

Pension Application for Joseph Perkins

R.17033 [Notation in file: Soldier's son, James, applies on account of his own service in the War of 1812 – see papers within)

State of New York

County of Oneida SS.

On this 7th day of May AD One thousand Eight hundred & fifty six personally appeared before me a Justice of the Peace with in & for the County of Oneida in the State aforesaid, who being duly sworn according to law declares that he is the identical James Perkins who enlisted In the service of the United States as a private in the company commanded by Asa Sizer in the war with Great Britain declared by the United States on the 18th day of June 1812—that said company was a cavalry company and declarant was honorably discharged from said service at Sackett's Harbor the last of March or first of April in the year 1813.

This declarant further says that while in the said service and in the line of his duty he received a fracture and dislocation of his shoulder blade, the particulars of which are as follows.

The said fracture & dislocation occurred in consequence of declarant's being thrown from his horse on the ice in Sackett's Harbor Bay in the month of March 1813 under the following circumstances. On the ensuing services to the said accident, Lieutenant Johnson had ordered this declarant to ride express to Capt Vincent early the succeeding morning—said Johnson being the acting Lieutenant of the said Company—This declarant accordingly prepared for an early start to execute this order and when proceeding to the asaid watering place on declarant's company and immediately after having found the stern of the Lady Madison on which was placed the warning gun, said gun was fired and in consequence thereof the horse of declarant reared and falling backward threw declarant upon the ice & upon fragments of ice which had been cut away from the sides of the said vessel and were then lying in the vicinity of the said vessel , declarant was severely bruised on his shoulder (which is his right shoulder) and the same became greatly inflamed & swollen and immediately afterward inflammation & swelling subsided declarant discovered that the should blade of his said shoulder was fractured. Declarant further says that from that time the said fracture & displacement of his said shoulder blade has been an almost constant source of pain, and from that time he has in a great degree been disabled so that he could not labor, and any over exertion improper or excessive for the said shoulder in its disabled condition, produced a severe aggravation of the pain therein.

Declarant further says that he is by occupation a carpenter and his circumstances in life have made it necessary for him to labor, to the extent of his ability for the support of himself & family, that in the year 1814 he resided in the town of Boonville, County of Oneida, & State of New York, in the years 1815 & 1816, at Rochester (County of Genesee at that place, now County of Monroe) & state aforesaid and in the year 1817 this declarant returned to Boonville aforesaid where he settled in New Britain in the State of Connecticut, which place h left in the current year 1856, and returned to the said County of Oneida.

Declarant further says that in the year 1814 his occupation in the town of Boonville was attending bar in the tavern of his mother [??] in the year 1815 & 1816 he worked at the carpenter's trade in the Rochester aforesaid, that after his return to Boonville in the year 1871 he worked at his trade of Carpenter so far as his disabled condition would allow, and so continued during his residence in Boonville aforesaid to follow his trade as a carpenter up to the year 1851, and during about five years of his residence in New Britain in the State of Connecticut as aforesaid he supported himself & family by keeping a boarding house.

Declarant further says that immediately on resuming the exercise of his trade after the war as aforesaid his said shoulder gave him great trouble & subjected him to much suffering whenever he attempted labor, that he as frequently compelled to lay aside his tools & abandon his work on account of the severity of the pain caused by such exertion with his said shoulder, that he was especially unfitted for hewing timber for which he could do little, and was almost entirely disabled from turning an auger, and that the said disability in his right shoulder so caused as aforesaid has continued from the time of the said accident without any permanent relief up to this time, and the same has given him more [?] pain during nearly the whole of the said period.

Declarant further says that at times after exercise exertion, his said disabled right shoulder has been so sore & painful that he has been unable to put on or take off his coat and that his said shoulder has been frequently swollen & inflamed, and would sometimes months together remain in that condition and one summer declarant was obliged to [?] carry his arm in a sling the most part of the whole season in consequence of one of the recurring aggravations of inflammation & from to which his shoulder was subject.

Declarant further says that after leaving the service advised with Luther Guiteau M.D. to regard his said injury (which physician is now deceased) and the said Dr. Guiteau gave it as his opinion that the displacement was of such a nature that it could not be remedied, and that the most that could be done would be to mitigate the pain, reduce the inflammation and all the physicians & surgeons consulted by declarant in regard to the said difficulty in his said shoulder, have pronounced the same a permanent & incurable injury.

Declarant further states that the reason why he has not before applied for a pension as an invalid or that until within one & a half or two years he has under the impression and belief that such pension could not be obtained for any injuries unless occasioned by firearms, or some weapon of war, or unless in actual conflict with the enemy and but from information lately obtained, & from the facts attending his injury & its nature, he verily ;believes his is entitled to be placed upon the roll of invalid pensioners.

Declarant further says that the names of the lieutenants in said Captain Sizer's company were Johnson 2nd Lieutenant, & Love 1st Lieut; Christian names not remembered.

Declarant further says that under the act of 1850 he received a Bounty Land warrant for 40 acres of land No. 63,390 and another for 120 acres under the act of March 3d 1855 number not recollected.

Declarant further says that he is not able [to] obtain the certificate of his Captain or other commissioned officer under whom he served because of the death of such officers—that after the most diligent inquiry & search he is not able to find either of the said officers and all of them are reputed in places of their last residence to be dead and this declarant verily believes those to be dead, declarant further says that he never obtained any surgeon's certificate of disability.

Declarant further says that the last residence of said Captain Sizer so far as declarant could learn was Madison, in the County of Madison, New York State and the common report there was & is that said Sizer is dead. The last residence in New York State of Lieutenant Love was also in Madison aforesaid, where the common report is that he had removed to the City of Cincinnati in the State of Ohio & had there died, the last residence of Lieutenant Johnson in the State of New York was also Madison aforesaid, the common report there as & is that he had moved west & had died. And this declarant after spending such time has not been able to obtain any further or other trace of the officers of the said company in which he served as aforesaid.

(Signed) James Perkins

Geo. Wheelock Justice of the Peace.