

Pension Application for John Odell

S.28830

State of New York

Westchester County SS.

On this sixth day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty two personally appeared before Caleb Tompkins first Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the said County of Westchester now present at the House of John Odell hereinafter named in the Town of Greenburgh in the said County of Westchester, John Odell a Resident of the Town of Greenburgh In the said County of Westchester aged seventy six years on the twenty fourth day of October last 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 is to say.

That in the month of May in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy six, he this declarant enlisted at TarryTown in the said County of Westchester as a private for six months in a company called six months men, commanded by Cap't Stephen Oakley of the Town of Westchester the said County of Westchester, belonging to a Regiment of Militia in the said County commanded by Col. Samuel Drake. That this declarant cannot recollect on what day in the month of May in the year aforesaid, he enlisted aforesaid, but according to the best of his recollection it was in the middle of said month of May.

That shortly after his said Enlistment the aforesaid company was mustered and this Declarant marched with his said company to the City of New York and were stationed at the Barricks near Greenwich and were engaged in erecting some fortifications on the Hudson River near Greenwich aforesaid. That this Declarant remained in New York doing duty as a private in said Company till sometime in the month of August of the last mentioned year when this Declarant was taken sick with with the Camp Distemper or Dysentary and returned home to his fathers near Dobbs Ferry in the said County of Westchester where this Declarant lay very sick for several weeks and as near as he can recollect six weeks.

Then as soon as he was recovered and able to do duty he returned to the City of New York and joined his said Company just before the American Army retreated out of New York and this Declarant continued serving as a private in his aforesaid Company till after the American Army retreated out of New York to Kings Bridge where this declarant recollects assisting in erecting some of the outworks round Fort Independence in the said County of Westchester near Kingsbridge where this declarant was taken sick again with the same distemper and was obliged and did return home to his father's in Greenburgh aforesaid where he remained sick for some time, till late in the fall and till the American Army had retreated to Peekskill where this Declarant again joined his said company and was there honorably discharged with the rest of said company in the latter part of December in the year 1776 by Cap'n Gilbert Dean then in command of said Company and who had commanded said

company for several months in consequence of their aforesaid Cap'n Stephen Oakley having fits & being unable to do duty.

That when this declarant enlisted in said Company as aforesaid said [sic] Gilbert Dean was the oldest Lieutenant & therefore had command as aforesaid on their said Captain becoming incapable of duty.

That this Declarant after his aforesaid Discharge from said Company at Peekskill aforesaid was there paid off by the said Lieutenant Gilbert Dean, his full pay for six months service as a private with in the aforesaid Company as above stated and no deduction whatever from his pay was asked or made by reason of his sickness and absence by reason thereof as aforesaid.

That this Declarant then returned home to his father's house in Greenburgh aforesaid and continued to do duty as a private in the Militia whenever they were called out on Guard and other Duty in said county of Westchester till the spring of the year 1778. But this Declarant cannot recollect the various times and occasions he done Militia duty as last aforesaid, but he recollects going down during that time with Genl Heath to Fort Independence to take that fort—but no attempt was made in consequence of a Reinforcement having been sent into said Fort.

And this Declarant further saith that in the month of May 1778 (but the particular day of that month he cannot recollect) he this Declarant attached himself as a volunteer and as a private to Captain Sybert Ackers Company of Levies—in Col. Morris Graham's Regiment of New York State Levies, and this Declarant continued to do duty as a private in said last mentioned Company in the said County of Westchester for the space of two months till the American Army under the command of Genl George Washington came into the said County of Westchester in the vicinity of White Plains in the said County of Westchester in the month of July 1778 as near as this Declarant can now recollect when Genl Washington's Army being encamped near White Plains aforesaid, this Declarant at the request of Genl Washington, through his QuarterMaster (as this Declarant verily believes) consented and attached himself as a volunteer and mounted Guide to the Continental Army then under Genl Washington at White Plains and this Declarant received pay for his services as such mounted Guide at the rate of two Dollars per day & rations for himself & his Horse.

That this Declarant continued to serve from the time last mentioned as such mounted Guide to the Continental Army remained on the said County of Westchester and till it removed to Frederickburgh in Dutchess County early in the fall of that year when this declarant remained in the said County of Westchester and continued to act as such Guide to the State Troops on the American lines in the said County of Westchester and particularly to Cap'n Daniel Williams Company of State Troops of Col. Morris grahams Regiment who was attacked & taken prisoner at Youngs House about Christmas of the last mentioned year.

That when this Declarent entered and commenced serving as a volunteer mounted Guide as aforesaid to Genl Washington's Army in the said County, four others viz. Abraham Dyckman, John Rice, Michael Dyckman and Israel Odell all of the

said County of Westchester also commenced acting as mounted Guides with this Declarant to said Army.

