

Pension Application of John Staats

W.19103 (Widow: Jane)
State of New York
County of Erie SS.

On this eleventh day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty then personally appeared before the undersigned Frederick P. Stevens one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the County of Erie and State of New York, Mrs. Jane Staats widow, a resident of Buffalo in said County aged eighty one years and upwards, who being by me 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 July 4th 1836.

That she is the widow of John Staats who served in the Revolutionary War, in the militia of the State of New York, as a private soldier and as an Ensign, that deponent as appears by the family records kept in a Bible in possession of deponent, and which deponent believes correct, is now in her eighty second year of age, and will be eighty two years old on the fifth day of August next, that deponent was married to the said John Staats on the twenty fourth day of September in the year seventeen hundred and eighty at Albany in the State of New York, by the Rev. Mr. Westerloo, then a Clergyman of the Dutch Reformed Church in Albany aforesaid, that this deponent's name was Jane McClellan (usually pronounced McClannan) before her said marriage, and that at the time of her said marriage this deponent resided with her mother at Greenbush in the County of Albany (now County of Renssalaer) in the State of New York & this deponent further says that she always understood and believes that her said husband John Staats enlisted as a soldier in the militia of the State of New York in said Town of Greenbush in the year 1776—that he at that [time] lived with his father Joachim Staats in the town of Schodack in the County of Albany (now County of Renssalaer) on the Island five miles south of Albany usually called Hogeberg, pronounced Hogebarack—that deponent has always understood and believes that her said husband John Staats was in actual service at different periods and in various places from the said year 1776 up to and prior to the time of our said marriage, but to what companies or what regiments he was attached before the said year 1780, this deponent by reason of the lapse of time and the infirmities of age does not recollect specifically, but she has an impression that a portion of said time before her said marriage he served as a private soldier in a company commanded by a Captain Cole, and she thinks his given name was James, and she has been informed and believes that another portion he served in a company in the regiment of Col. Abm. VanAlstyne—This deponent was acquainted with her said husband for several years before their said marriage, and recollects of hearing and understanding of her said husband at different times being off on military duty in various directions and skirmishing and protecting expeditions, and after their said marriage deponent has heard her husband speak and converse with herself and neighbors about such military services before their marriage, but this deponents recollection does not enable her at this time to give any connected account of those military services, or the country through which he marched.

This deponent recollects at one time being in Albany before our marriage, when deponent saw the military in a large body come into town, and then saw her said husband with them, and deponent understood and believes that her husband then had been out on a military expedition some five or six weeks, and deponent believes he had then been out to Schoharrie [Schoharie] to repel some Indians and Tories that had ravaged and burnt section of Country, but deponent cannot now fix the year, but recollects it was in the summer, of the year, and thinks it was 1779 or 1780—This deponent recollects of hearing from him and others, of her said husband being ordered out to Cobleskill to repel the Indians and the enemy in that direction, and has heard her husband tell of finding on their march a Continental officer murdered and mangled in a terrible manner and left by his murderers sitting upright, with a continental bill in each hand,--but the name of the officer thus found I

cannot now recollect—this was before our marriage and deponent understood and believes he was out on that expedition some 5 or 6 weeks.—Deponent well remembers the Battle of Saratoga. Deponent was after the final surrender in Albany at the house of Mr. John Woodward on what was then called Main Street, and well recollects seeing Gen. Philip Schuyler, who commanded the American Army in the north shortly previous to said battle, and his Lieut come into town to the residence of Gen. Schuyler, accompanied by Gen. Burgoyne—Gen. Schuyler residence was a little out of town, passing from Main up through Washington Street as it then was called—This was before deponents marriage, and deponent well remembers of at that time knowing that the said John Staats was out in military service at the North during that campaign and at the said Battle of Saratoga, and after he said marriage deponent frequently heard her husband and neighbors talk of his being there and till over the incidents and the hardships of that campaign—but the company or regiment to which he was then attached this deponent cannot state, and she does not know whether anyone is not living who was personally cognizant of said John Staats services during that campaign.

