

Pension Application for Thomas Stevens

S.23441 [This deposition has writing on both sides of the paper and it “bled” through. Very difficult to read.]

State of New York

County of Niagara SS.

On this 3d day of September in the year of our Lord 1833 personally appeared in open court before the Court of Common Pleas of the said County now sitting at Lewiston in & for said County Thomas Stevens a resident of the Town of Hartland in said county & state aforesaid, aged seventy nine years on the third day of January AD 1833, who being first 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 7th 1832.

That in the month of April 1775 he volunteered as a private in the Company of Capt. John Randal who commanded a company of militia. The deponent then resided in Hopkinton, State of Rhode Island—that he was marched by said Capt. with his company to Boston, a distance of about 90 m. as deponent recollects, where his said company joined the regiment of Col. James Varnum, there stationed on Prospect Hill, Boston—That James Babcock was our Lieutenant Col. who went with said company from Hopkinton aforesaid—that before he was marched from Hopkinton he was on drill for eight weeks as he now recollects while said Captain filling up his said company preparatory to [???

That about the 14th June 1775 as near as he can recollect he started to march under said Captain Randall, Lieutenant Oliver Clark, Ensign Arnold Clark, Sergeant Asa Lewis from said town of [?] for Boston—that they marched through Providence on their way to Boston & staid there one night—That when they arrived at or near Boston [?] occupied Bunker’s Hill that burned Charleston—that at this time the [?] of Charleston were smokin[g]. That deponent continued with his said company til [?] late in the fall of 1775—[can’t make out about a paragraph] Discharged about the 20th day of December 1775 deponent was discharged (but received no written discharge as now recollect) which completed eight months from the time he so

[This deposition is simply too bad to try to transcribe. I’ll try another part of the documents.]

State of New York

County of Niagara SS.

On this seventh day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty four, personally appeared in open court before the Court of Common Pleas of the said county now sitting at Lockport in and for said County Thomas Stevens a resident of the Town of Hartland in said County and State afor said aged eighty years on the third day of January 1834 who being first 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 7th 1832. That in the month of April 1775 he volunteered as a private in the company of Capt. John Kensworth who commanded a company of Militia.

The deponent then resided in Hopkinton State of Rhode Island; that he was marched by said Capt. with his company to Boston, a distance of about 90 miles, as deponent now recollects, when his said company joined the regiment of Col. James Varnum stationed on Prospect Hill, Boston.

That James Babcock was his Lieutenant Col. who went with said company [??] aforesaid. That before he was marched form Hopkinton he was on drill from four to eight weeks as he now recollects, while said Capt. was filling up his said company preparatory to marching to Boston aforesaid—

That about the 13th or 14th June 1775 as near as he can recollect, he started to march under said Captain Randal, Lieutenant Oliver Clark, Ensign Arnold Clark, Sergeant Asa Lewis, from said town of Hopkinton for Boston. That they marched through Providence on their way to Boston and staid there

one night; that when they arrived at or near Boston the British occupied Bunker's Hill [One line faded, not legible] That at this time the [?] of Charleston were smoking. That deponent continued with his said company at Prospect Hill till late in the fall of 1775, and was employed on guard of getting timber for barracks throwing up breastworks and making redoubts and other kinds of duty.

That after deponents time had expired for which he volunteered as aforesaid, to wit, eight months, as he now recollects, and on or about the 20th day of December of 1775, deponent was discharged, but received no written discharge, as he now recollects, which completed eight or nine months from the time he so commenced volunteered, and commenced active service or drill as aforesaid. Deponent then returned home to said town of Hopkinton. That during the time deponent was at Boston as aforesaid our [?] went in a pasture next to Boston Bay that as deponent was joining [can't read two lines, faded] General Putnam took a party of militia and riflemen deponent was among them, and went down and drove off the British and regained most of our [?] though the British carried off some of them.

That General Putnam, Lee and Greene were at Boston while deponent was there, when General Washington came to Cambridge (which was the fore part of July) where most of the Riflemen in that section of the army were stationed.

That while deponent was at the place aforesaid a Mr. Mumford (Christian name forgotten) and in part of Col. Varnum's Regiment was killed by a cannon ball shot by the British from Bunker Hill where the British were—that when deponent returned home to Hopkinton aforesaid until the others of the company to which deponent was then attached as aforesaid returned that deponent when he marched from Hopkinton to Boston aforesaid marched through Greenwich, Providence, Walpole, Rutham, Branton to Jamaica Plains, near Boston where they lay about one week, thence marched to Winter Hill, Charleston and thence to Prospect Hill where they were stationed as aforesaid [two lines are so faded they are not legible] Mr. Benjamin Randall and this deponent lived in [???] Norwalk, State of New York about 30 miles west of Albany.