That in the early part of January 1779 This Declarant commenced serving as such Mounted Guide to Col. Aaron Burr who then had the command of the American Lines in the said County of Westchester, and this Declarant continued serving as such Mounted Guide to Col. Burrs troops, till Col Burr left those liens when he was succeeded by Major Wm Hull to whom this Declarant served as such Guide. Then to Major Oliver, who lay at King Street in the said County of Westchester this Declarant also served as a Guide. Then to Col. Thompson who was stationed at Youngs House in the said County of Westchester, till the Col. Thompson was attacked and defeated at Youngs House in the Month of February 1780.

That this Declarant was present at the last mentioned engagement at Youngs House, and was then acting as a mounted Guide to said Col. Thompson & his troops stationed there. That about ten oclock in the forenoon of the day on which the attack was made on Col Thompson and his party at Youngs house aforesaid, this Declarant was present as such Mounted Guide to those troops. That Col. Thompson laving previously received intelligence of the approach of the enemy had ordered all the companies of his Detachment which were dispersed along the lines in that vicinity to repair to his quarters, but when the Refugee horse approached with a few Infantry and took Thompson on Picket Guard near Youngs House but three companies of Col. Thompson Detachment rode up to the house and called Col. Thompson out of the Line and advised him to retreat to the east or west as soon as possible, as a large body of the enemy were then in sight (advancing to join the Refugees) at a distance of about one mile and a half to which Coll Thomason replied "What shall I do I am ordered to defend this post, and the men have not all come in & this Declarant answered him. "Not against impossibilities."

Col Thompson then ordered this Declarant to go to the East and being in the Company on the left and from them on the Hill in his rear. This Declarant immediate started and found that Company retreating at a distance of two Miles and was obliged to desist, as it would be impossible to get them back in time to assist Col. Thompson.

That in that engagement Col. Thompson and all his men (but about 30 under Lieutenant Moulton) were either killed, wounded, or taken prisoners, and Youngs House burnt by the British Troops.

That in a few days after the last mentioned engagement Col. Bigelow with a Detachment of Continental Troops came on the American lines in the said county of Westchester and this Declarant served as such mounted Guide to Col. Bigelow & his Detachment who had his head Quarters at Wright's Mills in said County till he was relieved by Col Miller under whom this Declarant continued to serve as such Guide till the month of May 1780, when Jonathan P. Horton of the said county of Westchester in the name of Governor George Clinton offered this Declarant a Lieutenants Commission in Capn Daniel Williams's Company in Coll Morris Grahams Regiment of New York State Levies to go to the Northward, that this Declarant agreed to accept the

commission and about the first day of May 1780 (but the precise day of that month he cannot recollect).

This Declarant went to Fishkill in Dutchess County and joined himself to a part of (Capt Daniel Williams) company of said last mentioned Regiment.

That had mustered there—from there this Deponent embarked with said part of said Company for Albany with orders to stop at Esopus or Kingston for his Excellency Govr George Clinton, which he did so where Govr George Clinton came on board the vessel & went with them to Albany. That while Govr George Clinton was on board of said vessel, he handed this Declarant his commission as a Lieutenant in said Company and this Declarant went on with his part of said Company to the German Flats on the Mohawk River, as such Lieutenant and there remained as such Lieutenant till his said Captain Daniel Williams and Lieutenant Michael Dickman of the same company joined them with the part of same Company [?] their command—

That this Declarant continued to serve as such Lieutenant in said Company Guarding the stores forwarding to Fort Stanwix till about the last of July in the last mentioned year when a Continental Recruiting officer came where said company was stationed and offered a bounty of 30 Bushels of wheat for each man that would enlist for one month longer after their present term of Enlistment of six months in Col. Graham's Regiment had expired.

That according to all but about ten men of his Detachment's Company enlisted when this Declarant returned with said Remnant of his company and joined his said Regiment under the command of Col Morris Graham at West Point and this Declarant there remained with his said Regiment, till they moved down the Hudson River and encamped near Stony Point.

Afterwards said Regiment was ordered again to the Northward to Repel Sir John Johnson who was in force along the Mohawk River. That this Declarant went with his said Regiment to Fort Plain on the Mohawk and there remained till the term of enlistment of six months had expired & the men were discharged, when this Declarant returned to his home in the County of Westchester about the first of December 1780.

That this Declarant during all of the aforesaid service of six month served under his said Commission of Lieutenant and as such Lieutenant in his aforesaid Company commanded by Captn Daniel Williams as aforesaid in the aforesaid Regiment of Col Morris Graham and received his six months pay as such Lieutenant.

