

Pension Application for John Rhodes

S.14283

Declaration of John Rhodes in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress, passed June 7th 1832.

State of New York

County of Saratoga SS

On this seventh day of September in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty two, personally appeared in open Court, before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Saratoga, now sitting John Rhodes a resident of the Town of Edinburgh in the County resident of the Town of Edinburgh in the County resident of the Town of Edinburgh in the County of Saratoga, aforesaid, aged sixty nine 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 7th 1832.

The said applicant saith that he enlisted in a company of Volunteers commanded by James Gray, as captain, on the twentieth day of March in the year 1777—at—Saratoga Barracks, in the County of Saratoga aforesaid—John Bronson—first Lieutenant—I do not recollect the name of the Second Lieutenant—Stephen Starr ensign—name of the Second Lieutenant—Stephen Starr Ensign—John Grant Orderly Sergeant—Isaac Nickerson—John Jones and many others privates and messmates—General Schuyler had the command of the American forces in the north at this time—and continued in the command until General Gates superseded him.—

I always understood from Capt. Gray that the Company was a volunteer company and not attached to any regiment—After I enlisted I marched with the company ton Fort Edward—we remained at the fort about one month, and engaged in scouting parties in the several skirmishes—from the fort we marched to Skeensborough (now Whitehall) –remained there some three or four weeks—and the Capt Gray received orders to march to Fort Ann—and then Capt. Gray was ordered to march to the head of Lake George & I marched with the company there—We remained stationed at this place, until the Continental forces &c under General Schuyler retreated to the South.

The Continental troops passed by us—on the route through Skeensborough aforesaid. Then we received orders to march or retreat to Saratoga Barracks where we arrived according to my impression, between the twenty fifth of July and the first of August ensuing. We remained then about the third day to let the baggage have sufficient time to [be] moved on below us. From thence we marched with a part of the Continental troops, commanded by the following officers, whose names I recollect. Colonel Morgan of the Regiment of Rifleman—Colonel Spencer & Colonel Cortland of the two regiments of Infantry to Stillwater. Capt. Gray had the command of the rear guard with his company.

I recollect hearing an adjutant or superior officer of the army given orders to Capt. Gray after the army was paraded for march, to burn every bridge or tree & to fall every tree that would reach or obstruct the road and take with him all the inhabitants

that remained on the route that had not fled already—Capt Fray executed these orders.

The rear guard under Capt. Grey stationed from Saratoga Barracks about 4 o'clock P.M. marched all night and arrived at Swarts Ferry in Stillwater the next morning. We remained there about one week perhaps more when General Gates superseded Genl Schuyler in the command, when we marched to Bemus's Heights and threw up breastworks &c. After we had marched there the British lines were within about three miles of us—where they had thrown up Breastworks fortified &c. The two armies under Generals Gates & Generals Burgoyne lay in a dormant state, fortyfing &c until the 19th of September when our army moved towards the British breastworks-

Then endured a generals battle, in which I was engaged and stationed in the left wing, of the sixth division with my company which division was under the command of an officer of the name of VanSchaick—and was In the battle all day on the next day the fighting continued, and on the evening of that day the British retreated to Saratoga & was in the battle on cannonade at Saratoga in the month of October and I continued there till the surrender of Genl Burgoyne. Capt Grey & his company formed a part of the guard that conducted the prisoners of Burgoyne's army that were sent to Boston.

With the exception of myself and myself and William Strickland & Benjamin Wheeler also remained at the Saratoga barracks by permission of Capt. Gray, in the service until the middle of November ensuing when I was dismissed by the commanding officer at Saratoga Barracks, and I returned home to my fathers about five miles down the River from the Barracks, now in the Town of Eastown in Washington County & State of New York.

I was fourteen years of age when I joined Capt. Grey's company as a volunteer, and served therein during the year 1777, nine months.

In May 1778, I volunteered & enlisted in Captain Job Wright's Company—Holt Dunham—First lieutenant Benoni Grand—Ensign—we rendezvoused at Saratoga Barracks—We marched from thence to Fort Edward, staid some weeks there--, then we marched to the head of Lake George, and took up our quarters at Fort George for about one month or thereabouts—from thence we marched to Scheensborough [Skeensborough] aforesaid—we staid there some days – then to Fort Edward—staid, at fort Edward & was engaged in frequent scouting parties till about the first of November ending, when I as dismissed & returned home to my fathers at the place aforesaid.

This term of service amounted to six months. All the pay I ever received for my services was \$100 in Continental money, for which I received [???] of bread & milk &b paper, lodging a [???] of branding & sugar. In the month of June or July in the year 1779—I was drafted as a militia man for one month and myself with one about hundred men rendezvoused at Roland Perry's house, at the foot of Palmertown Mountains, about four miles distant from Saratoga Springs, under the command of Capt. Ephraim Woodworth—

I served out the term of one month. The duty consisted in erecting and guarding a picket fort and in scouting parties—after the expiration of my term of service, I served in the same company as a substitute one month for Philip Ingersol, land also

one month as a substitute for William Rhodes my father – the last month I served as a substitute for William Rhodes my father & the last month I served as a substitute for a young man whose name I do not recollect.

The two last months of this service I under the command of Capt. David Storms who relieved Capt Woodworth at the expiration of this four months service I was dismissed by Capt Storms & returned home.

From this period until the close of the Revolutionary war, I was frequently called upon & turned out against the Indians & Tories, and was frequently engaged in Scouting parties. These periods of service amounted to from two to ten days each. I was one of the party that pursued the party of tories & Indians under Monroe when they burned Ballston, & took General Gordon of Ballston prisoner & many others. I should think that I was engaged at different times in this kind of service at least seven months.

I was born the twenty fourth day of August in the year 1763—at the Town of Poughkeepsie in the County of Dutchess & State of New York, I, removed from there with father to a place four below Schulersville, now in the Town of Easttown aforesaid, I lived there till the year 1780, when removed with my father to a place now in the Town of Saratoga & County of Saratoga aforesaid. From thence, I removed to the Town of Edinburgh in the County of Saratoga aforesaid, where I have continued ever since to reside, about thirty eight years.

The record of my age kept by my father in his family Bible has been lost by fire. I have now no record except from recollection.

I refer to Samuel Cook of Milton and Dean Chase of Malta, both in said County of Saratoga as persons qualified to attest to my character for truth & veracity and to my having the reputation in my own neighborhood, of having been a revolutionary soldier.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declare that my name is not on the pension roll of any agency of any state.
(Signed) John Rhodes

Sworn & subscribed in open court the day & year aforesaid. Thomas Palmer,
Clerk