

### Pension Application Nathaniel Solmes

R.9930

Declaration of Nathaniel Solmes, in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress of the 7<sup>th</sup> of June 1832.

State of New York

County of Jefferson SS.

On this twenty sixth day of May in the year of our Lord 1834 personally appeared in open Court, before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in & for the County of Jefferson in the State New York now sitting Nathaniel Solmes of the Township of Sophiasburgh in the Prince Edward District of the Province of Upper Canada, aged eighty 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 provision made by the Act of Congress, passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That he enlisted in the Army of the United States on the twentieth of June in the year of our Lord 1776, with Captain Stephen Dern or Duren, and served in Colonel Swartwout's Regiment of the New York Line for the term of six months as a private, under the following named officers. That is to say the adjutant's name who belonged to said Regiment was Gabriel the name of the first Lieutenant in said company was Lawrence, the name of the second Lieutenant was Horton, the name of the Orderly Sergeant was Suit, and the name of another Sergeant was Butler VanClake or some name very nearly like it and Samuel VanVort or Van deVort was a Corporal in said Company. That he left the service at the expiration of the term of his said enlistment, on the twenty fifth day of December 1776, according to his best recollection. That he joined said company at Fishkill on the Hudson River in the State of New York, about four or five days after he so enlisted as aforesaid. That said company mustered at Fishkill a few days where they were drilled for the purpose of improvement in martial exercise & discipline—That he soon after marched with said regimen to a place called Kingsbridge [Kingsbridge] below Fishkill, towards New York. That at Kingsbridge, they remained until the approach of the British as short time before the battle of White Plains—That from Kingsbridge they marched to White Plains, where they remained until the battle of White Plains took place some time in October of the same year according to his best recollection in which this declarant fought. That immediately after the action above mentioned took place, he marched with said Regiment to Peekskill on the Hudson River, where they remained a month or a month & a half—From Peekskill he marched up the said River as far as opposite to West Point at which place they remained until his discharge on the 25<sup>th</sup> of December 1776, aforesaid –

This declarant further says that he was a resident of Fishkill in the State of New York when he entered the service & that he was born and had until then always resided at that place & that he returned to his resident in Fishkill aforesaid when he left the service at the expiration of his said term.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & he declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any agency in any state. (Signed) Nathaniel Solmes

Sworn to and Subscribed the day & year aforesaid. P. Burchard, Clerk

Claim rejected June 12, 1834, and again Sept. 19, 1846.

Sir,

I would inform you that I have made an application for pension from the United States as much as 12 or 13 years ago and made out my papers at Watertown, Jefferson County—I employed Mr. Ely and Mr. Derling for my Agents to obtain my right. I served under Col. Swartwout six months in the year 1777 under Capt. Leye who died and Lieut Andrew Lance had the command I have been in the Malitia [militia] service on many different occasions thereafter as I understand you are altogether governed by the war rolls—you of course will find my name. I resided near Fishkill Dutchess County State of New York in said War where I did all my services—I wish you would write to Washington and find out how my case stands

I proved my service record by three witnesses who served with me—and if more testimony is wanting yet I shall endeavour to find it. I have suffered much and have had hard exposures very much so in said war & now I am old & I hope I shall not be unnoticed—but be remembered by you. I have had no returns at all from my old agents-- I now authorize and empower you fully as my lawful agent and attorney to act for me and by these presents do hereby ordain and empower you as my true and lawful attorney to do and transact all my business as it respects my pension & demands I hold against the United States for services done by me in said War of the Revolution—hoping you will write to the pension office as soon as you receive this and give me information as you will find all matters in substance set forth in my papers at Washington as I am informed my papers are at the pension office at Washington. I was enrolled the six months under Capt. Leye & Lieut Andrew Lance, the Capt. died in the six months I served and Lieut Lance commanded. I was in the Battle of White Plains under said Leye—and also at Stony Point.

Witness my hand, dated at Sophiasburgh, Prince Edward District, Canada West this 15<sup>th</sup> day of May 1846. (Signed) Nathaniel Solmes

William B. Pierce Esqr, Pension Agency—City of Albany, New York.

Transcribers note: After reading that this man served only the first part of the war, I figured he was a Tory and searched on line. The following information confirms he was a Tory, or at least a sympathizer.

Birth: 05 APR 1754 in Rombout, Fishkill, Dutchess Co., N. Y.

*Marriages:* 1 Lydia RICKETSON b: 24 DEC 1754 in Hempstead, Queens Co., N. Y. 2 Elizabeth Conklin.

*Married:* 15 JAN 1780 in New Hackensack, N. Y.

Children : Gilbert Dorland SOLMES b: 22 NOV 1786 in Fredericksburgh Twp., Mecklenburgh District.

*Death:* 19 SEP 1849 in Sohiasburgh Twp., Prince Edward Co., Canada West.

In The History of the Settlement of Upper Canada on page 466, it mentions that Nathaniel Solmes was one of the Loyalists who in 1792 settled in Adolphustown, he came from Dutchess County NY. Nathaniel fought in the War of 1812, and was in the Battle of Lundy's Lane on the British side. This battle was considered the bloodiest battle Canada ever fought. The name is also Soames.