That this Declarant on his return as aforesaid continued to do duty as a private in the Militia in the said County of Westchester when ever their services were required, till the month of June 1781, till Genl George Washington's Army came to White Plains in the said County of Westchester with the French troops when this declarant again volunteered to serve as a mounted Guide to said Army, and this Declarant received from Col. Timothy Pickering, Quartermaster General of said Army and this Declarant received from Col Timothy Pickering Quarter Master General of said Army or Certificate of his appointment as such mounted Guide enlisting under the hand of such Col Pickening which Certificate was in sustenance in these words. Viz

“To John Odell you are hereby appointed a mounted Guide for which you shall received such wages as is allowed for that service and you will take care to obey the orders of your superiors as you shall from time to time receive them.”

That his last mentioned appointment this Declarant had in his possession till several years after the Revolutionary War was ended and had often read it & well recollects the preceding to be substantially the contents thereof, but said appointment was many years ago either lost or destroyed and this Declarant cannot now find or produce the same.

That this Declarant under his last mentioned appointment continued and did serve as such Mounted Guide to Genl Washington’s Army in the said County of Westchester till it moved to the South and then to the different officers having command on the American Lines (but whose names this Declarant cannot now recollect) in said County till the month of June 1782 being one year from his last mentioned appointment as near as he can now recollect when there being no further need of this Declarant services as such Guide he ceased to act as such and returned to his home in Peekskill in the said County of Westchester where this Declarant continued to reside till Peace was declared.

That until this Declarant was acting as such mounted Guide as aforesaid during the Revolutionary War he was constantly In service and with the Army or Detachment on the lines at the quarters assigned him by the officers in command as much as a Regularly enlisted Continental Soldier and always received pay at the rate of two Dollars per day and rations with the Army or Troops on the lines for himself & his Horse.

That this Declarant while acting as such Guide always went mounted armed with sword and Pistols and the Duty performed by this Declarant as such Guide was very difficult & hazardous and often in the night time and it was necessary for him to be almost constantly on the alert moving up and down the American lines to see if any enemy was out and to get intelligence of the enemy’s movements and to lead and conduct the parties and troops when under march through the said County of Westchester. That this Declarant now recollects and states with a few to inform the Department of the nature and character of his services as such Mounted Guide the following as some of the expeditions in which he was engaged as such Guide viz in the year 1778 in the summer and fall of that year.

Col Guess (as he was called) a Continental officer from Virginia had a Corps of Riflemen under his command in the said County of Westchester and was stationed near Yonkers Mills (then called Phillips Mills) in the said County of Westchester and this Declarant served as a Mounted Guide to him & his Corps during that campaign and was stationed with him (but this Declarant has above omitted to name him).

That in the fall of the last mentioned year the night before said Corps was surprised near Yonkers Mills aforesaid, this Declarant was sent with a command under one Cap’n [Walls or Wales] to Guard the Bridge on the main road from King’s bridge to Yonkers and prevent the enemy advancing in that direction along the Hudson River, during the night their Sentinel fired at some person attempting to Cross

the Bridge near them (as this Declarant afterwards learnt a patrol from Emericks Corps coming up to get in the Rear of Guess & his Corps & cut off their retreat) which prevented an advance in that direction till about day light next morning when the enemy stormed the encampment of Col. Guess and took a number of his men – when this Declarant with his party retreated in time to cover the Retreat of Col. Guess and part of his Detachment and conducted them off in safety to the adjoining Hills although pursued by a Large force of the enemy.

That on another occasion, this Declarant while acting as such (Guide) got intelligence that Elijah Vincent a Lieutenant in Delanceys Refugee Corps at Morrisania was in the habit of coming out & visiting a lady at Eastchester near the British Lines this Declarant by the permission of his commanding officer stated in the night from Youngs House with a Lieutenant of 20 men marched down to Eastchester & took said Vincent a prisoner while at Breakfast there and bought him off on another occasion the American Lines were kept at Wrights Mills in the same county of Westchester a distance of more than 20 miles from Kingsbridge this Declarant got information that one Cap't Benj'n Ogden of Delancey's Corps staid at the House of John Vermilyea near Kingsbridge within a quarter of a mile of the Kings Battery.

That this Declarant with 4 others started in the night from Wright's Mills aforesaid by order of Col. Millers & went down to Ogden's quarters Knocked him up & when he came to the door took him prisoner and brought him before day light to the American lines.—

That while Col Millers had the command on the American Lines in said County there was an order from Genl Washington for a detachment to proceed to Col. James Delancey's head quarters at Morrisania near to British Battery called No 8 to take said Delancey prisoner.

