

Pension Application for John Onderdonk

R.7806

State of New York

Albany County S.

On this twenty sixth day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty nine personally appeared before the Justices Court of the City of Albany (the same being a Court of Record). John Onderdonk of the Town of Westerlo in the County of Albany and State aforesaid aged ninety years on the ninth day of September instant 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 7, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated.

That early in the month of July in the year 1776, the British sailed up the Hudson River and anchored in Tappan and Haverstraw Bays where he, being a resident of the now Town of Clarkstown, County of Rockland and State of New York, and residing within the Beat of a company whereof Hendrick Tenure was Captain in Col'n A. Hawkes Hays Regiment was by the orders of his Captain ordered out to guard along the said river at Nyack, and served as a private for one month when he was discharged for a few days, and again about the first of September of said year was ordered out and served two weeks, and in the month of November served two weeks, all a guarding along the river at Nyack to prevent the British landing at that place to plunder.

That in the year 1777, Early in the Spring Captain Tenures Company was divided into four classes, each class to serve one week at a time, and to serve in rotation, when he served one week in each month in that year a guarding along the river at Nyack or at the long Clove or at Clarkstown and at other places commencing in the month of April and ending with the month of September; and in the month of October in said year, served one week under Capt. John Garner (in said regiment) at Haverstraw, it was at the time the British took Fort Montgomery and in the month of November, in said year, enlisted under Capt. Robert Johnson, who was a Capt. In the Continental line and who served in the expedition against Quebeck under General Montgomery the said Captain raised a Company of about one hundred men at and about Clarkstown to range about into the County of Bergen in the State of New Jersey to prevent the depredations made by the Refugees and Tories and prevent the illicit trade carried on with the British and was often Successful.

That in the year 1778 this deponent served under his aforesaid Capt. Tenure, serving one week in each month from April to September a guarding at Stations aforesaid or at Stations in Bergen County, and in the month of September Cornwallis marched from New York through Bergen County and as far up as Tappan, when Coln Hay's Regiment was ordered out to oppose him, who being supported by some Continental Regiments succeeded in forcing his retreat to New York, which tour took one month—and among many other depredations committed by the British, a great

part of Coln Baylors Regiment of Light Horse was killed, wounded and taken prisoners.

That in the year 1779 the British took possession of an fortified Stony Point which made it necessary for large guards to be placed around to prevent their sallying out and committing depredations, and the river had to be guarded to prevent the men from the shipping to land, and the refugees and Tories being very troublesome that the militia had very little rest that year, and foten had to do double duty, and that he served not less than one week in each month from the first of April until the last of December.

That early in the spring of 1780 he enlisted for six months and served for three months, as private in a company commanded by Capt. John Blauvelt in Coln Hay's regiment and served a scouting through Bergen County in the State of New Jersey and Tappan. That he served during the year 1781 but cannot state the exact time, but several weekly tours.

That being now aged and inform and his memory very much impaired, he is unable to set forth all the services by him rendered under Capt. Tenure during the revolutionary war, and cannot therefore more particularly set them forth than is above stated, and having removed so far from his companions in arms during said war, he has had an opportunity to converse with them and have his memory respected, and has delayed his application for a Pension & hopes that an opportunity would arrive for his memory to be so refreshed to enable him more satisfactorily to himself to set therein forth, but now despairs of that favour.

That expecting that his services under Capt Blauvelt in the year 1780 and a part of his services under Capt. Tenure are set forth on the rolls in the possession in the war department the annexed testimony is all that he at this late period can procure to substantiate his claim.

That he was born on the ninth day of September 1749 in the present town of Clarkstown aforesaid where he resided until about the year 1790, then he removed to Mount Pleasant in Westchester County where he resided twelve years. He then removed to the City of New York and resided there one year, from thence he removed to the Town of Westerlo, his present residence, where he has ever since resided.

That he does not recollect ever to have received a discharge in writing. That having removed from the place where his services were rendered there is no common report of his services in circulation in his neighborhood.

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 Onderdonk

Sworn to and subscribed on the day & year aforesaid in open court. In witness whereof I have hereto affixed the seal of the said courts. John G. Wasson, Clk