of said term said company was again discharged and each man returned to his respective home it being the name of that campaign.

In the month of March one thousand seven hundred and seventy eight this deponent was again detached with part of said Company under the command of Captain Felter to West Point to Keep guard and erect fortifications to which place they repaired by watter [water] from New Windsor—

That said deponent served at West Point one half month at which time General Wisner commanded the Militia and General Pattison the Continental troops General Kkouisko was chief Engineer according to the best of deponents recollection after said one half months service as aforesaid this deponent together with said detachment was honorably discharged.

In the month of September in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy eight deponent was detached with a part of said company under the command of Catain [Captain] Vail against the Indians at Nipenag [Naponoch] on the West side of Shawangunk Mountain it there being an Indian frontier and continued in service under said Vail one half month that in December thereafter this deponent was again detached from said company under the command of Colonel NewKirk lieutenant Roe being second in command and served at that time one half month on the Indian frontiers—

In the spring of the year 1779 this deponent was again detached from said company under the command of the said Lieutenant Beaty against the Indians at Neponoy [Naponoch] aforesaid and continued in said service one fortnight and was then discharged.

In June In the year last aforesaid this deponent together with the whole of said company was ordered to West Point there being a general alarm and an expectation that the British intended to make an attack on that Post. That said company with this deponent proceeded to that Post by watter that General Pattison then commanded that post according to the best of deponents recollection and belief this deponent served at West Point as aforesaid eight days and was then discharged and returned home.

In August in the year last aforesaid deponent was drafted from said company to go against the Indians deponent went accordingly under command of Lieutenant David Monnel, Moses Philips Major against the Indians at the Peenpack on the Neversink were in the County of Ulster at that time an Indian frontier and served as aforesaid one month that in the month of September thereafter this deponent was detached under the command of the said Captain William Telford against the Indians at Nepong aforesaid for one half month and served during said term.

In the month of October thereafter there was a general alarm at Peenpack aforesaid from the Indians at which time this deponent was again ordered together with the whole of said company under the command of the said Captain Telford said company remained at Peenpack one week until the alarm had subsided and was then discharged and returned home.

In the month of April thereafter said company was again ordered against the Indians at Mamakating in the County of Ulster aforesaid where deponent went with said company and remained one half month at that place and was then discharged and deponent also saith in the month of June in the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty said company with this deponent was ordered to west Point upon an alarm that they went by water from New Windsor and remained there eight days under the command of the aforesaid officers General Arnold commanded West Point at that time tho he well recollects of seeing Howicks there in October thereafter deponent as one of said company was ordered to Peenpack as aforesaid against the Indians under the command of the officers aforesaid on a general alarm and remained there one week and was then discharged and deponent also saith that said company volunteered to serve during the war and held themselves in readiness to march at a

minutes warning that the officers of said company are all dead and that but verry [very] few of the men who served with this deponent now survives most of whom are [superannuates?] that the then County of Orange for a considerable part of the war was nearly surrounded by the enemy the British on the South and the Indians on the West that in consequence of the peculiar situation with respect to the enemy the company to which he belonged was always on the allert [alert] allmost [almost] continually in active service in protecting the frontiers against hostile enemies that the said counties were greatly infested by band of Tories who took reffuge [refuge] in the surrounding mountains.

That these periods of service were generally short and at the expiration they were relieved by other troops who in their turn were relieved by others. That in consequence of being sometimes detached to serve under officers with whom he was not acquainted he cannot in some instances recollect their names and in consequence of serving at times with men detached from different parts of the Country with whom he was no acquainted he cannot at this distance of time and at his advanced age be more particular.

That he well recollects at the battle of Fort Montgomery Captain Moody commanded a company of Artillery Captain John Belknap now deceased commanded a company of Infantry and that Colonel Dubois afterwards General Dubois was at the battle and also Colonel Livingston who he understood happened there accidentally and hearing that a battle was expected staid to see the result and deponent also saith that said Captain John Belknap was afterwards a prisoner of the United States under the law of 1818 as deponent has been informed and believes to be true.

That the respective periods of service were so frequent and the Intervals so short and uncertain that written discharges for those short periods of service were never given and as the company had vollunteered [volunteered] to serve for and during the war they were discharged by the peace as a matter of course.

And deponent cannot recollect nor does he believe that a written discharge was ever given to any man belonging to said company and deponent also saith that James Boyd Joseph Beaty William Beaty and William Sly whose affidavits are annexed served in the same company with deponent and are knowing to his services.

In answer to the interrogatories especially put to this deponent by said Court.

That he was born in the Town of New Windsor—aforsaid on the 16th of November 1760, has a record of his birth in his family Bible at his sisters in said Town lived in said town when called into lived in New Windsor aforsaid when called into service has lived there since the Revolution and lives there now. Deponent belonged to the said company of Militia of Captain Telford and was ordered out by him.

The names of the regular officers who were with the troops when deponent served were General George Clinton General James Clinton Colonel Lewis Dubois Colonel James Livingston, Captain Moody, Captain Machin and Captain John Belknap and Major Logan.

The Continental Regiments were Dubois, and Machin and Moody's company of Artillery. Deponent recollects Ellison and McLaughry's Regiments of Militia at Fort

Montgomery. The circumstances of service are the same as stated in the foregoing affidavit Deponent never received a discharge. William Sly and William Beaty are acquainted with Deponent and his services having served in the same company.

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

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. Asa Dunning, Clerk