This Declarant as one of the Mounted Guides under the command of Cap'n Cushing with Lieutenant McGaffie and Ensign Blake of Miller's Command (started from Mill Square in said County) a distance of over twenty miles from Delancey head quarters in the latter part of the day and arrived at Turkey [hoe?] about dark where we had the good luck to obtain a drink of cider for each man they then proceeded on in a dark night as I ever saw to Morrisania where we took a Refugee from whom we obtained the countersign and continued our rout[e] to Delanceys head quarters & when challenged by the sentinel gave the countersign took him prisoner immediately entered the House.

The Guards were lying on the floor and demanded who comes there.

Ensign Blake answered it was Black John of the 5th Massachusets Regiment.

We took two officers, Cap'n Gilbert, Totten, and Cap'n Benjamin Ogden and twenty one privates prisoners but found that Col Delancey was not in his quarters to our great mortification and regret, he having left there only a few hours before. We then moved back with our prisoners as fast as possible. The enemy pursued with a large body of Horse and overtook us about ten miles from their head quarters they threatened a number of times to charge but were deterred by a fire which was kept up by a flanking party.

They followed us about three miles & then gave up the pursuit. We marched with our prisoners to our head quarters where we arrived about midday making a distance of forty miles and upwards and delivered our prisoners 23 in number without any loss without having a particle of Refreshment except the aforesaid Glass of Cider for nearly twenty four hours.

That this Declarant while acting as such Mounted Guide as aforesaid was engaged in many more expeditions of an equally hazardous & fatiguing character with those above related which he could relate but deems unnecessary.

That in consequence of his acting as such Guide he was a particular object of dread & hatred to the Refugees and British forces and obliged to be ever vigilant as certain death awaited him if taken prisoner.

That this declarant was twice wounded during the Revolution and suffered innumerable privations and hardships in his aforesaid services. That in consequence of his advanced age and present sickness he is unable to appear in Court before a Court of Record of the said County to make his present Declaration and has been compelled to make it before the Honorable Caleb Tompkins first Judge of said County at his house this day.

That many of his companions in arms are dead and he cannot at present produce any other proof of his aforesaid services during the Revolutionary War than the annexed affidavits of Jacob Odell of the Town of Yonkers In said County. Wm Dyckman of the Town of Greenburgh in the said County and Samuel Youngs of the Town of White Plains in the said County which area hereto attached in support of his present application—and this Declarant further saith That he claims a pension for the following services of his above set forth as a soldier of the Revolution viz.

For his six months actual service as a private in the yar 1776, in Cap'n Stephen Oakleys Company as aforesaid.

For his two months actual service as a volunteer & private in the year 1778 in Cap'n Sybert Ackers company of New York State levies as aforesaid.

For his services as a mounted Guide from July 1778 til the month of May 1780 being 1 year & 10 months as aforesaid.

For his six months service in the year 1780 as a Lieutenant in Cap'n Daniel Williams Company in Col. Morris Graham's Regiment of New York State Levies as aforesaid.

For his years service as a mounted Guide from the month of June 1781 till the month of June 1782 as aforesaid.

1st This Declarant states and answers that he has a record of his age in his family Bible which he now produces and by which it appears as well as by his information from his parents. That he was born on what was called Cortlandts Manor in the said County of Westchester on the 24th of October 1756. That he has always lived in the said County of Westchester (except when absent on Military Duty) during the Revolutionary War as aforesaid. That he was always living In the said County of Westchester when he entered the service of the Revolution as aforesaid—and has lived In the Town of Greenburgh where he now resides ever since the Revolutionary War.

That he always entered the service of the Revolution as a volunteer but was never drafted or served as a substitute--.

That the names of the Regular officers, who were with the troops where he served the Continental and Militia Regiments he recollects and the General Circumstances of his service are as he as above set forth in his Declaration.

That he never received a Discharge from the service, but did receive a commission as Lieutenant Signed by Gov'r George Clinton in Cap'n Daniel Williams's Company in Col. Morris Grahams Regiment of New York levies as he has above stated, which he had after the Revolution but is onto lost or destroyed & he cannot find or produce it although he has made diligent search for it.

That he is known in his present neighbourhood to the Rev'd Thomas G. Smith a clergyman of the Dutch Reformed Church near TarryTown and Wm N. Dyckman both residents of the Town of Greenburgh in the said County of Greenburgh in the said County of Westchester, who can testify to this declarents character for veracity their belief of his age and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution.

And 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 Odell

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid. Caleb Tompkins, first Judge of the Westchester County Court of Com. Pleas.