

Pension Application for John Steele

S.28901

State of New York

County of Washington SS.

On this twenty eighth day of August 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 Washington now sitting John Steele a resident of the town of Salem in said county of Washington & State of New York aged seventy three 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 7, 1832.

That he was born in the year 1759 in the county of Derry in the town of [Dengibbon?] in Ireland but has no record of his age—came to the now town of Salem in the County of Washington and State of New York in the month of May 1772 and has ever since continued to & now does reside in said town.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

That some time in the month of April 1775 he was enrolled in the company of Militia commanded by Captain Hutchinson in the Regiment commanded by Colonel John Williams, and some time about the month of July 1777, (while Captain Joseph McCracken, who with his company had been sent from the army at Stillwater to protect & defend the inhabitants of the north) and Colonel VanVooert with a part of his Regiment were employed in building a picket fort in Salem; he was called out in said company (which was then commanded by Captain Thomas Armstrong, Captain Hutchinson having resigned) to assist in building the said Fort at which he was employed three weeks and was then dismissed—Colonel Williams was out in person at the building of the fort.

In the month of September 1777 he was called out in the said company by Captain Armstrong and Colonel Williams & marched to Argyle & reconnoitered the flank of General Burgoyne's Camp by the way of Fort Miller near the mouth of batten kill & from thence returned to Salem, (New Perth) & from there was sent to Williamstown where he became the body servant of Colonel Williams who was conductor of Burgoyne hospital & went with him to Boston & continued with him as such servant until the month of March 1778 where he was dismissed.

Some time in the month of November 1778 he was again called out in said company under Captain Armstrong & Colonel Williams aforesaid on an alarm & went to Skeensborough & was employed in scouting on Lake Champlain & South Bay—that he served in said company two weeks & was then dismissed.

In March 1779 (said company being the command by Captain John Armstrong and the Regiment by Colonel Alexander Webster) he was called out to Skeensborough by and served under those officers one month (by classing) two weeks of which time he was a substitute for his father.

In the year 1779 he enlisted for the term of nine months as a substitute for one Brom, or Abram VanDooser in the company commanded by Captain Levy Stockwell who was stationed at Skeensborough; that he continued to serve in said company until the expiration of said nine months. Cannot state what months of the year he enlisted, but knows he served until the time expires, and thinks that the expiration of the said nine months was the 1st day of January 1780.

Sometime about the month of October in the year 1780 he was called out in the said company in which he was enrolled under the said Captain John Armstrong & Colonel Alexander Webster on an alarm created by the irruption of Major Carlton into the Northern part of New York at which time Forts George & Anne fell into the hands of the enemy; that he continued to serve in said company on said alarm five weeks & was then dismissed.

Sometime in the fall of the year 1781 he was again called out in said company under the last aforesaid officers & was posted at Alexander Simpson's & other places; that he continued to serve in said one month and was then dismissed.

In the fall of the year 1782 he was called out in the said company under the aforesaid officers & posted at Colonel Williams & other places & was employed principally in scouting; that he con[tinued] to serve in said company one month & was then dismissed.

He was also out in the fall of the year 1782 (in the month of November he thinks) in the company of Militia commanded by Captain John Munson in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Brown; that he was posted in said company at Whitehall Skeensborough and continued to serve therein two weeks & was then dismissed—That from his situation he had little opportunity of knowing officers or Regiments other than his own. That he never received any discharge has no Documentary evidence of his services & knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to the same except Allen Humdon when deponent is [?] that he is known to Doctor Alexander Proudfit Doctor of Divinity and pastor of the church to which this applicant belongs and to John Grary Esquire both of whom reside in the said town of Salem in the County of Washington & State of New York and can testify to his character for veracity and their believe of his services as a soldier of the Revolution.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. (Signed) John Steele

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid J. S. Leigh Clk.