

Pension Application for Thomas Rankin or Rankins

W.20012 (Widow: Catharine)

State of New York

Oneida County SS.

On this third day of November A.D. 1819, before me the subscriber one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of said County, personally appeared Thomas Rankin, resident in German Flatts who being by me first duly sworn, according to law, doth, on his oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the provisions of the act of Congress entitled, "An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War";

That he, the said Thomas Rankin enlisted as a fifer in the service of the United States in the fall of the year 1779 (1) or the summer of said year, in the company commanded by Capt. John Griggs (2) of Col. VanSchaick's Regiment, New York line. That he enlisted for & during the continuance of the War being then at Fort Stanwix. (3)

That he continued in the same company & served in the same; & in the same Regiment--& line, upon the Continental establishment, until the month of June 1783 as he believes.

That he served in various skirmishes at Fort Stanwix, (4) & at Yorktown (5) against Cornwallis, when he was taken.

That in June 1783 he was discharged at New-burg in New York, which discharge was signed by General Washington, (6) but which is lost.

That he is in reduced circumstances (7) and stands in need of assistance from his country for support—and that he has no other evidence now in his power except such as hereafter follows. (Signed with his mark) Thomas Rankin. (8)

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid. Charles Wylie one of the Judges of Oneida Com Pleas.

End Notes—W.20012—Thomas Rankin or Rankins

1. Thomas enlisted March 1, 1780 for "During War" as a fifer in Captain Nicholas VanRensselaer's Company in Colonel Goose VanSchaick's First New York Regiment. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 66, Folder 13, National Archives, Washington, D. C.
2. On January 1, 1781, the First and Third New York Regiments were consolidated into a re-organized First New York. Captain James Gregg was transferred from the Third New York to the First New York and Thomas was transferred to his company. Thomas served in this company until June of 1783. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 66, Folder 12, National Archives, Washington, D. C.
3. The First New York was the garrison at Fort Schuyler from November of 1778 until October of 1780 when they were relieved by Lieutenant Colonel Commandant John Harper's Regiment of New York state Levies under Major James M. Hughes.

4. Most likely these skirmishes were with lurking Indians waiting to take prisoners or scalps.
5. The Yorktown Virginia Campaign was from September 28 to October 19, 1781.
6. Commander-in-Chief General George Washington.
7. Thomas was allotted 600 acres in Township 2 (Hannibal) lot 24 on July 7, 1790. Most likely Thomas had sold this land for hard money. FROM: The Balloting Book, and Other Documents Relating to Military Bounty Lands, in The State of New York, Packard and Van Benthuyzen, Albany, 1825, p. 32.
8. On October 2, 1838, Thomas's widow Catherine applied for a widow's pension. She was living in the Town of Little Falls, Herkimer County and was 66 years old. She stated that Thomas died on February 5, 1833 in the Town of German Flatts, Herkimer County. She obtained a deposition from George Rosecrantz dated September 26, 1838. George was the son of Reverend Abraham Rosecrantz and that he was in possession of his father's church records and that his father died in December of 1795. He states the following from the book of marriages. "Thomas Rangin and Catharine Kessler in 1791, November the 22".