

### Pension Application for John Stephens or Stevens

S.11458

Stevens, John

His name appears on a list of applicants for invalid pension returned by the District Court for the District of New York, submitted to the House of Representatives by the Secretary of War on April 25, 1794, and printed in the American State Papers, class 9, page 95.

Rank: Private

Regt: Col. J. Clinton's

Disability: Lost the sight of one eye during the siege of Quebec.

When and where disabled: 1775, Quebec.

Residence: Ulster County.

Remarks: No returns of this regiment for 1775. The Judge of the District Court reports no evidence whatever.

State of New York

Steuben County SS.

On this sixteenth day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-two, personally appeared in open court before the court of Common Pleas of said County of Steuben now sitting John Stephens, a resident of the Town of Howard in the County and State aforesaid aged one hundred and one 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 8<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. That he enlisted at Poughkeepsie in the County of Dutchess & State aforesaid into a company commanded by Capt. Ezekiel Cooper. That at the time he enlisted he resided at New Palts [Paltz] in the county of Ulster in the State aforesaid. That the said company was attached to and formed part of the regiment commanded by Col. Clinton, and of which regiment Andrew Billings was Major.

This deponent does not recollect the name of any other officer belonging to the field or staff of said Regiment or of any other company officer. That he enlisted in the Spring or early in the summer of 1775. That he marched through Albany and so on to St. Johns in Lower Canada and was in the Battle of that place (St. Johns) from which place he marched to Montreal and so on to Quebec. At Montreal Col. Clinton & Major Billings left the regiment and returned home. Col. John Nicholson was then assigned to the command of said regiment. That he was at the engaged [sic] in the Battle at Quebec under Gen. Montgomery. That he recollects the name of Col. Arnold & Major Meigs. That he saw Col. Arnold where he was wounded in the leg, and that Major Meigs afterwards took the command of Col. Arnold's Regiment. That he remembers the names of Col. Campbell, and Capt. Cheeseman an aid of Gen. Montgomery. That he served under said enlistment eight or nine months and was honorably discharged at Poughkeepsie aforesaid but he lost his discharge. That while at Quebec he had the small pox and by that disease lost one of his eyes. From his great age and consequent defection of memory he is unable to detail any more circumstances which may be material. That he has no documentary record of his age, but from information derived from his parents, he believes that he was born at Providence in Rhode Island in the year one thousand seven hundred and thirty one.

And the said John Stephens further declares that in the summer of 1777 he entered under Capt. Ezekiel Cooper as a militia man for six months at Poughkeepsie in the County of Dutchess. That the said company with three others was placed under the command of Col. John Nicholson, marched to the frontiers on the Mohawk River where he performed a tour of Militia duty of six months and at the end of the said period of service was honorably discharged at Poughkeepsie in the said County of Dutchess and which discharge has been lost.

And the said John Stephens further declares that he again entered the service as a Militia man in the summer of 1778 for three months under Capt. John VanDuser at Esopus in the County of Ulster, and performed a time of Militia duty of three months on the frontier in that neighborhood and adjacent country and at the expiration of the said period was honorably discharged and which discharge has been lost.

And the said John Stevens further declares that at the expiration of the said last term he entered the service of the United States again, immediately thereafter as an artificer and worked during the winter of 1778 & spring of 79 at the building of gun boats at Poughkeepsie in the said County of Dutchess, and for the term of seven months when he was discharged. That in May or June 1779 he again entered the service of the United States as an artificer, for six months, under Major Simmons at Poughkeepsie, west to Philadelphia—thence to Carlisle in Pennsylvania where he with others drew arms, marched to Pittsburgh and worked at Boat building for the said term of six months, and was again honorably discharged. That he is not able to detail more particularly, from the great lapse of time and his very advanced age, the circumstances connected with the above related militia services and services as an artificer. That he is very poor and for his support has to apply to public.

That some years ago he applied for a pension under the law of 1818, for the services above mentioned in his campaign to Quebec and his application was rejected, with there remarks addressed to Hon. M. Magee, then a member of congress under date of Jan'y 31, 1829. "I herewith return the Declaration of John Stevens. The service in 1775 will not entitle him to a pension as it was for eight months only, although he says it was under an enlistment of nine months. He is mistaken. There were no enlistments in the spring of 1775 for a longer period than eight months."

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.

He cannot tell more particularly where he was born—he was born at Providence Rhode Island—Has no record of his age. Resided at New Palts [Paltz] when called into service—since the war—moved to Spence Tioga County, NYork, thence to where he now resides or in the neighborhood. Has already stated the manner of entering into the service and cannot state any those further of the circumstances of his service, or the officers, nor anything further in relation to his discharges.

He can prove by David Ginger and Elias VanAuker as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution. (Signed with his mark) John Stephens

Sworn & Subscribed the day and year aforesaid. M. S. Rumsey, Dep. Clerk. Steuben County.