This deponent further says that some time in the spring of 1780, as she has been informed and believes the said John Staats was appointed an Ensign of a company to which he was then attached, and this deponent has frequently seen the commission to him issued as such ensign in the possession of her said husband, with seal attached and according to her recollection signed by Gov. Clinton, and deponent remembers of seeing the said commission sometime after the death of her said husband—according to deponents recollection said commission was lost about the time of deponents moving from Greenbush & said Buffalo her present residence in the year 1816, and deponent has no recollection of seeing said commission since.

This deponent further says that at the time of her said marriage as aforesaid her said husband was an ensign in the company commanded by Capt. Anthony Bries, in the Regiment of which Killian VanRanssalaer was Colonel and Jacob C. Schomerhorn was Major, and John H. Buckanan was Lieut Colonel; of which company Haspent Witbeck was a Lieutenant, and at that time her said husband John Staats resided at Greenbush aforesaid—This deponent well recollects Capt. Bries in whose company her said husband was an Ensign, and also well recollects John H. Bakman, who always went by the title of Col. Bakman. She also well remembers Haspent Witbeck and Major Schomerhorn, that she has seen them each at her house in Greenbush and she has been informed and believes that no one of them is now living—This deponent further says that after their said marriage as aforesaid, she remembers that after their said marriage as aforesaid, she remembers that her said husband went out on military expeditions in different directions, and that he continued in Capt. Bries company until the termination of the war in 1783 holding said rank of ensign, or the rank of Lieutenant, to which he was promoted, but wherer he was appointed Lieutenant before the termination of hostilities, this deponent cannot now state.

This deponent recollects the fall of the year we were married her said husband was out on such military expedition on some alarm given and was absent on such expedition some six weeks, and the following summer and fall he was absent on such duty in military service, but the length of time or direction he went deponent could not now designate.

This deponent remembers at one time after our marriage of his going up to Johnstown on a military expedition and being gone some five weeks or more, at another time he went to Schoharrie and Canajoharrie on like service, at another time down the river to Sophus Bay & put down some Indians and Tores in that vicinity but the particulars and dates deponent cannot after this lapse of time specify—but alarms and threatened difficulties were frequent and continued till after the British forces left New York City, and he was in this service from the time of our marriage till the close of the war, and was absent several times a year to repel the marauding parties of the enemy, in different directions but dates and particulars this deponent count no undertake further to give.

This deponent further says that her said husband John Staats died at Greenbush aforesaid of an epidemic or fever on the 12th day of March in the year (1813) eighteen hundred and thirteen and that this deponent has remained a widow since that time to the present period. This deponent further says that in the year (1816) eighteen hundred and sixteen this deponent removed from Greenbush to Buffalo, her present residence in which last named place she has continued to reside to the present period. This deponent further says that she did not earlier avail her self of the benefit of the Pension Law, for the reason that on its passage in 1836, the persons who knew of her husband's Revolutionary Services, if living at all resided at a distance of some three hundred miles or more from Buffalo in the County of Albany and she would with difficulty bear the expense of looking up the testimony.—Deponent did institute some inquiries for that purpose come five years since and found those persons most intimately acquainted with her said husbands services were not living, and in view of the difficulties and expenses attending the obtaining the proofs this deponent permitted the matter to rest until within the last eighteen months when she was advised that some proofs of those services could be obtained, and since that period she has made efforts to obtain such proofs to support her application—and this deponent further says that she is not able by reason of advanced age and bodily infirmities to appear in open court to make this declaration. (Signed) Jane Staats

Sworn to and subscribed this eleventh day of May AD 1843 before me; and I certify that the said declarant Jane Staats cannot from age & bodily infirmity attend the court. Fredrk H. Stevens. Judge of Erie County Court of Com. Pleas.

Children's names, Joachim J. Staats, John J. Staats, Elisabeth S. Staats, Barent J. Staats, Nicholas J. Staats, Jeremiah Staats, and Philip J. Staats. In May 1843, Jeremiah Staats stated he is the only one living.