

Pension Application for Thomas Paine

W.18720 (Huldah)

B.L.Wt.13,729-160-55 (Jany 3d 1856.)

New York & R.I.

Artillerist in the Company commanded by Captain Sawyer of the Regt. Commanded by Col. Elliott in the R.I & NY line for full term. July 20, 77 to 16 March 78, Apl 7, 78.

State of New York

Tompkins County SS.

On this third day of October 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Court of Common Pleas to wit: Andrew D. W. Bruyn, Benj'm Jennings, Nicoll Halsey, and Cyrus Powers Esquires, Judges of said Court, now sitting in & for the County of Tompkins aforesaid at Ithaca in the said County of Tompkins & State of New York, Thomas Paine a resident of the Town of Caroline in the County & State aforesaid, aged seventy three 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 7, 1832.

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

That in the month of June or July 1776 he was enlisted by Capt. _____ Sawyer (1) of the Rhode Island State Artillery at a place called Snonet Bridge near Taunton in the State of Massachusetts for the term of fifteen months. That soon after his said enlistment he joined his company at Fall River in the said State of Rhode Island and marched with said company to Howland's Ferry and from thence down to Fogland Ferry—from thence to Providence where he joined the Regiment commanded by Col. Elliott in which regiment her served—That he remained with said Corps in the aforesaid service at & near Providence for about five or six months where they served as a guard to the City of Providence—That they marched to Bristol and Warren—That he was in the Battle on Rhode Island (2) in 1777 when the US troops were there & under the command of General Sullivan—

That he continued in said service in the company aforesaid till the expiration of fifteen months the said tour of his enlistment. When he was discharged at Providence R.I. by Capt. Maj. Sawyer—[sic]

That about a week after his aforesaid discharge at Providence he again there enlisted under the same officers above mentioned—He was enrolled by _____ Foster who was then a Muster-Master and who administered the oath to this Declarant—He here enlisted for one year & served during the period under the aforesaid Capt. Maj. Sawyer [sic], Capt. Gladding (3), Lieut Pierce, and Lieut Parker as a private in said company—This Declarant with his company was ordered to a place called [Eardman's?] Neck, that from thence they marched to Warren to guard Publick property—Thence he went with his company into the fort at Bristol where they lay until his time of service expired & he was discharged at Warren by Maj. Sawyer—with his aforesaid company—he was discharged from his said last mentioned service in the winter or spring of 1776—in the fall of 1777 he received a wound in his foot from the kick of a horse which disabled him from actual service for nearly two months during the said last above mentioned service and which considerably affects him still—

That in the month of April 1781 (4) he having then moved his family into Nobletown in the County of Columbia in the State of New York, there entered the service of the United States as a volunteer under of [the] same person being drafted under Capt. Newell in Col. Willet's Regiment of the New York State Militia for the term of nine months—that he served during the said term of nine months and was discharged at Fort Herkimer by Capt. Newell—That he received no written discharge—that after his said last entering the service he marched to Albany thence to Fort Hunter & thence to Johnstown & from thence to Fort Herkimer. That in the month of July (5) or August 1781 he was in an engagement with the Indians & Tories at Herkimer's House near Little Falls on the Mohawk River.

That he has no documentary evidence of his said service—that he never received to the best recollection any written discharge. That he knows of no person living whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his said services other than those whose affidavits are hereunto annexed & that he never learned to write.—

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of the agency of any state. (Signed with his mark) Thomas Paine

Sworn & Subscribed in open court before the Judges thereof the day & year aforesaid. Saml Love, Clk

End Notes—W.18720—Thomas Paine

1. Thomas enlisted July 20, 1777 as a matross (private) in Captain Joshua Sayer's (Sayre, Sawyer, etc.) Company in Colonel Robert Elliott's Rhode Island State Artillery Regiment. He was discharged on March 16, 1778.
2. Thomas is mistaken about the year. The Battle of Quaker Hills, Rhode Island was fought on August 29, 1778. Major General John Sullivan was the American Army Commander. By the Act of 9th September 1778, it was "Resolved, that the thanks of Congress be given to Major-General Sullivan, and to the officers

and troops of his command, for their fortitude and bravery displayed in the action of August 29th (Quaker Hill), in which they repulsed the British forces and maintained the field”.

3. Captain-Lieutenant Nathaniel Gladding of Colonel Elliott’s Regiment.
4. Again, Thomas is mistaken about the year. Captain Simeon Newell was appointed Captain in Colonel Marinus Willett’s Regiment of New York State Levies in 1782. Newell was commissioned captain on July 24, 1782.
5. Thomas is referring to the last major raid into the Mohawk Valley in 1782. Captain George Singleton of the King’s Royal Regiment of New York and Captain Joseph Brant attacked and burned the buildings near Forts Herkimer and Dayton on July 15, 1782. They attempted to lure the garrisons out into ambushes but it didn’t work. Valentine Staring and Augustinus Hess were killed by the Indians while they attempted to run to the safety of the forts.