

Pension Application for Jonathan W. Race

S.29399

State of New York

County of Coilumbia SS.

Personally appeared before the Justices of the Justices Court of Hudson in said county, the same being a court of Record Jonathan W. Race of the City of Hudson in the County of Columbia and State of New York who being duly sworn deposeth and saith that he is aged seventy nine years and upwards that he is a resident of the said City of Hudson and being 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 the 7th 1832. This declarent Jonathan W. Race says that he was born in the Town of Claverack in the County of Columbia on the seventh of May 1754 as he is informed and verily believes true.

This deponent has been informed that he was christened or baptized in the Reformed Dutch Church at Claverack which is the only record that this deponent can refer to in regard to his age except his recollection.

This deponent continued to reside in the said Town of Claverack and County of Columbia then Albany County before and during the revolutionary war and with the exception of two years that this deponent resided in the County of Dutchess he has always resided in said County of Columbia since the revolutionary war—During the Revolutionary War this declarant Jonathan W. Race performed much service in the Militia as a non commissioned officer.

The first service that this Declarant did in the service of the United States was In 1776 in two expeditions to the northward was called out in the month of June and returned home in September having been gone from home three moths then was called out again the same month of September and returned home in December making in all six months active duty that this deponent did for the united States in 1776 during all which time this deponent served under Captain Casparus or Casper Huyck—Claudius DeLamatter was first Lieutenant John Uphan was 2nd Lieutenant, Justus VanHoesen was Insign [Engish] and this ;declarant was Orderly Serjeant in said company and during said Campaigns the Colonel that this deponent served under was Robert VanRensselaer, Henry V'n Rensselaer was second Colonel but this deponent don't remember whether the second Colonel was out in 1776 or not but this deponent recollects that Richard Esselstyne the major was out and with the troops that this declarant was with also Major John V'n Allan.

In the first expedition this deponent lay at Greenbush the greater part of the time and kept a regular guard at the river and also lay part of the time in Albany.

On the second expedition this deponent lay at Stillwater. This Deponent went as a volunteer. Colonel Henry VanRensselaer was with the militia Regiment a part of the last campaign this deponent believes. After laying at Stillwater two months the troops were ordered to go to Johnstown and got as far as a place called Niskauna there the Regiment to which this deponent belonged received orders to march no

farther west and the troops returned to Albany where they halted and remained from some time until, they were discharged which was as this deponent believes a few days before Christmas.

This deponent recollects that one Captain Miller he thinks his name was Jeremiah was with the troops that this deponent was with also one Captain Bortle—after this deponent returned home this deponent was placed as Captain over a guard who performed duty for three months in 1777 from the first of Jan'y till the last of March in patrolling the road from Major John VanAllen's who lived Claverack now Hudson on the banks of the Hudson River to the Claverack Creek from thence south top Manor line so called & thence to Hudson—a school house near John VanAllen's was their guard house. This Deponent had under him twelve men who relieved each other by two's during all which time this deponent was engaged in no civil pursuit or occupation whatever. This deponent was selected out of the company by Captain Huyck upon the orders of Colonel VanRensselaer.

This deponent says that in 1777 he performed active duty for eleven months—for three months this deponent had command of the guard that was stationed by command of the Colonel above mentioned to guard the public stores and the property of the inhabitatns and in April this deponent was called out as a volunteer to march to fort Edward where this deponent lay three months under command of General Schuyler this deponent served this tour and in colonel Robert VanRensselaer, Major Richard Esselstyne, and Captain Huyck.

Then marched to Johnstown where this deponent remained two months then marched to Stillwater. At Stillwater General Gates commanded. This deponent recollects of seeing General Arnold and General Nixon and heard of various Continental Officer there at the same time but don't remember their names was at the battle fought between the Americans & the British but the Regiment to which this deponent belonged was not called into the engagement before the British retreated.

The Regiment with which this deponent was was [sic] called out and formed in regular order and remained on the field of action ready to march when ordered into action. This deponent saw the pine trees fall as the cannon balls struck them in the engagement in Bement's Heights [Bemus Heights] which this deponent thinks was the [blank] of October 1777. After the Battle Burgoine retreated to Saratoga and there he surrendered this deponent was not present at the time of the surrender but was at Albany and was there when the news arrived in the City that Burgoine was taken prisoner and the Americans immediately fired their cannon in the City in honor of the event and at Albany this deponent was discharged and returned home the fore part of December 1777—making in all eleven months active duty that this deponent did as an Orderly Serjeant in the company of Captain Huyck in the Regiment of Colonel Robert VanRensselaer in the service of the United States during the year 1777 during which time this Deponent was engaged in no civil pursuit or occupation whatever.