That on the first of May 1776 [?] to wit deponent now recollects he was called into active service in the company of [?] Caleb Burton? Lieutenant, Blauv[?] and Ensign Arnold Cromwall, under the following circumstances said Lieutenant Spencer came in the night to the house on the said Randall (as deponent thinks [?] and stated that the Tories under [?] in some form in the woods between Hoosack aforesaid and Albany and that the Indinas were lurking about the woods and wanted deponent to turn out saying the rest of said Capt. Bentley's company were turning out to go and dispense them—Deponent accordingly volunteered as a private and turned out with said company and before daylight started to forage the woods.—That during the first day deponent and his said company were [?] they started some Tories who were painted like Indians and one was shot by someone in said company. That the fore part of the [?] May they staid at [? Can't read two lines]

That said Bentley's company and some other companies were drawn up into a [?] can't read next line] was moved to high on such wagon and year the declaration [?] That on the 7th of July 1778 deponent and his company started for [?] home at Hoosick aforesaid. That this deponent was out this time five days. That from this time till first of October [can't read next 11 lines] almost constantly in active service for the [?] till from fall doing any [???] at home for any considerable time but [? two days above stated [can't read two lines] he was a private in Captain Bentley's company in the service of his country for the time of three Months, to wit from the 1st of July to the first of October 1778, also in the interim he [???] small portion of the time.—That one [?] the 1st October 1778 as near as deponent can recollect, he and his said company under the same officers were [can't read several words] That the British landed at [?] and were expected to advance on [?] But so many of his fellows as were not engaged in scouting were employed in [?[Fort Ann and building a bridge from thence across a swamp portion or three miles—That deponent continued thus engaged at Fort Ann till the cold season had so [?] The [can't read several lines. And his said company were discharged, which was the middle of

November of that year as near as deponent can recollect, making him one month and a half during which deponent was in until [?] while they were out Fort [???] Regiment commanded by [?] Col. VanRansselaer. He does not recollect the names of any of the officers of said Regiment but those above named. [can't read sentence] no written discharge was [?] any of the soldiers out at the time last before said to the knowledge or belief of deponent. [?] after deponent's return to Hartland afore said the middle of November 177[?] as aforesaid he continued at home till the middle of June 177[?], near as he can recollect—then he and said company and said captain Bentley were called out (deponent was a private) They assembled at the house of Bentley, Capt. 2) Two Lieutenant Arnot Crandall Ensign and marched [?] to Fort Edward—arrived at Fort Edward in about two days, after leaving home and had been at Fort Edward a short time, [?] precisely he cannot recollect [?] express arrived with news that the British marched [?] upon Skeenesborough to destroy some [???] was immediately marched with said company [?] Fort Ann [???] when they arrived were between Fort Ann and Skeenesborough. The day of their arrival at Fort Anna does not recollect but the next day after their arrival at Fort Ann they were had a battle with the British under Gen. Burgoyne.

In the American army then engaged in battle with Burgoyne's Army were General Schuyler, Commandant Col. Henry VanRensselaer, Major Roovey (Christian name he thinks Aaron) Capt Caleb Beantley (said Bentley staid in Fort Ann not daring to go to battle) since Bentley's company in which deponent was commanded in said battle by Lieut. Shaw and Ensign Crandall – battle continued till near sundown, when the American Ammunition was said to be about exhausted and our forces were wherefore ordered to retreat. They did & suddenly retreat leaving their tents standing, kettles, camp furniture, baggage and all their provisions taking along with them merely baggage, wagons sufficient to carry our [?] they retreated back to Fort Edward in the night during a thunder storm, continued at Fort Edward under General Schuyler (while General Schuyler [?] into a hollow place and then told them he was determined then to make his stand and either die [???)

Deponent was sick at Fort Ann and got permission to visit home—did visit home and staid until three or four days, got [???) to Fort Edward again. After deponent started for home this time and before he returned to Fort Edward as aforesaid, General Gates arrived at Fort Edward (which was about the [can't read a few lines] General Schuyler on the command that division of our army—deponent continuing at Fort Edward under the [???) as read [???) this is in the 1st of October as near as he can recollect during which time our troops under General Gates had a number of [?] with the British—General Gates tried to bring General Burgoyne to a general battle but could not until 15 or 20 days after deponent was discharged and went home being five months and a half from home with the expedition of the [?] vizt with his [?] in actual service deponent after his return home as first stated, continued there till the next year 1778 when he was ordered out under Col. Randell (with whom he had served as aforesaid and who he had been [?] in Col. of the Militia) Capt. David Husted, Lieut. Shaw (above named) Ensign Crandall aforesaid, and was marched to Fort Edward and staid put one week on an alarm but the British were coming down upon that part of our country when they arrived at Fort Edward, they learned that the British had retreated which was the cause of their returning home to same.

Deponent was out of five days at a time scouring the country around from Fort Edward as last above stated during the year 177[?] under Lieutenant Shaw aforesaid –

In 1779 he was also sent a number of days scouting for Tories and Indians under enlistment & Shaw aforesaid who was the scouting officers of that town where deponent lived. In all one month [can't read a line] that from states that the whole time he was out in actual service of his country in the Revolution as aforesaid set forth in his present [???) in this declaration was from 17 or eighteen [???) expired the [???)

That he has no documentary evidence to which he [???) claim to a pension or to aid him in any way whatever, that he know of no person except William Rundall whose testimony is hereto annexed & whose testimony he can prove [???)

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 Thomas Stevens)
[I'm giving up on this pension, I've spent part of two days on it. ajberry)