

Pension Application for Thode Norton

S.5837

State of New York

Columbia County SS.

On this twenty fourth day of January one thousand eight hundred & thirty three personally appeared before me J. M. Fairfield one of the Justices of the Justices Court of the City of Hudson Thode Norton a resident of the town of New Lebanon in the County of Columbia and State of New York aged sixty nine years, 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 viz:

On the fifteenth day of September 1777 & while he resided at Canaan (Now New Lebanon) in the County & State aforesaid, he was drafted as a militia man in Captain Elijah Bostwick's company in Colonel Whiting's regiment of New York Militia & was ordered to & accordingly died march with his company to Stillwater, where they arrived on the day after the battle at that place.

That he was stationed with his regiment & company on Bemus' Heights, where he remained and did duty until the fifth day of October in the same year where he was taken sick & in consequence thereof was discharged & returned home after having served the term of three weeks.—He recollects the time of his discharge, form the fact that on his return home & on the second day after he left the army he heard the firing of the cannon in the last engagement of the American army with Burgoine—He remembers that General Gates was in command at Saratoga & that General Arnold was also there—Captain Gideon King & Captain Fitch from Canaan aforesaid were attached to the same regiment to which declarant belonged and were with the troops where he served.

And the said declarant further says that on or about the first day of September 1778 while residing at New Lebanon aforesaid he was again drafted as a militia man man [sic] in Captain Cady's Company in which John Smith was Lieutenant. The regiment to which he belonged was commanded by Colonel John McKinstry—whose major's name was also McKinstry. The company was ordered out on a tour of 4 weeks as was also the regiment—

That he marched form his residence in Canaan aforesaid to Albany & from thence to Cherry Valley where he remained in garrison until the time for which he had been ordered out with his company had expired—at which time no reinforcements having arrived or to the extent that was reputed he was required with his company to remain on duty for two weeks longer which he did do & at at [sic] the expiration of that time the company was dismissed and the declarant returned home after a march of eight days. That he was on duty from the time he joined the company until it was discharged (about the fifteenth of October) six weeks & rendering the time [?] on the march homeward seven weeks and one day.

That in the latter part of the month of July 1780 he engaged as a substitute for his brother Stephen Norton who had enlisted or volunteered as a private for four months service under Captain Elijah Bostwick of the New York Militia—the name of the Lieutenant was [Crouded?]—That he joined the Regiment which was commanded by Colonel [blank] Graham, Lieutenant Colonel Livingstone & Major [blank] at Fishkill from thence the regiment was ordered to Albany to which place they proceeded by water—from Albany he marched with his regiment to Fort Edward up the Hudson where after remaining about a week he marched with his company to Palmertown in the County of Saratoga & about twelve miles north of the Springs where the said company was stationed as a guard and remained until the last of October or the first of November when this deponent was discharged with the rest of his company—and he further states that he served in said company three months and a few days.

He recollects that Colonel Warner had been at the time declarant was at Fort Edward in command at that place and that he was there severely wounded & incapacitated from duty in consequence thereof—He is confident that he served at this time as much as three months and six days.

And the said declarant further says that in the month of October 1781 he together with the rest of the militia of the neighbourhood where he then resided in in the town of Canaan aforesaid were ordered out on a tour of duty to the north to repel one suspected attack from the enemy in that quarter.

That he joined Captain Skinner's company of Militia—his lieutenants name was [Russel?]—the company was attached to Colonel Whiting's Regiment—which owing to an indisposition of the Colonel was then commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Waterman—that he marched with his company to Bemus Heights where they remained encamped until they were dismissed which was after they had been on duty eighteen or twenty days.

The precise time when they were called out or dismissed the declarant does not recollect.—He can only say that his term of service commenced in October and continued for the length of time above stated but no less than eighteen days Captain Elijah Bostwick was in the same service with his company at the same time.

And he further states that he was born in the month of May 1763 at Farmington in the State of Connecticut. He has no record of his age—but thinks there is one in the town of Cambridge (Connecticut) which was set off from Farmington aforesaid—but in whose keeping it is he cannot say—When he was called into the service he lived in the town of Canaan aforesaid & in that part thereof which is now New Lebanon where he now lives and has resided since the Revolutionary war. At the several times when he entered the service as aforesaid—he was except once when he went as a substitute as before stated, called by a general order required the militia to turn out—as all events he did not go as a volunteer. He recollects the names of no other officers who were with the troops when he served nor other regiments than those he has named. That he never received a discharge in writing from the service—That he is known to the Reverend Silas Churchill and Elam Tilden in his present

neighbourhood who can testify to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution.

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 and he further says that he has no documentary evidence and knows of no person other than William Lee whose testimony he can procure who can testify his service. The aggregate of the different times he has serviced is more than five months. (Signed) Thode Norton.

Subscribed & sworn to the day & year aforesaid. J. W. Fairfield Justice as aforesaid.

Letter in folder dated January 21, 1925, written in response to an inquiry.

I have to advise you that from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim, S.5837, it appears that Thode Norton was born in May 1763 at Farmington, Connecticut.

While residing at Canaan, Columbia County, New York, he enlisted September 15, 1777 and served three weeks as a private in Captain Elijah Bostwick's Company, Colonel Whiting's New York Regiment.

From July 1780, he served as a substitute for his brother Stephen, in Captain Elijah Bostwick's Company, Colonel John Graham's New York Regiment and served three months and six days.

He enlisted in October 1781 and served eighteen days as a private in Captain Skinner's Company, Colonel Whiting's New York Regiment.

He was allowed pension on his application executed January 24, 1833, while a resident of New Lebanon, Columbia County, New York.

Soldier's wife is referred to, her name and age are not stated, nor is there any reference to children.