In 1778 this declarant did duty at various times in all two months and upwards as this declarant verily believes in the service of the United States in the winter of 1778 this declarant was called out together with fifteen others from the company of

Captain Huyck and were all armed and mounted on horseback and were commanded by Claudius Delamation the Lieutenant of said Huyck's company and marched to various places in the County of Columbia then Albany County. One place was called Hillsdale from there marched to the manor of Livingston in said County now called Ancram, was engaged in this expedition one week the same sinter of 1778. This Declarant stood guard for one month in patrolling the Roads and guarding publick stores in that part of the County of Columbia now called Hudson and again when one John Hardick was murdered this Declarant was called out on an alarm to pursue the murderers of said Hardick who were supposed to have been certain refugees and Tories. This Declarant was engaged in this Expedition ten days and during the year 1779, 1780, 1781, & 1782. This Declarant did duty in the United States Service as a minute man in the militia on various alarms and on guard in each year as this Deponent verily believes of one month at least.

But it is impossible for this Declarant from the lapse of time and from the extreme age and infirmities of this Declarant and his consequent loss of memory to state the precise periods when called out or the various times that this Deponent was so called out with the Militia of the Country where this Deponent resided or the length of time that this Declarant continued on duty in those various Expeditions but is certain that he served in the service of the United States the period set forth above in this Declaration.

This Deponent says that he was marched through that part of the country now called the counties of Albany, Washington, Saratoga, Schenectady, Rensselaer, Montgomery and Columbia and lay at Greenbush and Albany at Stillwater at Niskauna at Johnstown also lay at Fort Edward at Johnstown and Stillwater at Bement's Heights and at Saratoga and other places not now recollected by this Deponent this Deponent had a written commission from his Captain for the [?] Orderly Sergeant to which this Declarant was promoted by his Captain which office this Declarant held during the war of the Revolution under Captain Casper Huyck –and this Declarant had various written orders from his captain to warn the men belonging to said Company within the beat of this Deponent during the active service performed in the Revolution.

But this Declarant has no recollection that he pursued any of those orders that he received and has made diligent search among his papers and has procured others to search for the Commission of this Declarant so set forth as aforesaid but the said commission of Sergeant and the said orders so received by this declarant are lost and cannot be found and this Declarant verily believes that the same are destroyed. This Declarant says that all the service so rendered by this Declarant as a soldier of the revolution was performed by this Declarant for himself and always as a volunteer. This Declarant says that he has no written documentary Evidence of the service so rendered by this Declarant. That all the officers under whom this Declarant served are dead as he is informed and verily believes. That he know of no person living who can testify to his service except the affidavit of Abraham [Piny?].

The following interrogatories propounded by the Court the said Declarant Jonathan W. Race answers as follows.

First Question. Where and in what year was you born? Answer: I was born in the town of Claverack in the County of Albany now Columbia on the 7th of May 1754.

Second Question. Have you any record of your age & if so where is it? Answer. I have no other than my recollection in my possession.

Third Question. Where were you living when called into service where have you lived since the revolutionary war and where do you now live. Answer: I lived during the war in the Town of Claverack in the County of Albany now Columbia and have lived there ever since except two years I resided in Pokeepsie in the County of Dutchess & I now reside in Hudson in the County of Columbia.

Fourth Question: How were you called into service. Were you drafted, did you volunteer or were you a substitute? Answer: I volunteered for myself and not as a substitute for another.

Fifth Question. State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops were [where] you served such Continental & Malitia regiments as you can recollect [recollect] & the general circumstances of your service. Answer—I served under Colonel Robert VanRensselear Lieutenant Colonel was Henry VanRensselaer, Richard Esselstyne & John VanAllen were first & second Majors Carker or Casparinus Huyck was Captain Claudius Delamatter was first Lieutenant and John Uppan was Second Lieutenant and Justus VanHoesen was Insign [Ensign] under whom this Declarant served this Deponent recollects of serving under General Schuyler and General Gates and also recollects [recollects] General Nixon and others whose names this Deponent does not recollect and this Declarant would refer to his declaration hereto annexed for a more full and specific detail of the circumstances attending his service.

Sixth Question -- Did you ever receive a discharge from the service & if so by whom was at given & what has become of it. Answer. If never got any written Discharge from the officers under whom I served I always served until the whole company was discharged and then I was discharged with the others.

Seventh Question. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the revolution. Answer. I would refer to Henry A. Meleius of the City of Hudson as a person who knows me intimately and also Rev'd John G. F. Uhe who knows me and others of the City of Hudson. This Deponent would also refer to one John Hendrick who may remember some of the service of this deponent.

The said Declarant Jonathan W. Race hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state. (Signed) Jonathan W. Race.

Sworn to and subscribed the 21st day of October 1837. W. H. Clark.