

## **Pension Application for James Morrison**

S.43043

Original Claim

State of New York

Columbia County

City of Hudson SS.

On this 19<sup>th</sup> day of June 1829—Personally appeared in open court called “the Justices Court of the City of Hudson”—the same being a court of record by the laws of the State of New York, having Common Law Jurisdiction, Clerk & Seal, James Morrison late of the County of Rensselaer and now a resident of the said County of Columbia aged seventy six years, a farmer but much afflicted with the Palsy and lameness of one foot as will appear more fully from the certificate of Doctor Robert Collins hereunto annexed—The said James Morrison being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the Provisions made by the Acts of Congress of the 18<sup>th</sup> March 1818 and the 1<sup>st</sup> May 1820 and the Acts Supplementary thereto—

That he the said James Morrison enlisted for the term of Three years about the last of May 1776 in the line of the State of New York on the continental Establishment in a company commanded by Captain Robeshaw (1) in Colonel James Livingston’s (2) Regiment and continued in said company until about the last of February 1777—(3)

When himself with nine other soldiers were taken prisoners by the Indians, near Fort Stanwix in the State of New York, and taken to Detroit and was detained there and near Michilimackinac about four years and from thence conveyed to Kingston Upper Canada, from which he made his escape with three other Prisoners (4) and returned to the Army near West Point State of New York, and was then informed by his commanding officer that he was at liberty to leave the service that he was previously at the Capture of Bergoyne’s [Burgoyne’s] Army (5) at Stillwater—That he relinquishes every claim to a Pension except the present; that his name is not on any roll of any state and the following are the reasons for not making an earlier application for a Pension, that his family of children had all become of age and left him—that he had no person to provide for except himself which he did by his own personal labour, and the difficulty of finding persons who could identify him until the present time and having become entirely unable to work on account of age and bodily infirmity & entirely destitute of Property and is in such indigent circumstances that he is unable to support himself without the assistance of his country except by Private or Public Charity.

And in pursuance of the Act of the 1<sup>st</sup> of May 1820, I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March 1818—and that I have not since that time by gift sale or otherwise in any manner disposed of my property—or any part thereof with intent—thereby 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 March 18<sup>th</sup> ; And that I have not nor have I any income, due to me, that I have not any real or personal estate, nor have I had any since the 18<sup>th</sup> March 1818 and all my property consists of my wearing apparel and the evidence of my service are the affidavits of John Hallaird and Abraham Perry with whom I was personally acquainted with in the army of the Revolution. (Signed with his mark)  
James Morrison

Sworn to & declared on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of June 1829 in open court. Edward C. Thurston  
Clerk J.C.

End Notes—S43043—James Morrison

1. There are no known muster rolls for Colonel James Livingston's First Canadian Continental Regiment for 1775 and 1776.
2. James Livingston was appointed Colonel on November 20, 1775 to raise a regiment of Canadians that supported the American cause.
3. James Robichaux was appointed Captain of the Seventh Company on December 18, 1776 in Colonel Livingston's Regiment. The first company muster roll covers December 18, 1776 to September 7, 1777 at camp near Loudon's Ferry. A James Morrison could not be found on that roll for any time period afterwards. A part of the First Canadian Regiment was stationed at fort Schuyler (Fort Stanwix) with part of Colonel Samuel Elmore's Connecticut Regiment for the winter of 1776-1777. Robichaux's Company for that time period garrisoned Fort Johnstown and nearby areas. This company was also at Fort Johnstown for the winter of 1777-1778 and again Morrison's name does not appear on the company muster roll. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 133, folder 122, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
4. Timothy Hughes was the Captain of the Sixth company in Colonel Livingston's Regiment. Captain Hughes' Company was one of the companies at Fort Schuyler during the winter of 1776-1777 and Morrison's name does not appear on that muster roll. But on this muster roll three men are listed as prisoner taken on April 6, 1777 and are as follows: Benjamin Clark having enlisted on March 20, 1777, Ezekiel Clark having enlisted on March 20, 1777 and Thomas Crane having enlisted on March 28, 1777.
5. This part of his deposition is wrong. At this time the period after so many years having passed he could not have been captured in February of 1777 or at the surrender of Lieutenant-General John Burgoyne's British Army and Allies on October 17, 1777. Colonel Livingston's Regiment was part of the brigade commanded by Brigadier General Ebenezer Learned. Livingston's Regiment marched with Major General Benedict Arnold came to the relief of the besieged garrison of Fort Schuyler in August of 1777. They returned to Saratoga with Arnold after the siege had been raised. They remained at Saratoga until after Burgoyne had surrendered. If Morrison had been captured in February of 1777 and kept a prisoner for four years in Canada he could not have been with the regiment. That would mean he would have been captured in February of 1778 but the Third New York continental Regiment still was garrisoning fort Schuyler. It is possible a detachment had guarded supplies up to fort Schuyler but Morrison's name does not appear on any muster rolls for 1777 or 1778.