

Pension Application for Peter Stevens or Stephens

W.597 (Widow: Elizabeth) Married May 17, 1817 by Samuel Pelton, minister of the Gospel. Peter died January 7, 1848 in Rockland, NY.

B.L.Wt.27612-160-55

State of New York

Rockland County SS.

On this 29th day of November 1832, personally in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas now sitting Peter Stephens, a resident of the town of Clarkstown, in the County of Rockland and State of New York, being nearly 72 years of age, 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 entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. That on the 21st of December 1776 the day he arrived to be 16 years of age he was enrolled in the Militia Company in which he resided commanded by Cap'n Jacob Onderdonk, whereof Resolvent Vanhouten was Lieut. in Col. Ann Hawkes Hay's Reg't. That he volunteered and performed duty about 2 months under said officers previous to his said enrollment. That he was born in the now Town of Clarkstown on the 21st day of December 1760 according to the information received from his parents and the family record of the same. That he went upon duty at and under the command and order of his said officers. Immediately after his said enrollment, that he with others guarded the lower part of Rockland County, Bergen Woods, Fort Lee, Hackensack &c making different tours and excursions through the same until about the first of February following when he enlisted in a company commanded by Cap't Abraham Onderdonk, Isaac Coe, Lieut for 3 months, in Col. Gilbert Cooper's Regt. during which service, he was the greatest proportion thereof stationed in the State of New Jersey opposing the common enemy and those who should have been our friends (the Tories and Horsethieves). Recollects that while there 8 of our men went out on a patrolling party were surprised and four taken prisoners at the English neighborhood (N. Jersey) and taken to New York by the enemy, whereof Abraham Storms one of his present Townsmen was one, who was detained a prisoner some length of time.

That after the expiration of said service sometime in the month of May about the first day thereof (according to the best of his recollection and belief) he enlisted in a company commanded by Cap. John Gardner, does not recollect the term of enlistment but perfectly remembers that he was discharged in the last of the Fall, or first of the winter season following, thinks the said enlistment must have been for 6 or 8 months that under such enlistment, he was stationed along the shore of the Hudson River in the Town of Haverstraw, Clarkstown, & Orange Town, and to what was then termed British lines in New Jersey along said shore, and the interior country guarding against the invasion of the common enemy by Land and water.

That about the first of April 1778 he enlisted in a company commanded by Capt John Bell, Col. Graham[s] Regt for 9 months, served as sergeant, during said enlistment. Was stationed along the shores of the Hudson, chiefly in the County of Rockland for a short time. Then joined the main army, at the White Plains, where we remained some time, our company then was attached to a body of troops commanded by a Major Hell. Then moved to Hackensack, New Bridge. . . While there, when on a piquet guard at the Liberty Pole in Bergen County, when we were surprised, routed, and dispersed by the British horse. Some of our men were taken prisoners, some few killed and others severely wounded. Then retreated from New Bridge to Paramus, lay there, when some of our Horse was taken, and barbarously cut and mangled by the British at a place called Old Tappan N. York, was afterwards marched into now Rockland County to guard the shores of the Hudson as before and some of us, ordered to the western side of said county to protect the inhabitants against the marauders and Horsethieves, that were then making depredations in that section of our country, where he remained

during the remaining term of said enlistment and was discharged on the last day of December 1778 at Tappan.

That, about the first of May 1779 he again was called upon and joined his first and former Company of Militia under said Capt Jacob Onderdonk and served therein as a Corporal, during the remaining part of the Revolutionary War in guarding the shores of the Hudson as before, against the British Boats that frequently came on shore and committed depredations. That this last duty was chiefly performed between Stoney Point and a place called Closter, excepting the service of about one month which he rendered as a substitute for a Garret Cooper in a company commanded by a Cap. Trentice Bowen in the Militia.

And he further states that in the year 1779 (when the British troops had possession of Stoney Point) he and others of the militia was on immediate duty during the whole season in guarding the shores from place to place continually. That they had to furnish themselves with provision while supporting their country that the calls of their country were so frequent that there was scarcely any [fold] from duty until late in the fall of the same year—except the short time that Genl Wayne had possession of Stoney Point, after his capture of the same which this deponent things was not more than four or five days that during the same time they were obliged to abandon their houses at night if off from duty, for fear of being made prisoners, that this deponent then, and now lives about 3 miles in a direct line from Hudson River and within 8 or 9 miles from Stoney Point.

And he verily believes that his whole term of service actually and faithfully rendered to his country during the Revolutionary War, under the different services herein mentioned would amount at least to two years and four or five months.

That he has no paper or documentary evidence of any of his said services, and relies on being supported by some of his fellow citizens, and townsmen, who can testify to their knowledge and belief of his services as a soldier in the Revolutionary War (to wit) Garret Smith, Abraham Storms and Abraham VanHouten.

That he still resides in Clarkstown aforesaid the place of his birth, and has never been a resident of any other town or place.

He also hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and hereby declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the agency of any state. (Signed) Peter Stephens

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid . David Pye, Clerk