

Pension Application for John Stockham

R.10198

State of Kentucky

Lewis County SS.

On this 2d day of Sept. 1836 before Charles C. Marshall a justice of the peace in & for said county & one of the justices of the county court for the same, at the House of John Stockham who is aged seventy nine years & who from age & bodily infirmity is wholly unable to attend court, the said John Stockham, who is a resident of the aforesaid county of Lewis 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 the 7th 1832.

That on the 20th day of June AD 1776, to the best of claimant's recollection he volunteered his services as a private soldier for six months in the Militia of the State of New York, to defend the liberties of his country at that perilous period of the Revolution. That at the time he volunteered he resided at a place called the purchase about four miles from the White Plains in the State of New York of which he is a native, but in what town or county he was born is not recollected. The name of the Captain under whom claimant volunteered was Samuel Townsend, Lieutenant's name was Woodard (Christian name not recollected); ensign's name was Luther Young; the name of the orderly sergeant was Wm. Brown; Major's name not recollected; his Col's name was Thomas Thomas. Claimant thinks his gen'l's name was Heath or McDougle, but is not certain which as both occasionally commanded the regt to which he belonged; is inclined to think Heath was, as he had to stand guard at his [?] None of the regular officer's names are at this time recollected. That the Com. Claimant belonged to rendezvous at White Plain, that they marched to Tarrytown from thence to Kinds' Bridge, that he was employed in building Fort Independence Claimant was in the battle of the White Plains from thence he marched to Peekskill to winter quarters from Peekskill. Col. Thomas marched his regt to the [?] where they were discharged. Claimant served at this time six months, being discharged two or three days before Christmas at the place last stated. Claimant states that he did not receive a written discharge, that he knows of no person by whom he can prove his services.

That the following spring (1777) in May claimant again volunteered under the same officers and at the same place, called the Purchase. That claimant and the company to which he belonged were [?] minute men, and held themselves always in readiness to march at any moment to what ever point they were wanted; that they were employed in guarding the lines, and preventing the enemy from landing from their ships and plundering the inhabitants; that at this time they marched to the White Plains, & from thence to Sing Sing, & then to Peekskill & were constantly employed as above for at least four months, at the expiration of which time when at a place called Kingstreet, claimant and the com. were permitted to go to their homes. He was in no battle at this time; nor was there any other company or squadron of men with Capt. Townsend's during this tour. Calimant further states that after staying at home about three weeks, he was again called out by Capt. Townsend and was employed in guarding the lives and particularly in preventing during the night season, the inhabitants from driving their cattle to the enemy & likewise the enemy from plundering provisions from the inhabitants & was at the commencement of cold weather, after being employed two months as above, permitted to go from Kingstreet (a place about two miles below the White Plains) to their homes. That during this last term of service Lieut. Woodard & about thirty of his men, of whom claimant was one, had put up at a house on the [?] road about five miles below White Plains and during the night the house was surprised by a party of the enemy, who made an attack upon the party within and succeeded in setting the house on fire, but Lieut. Woodard and his men forced their way out of the house and all escaped unhurt except claimant, who received a severe blow upon the shoulder with the butt of a musket from which he has lost the use of his left arm; claimant always blamed some of his own party with the accident as it was done in the hurry in getting gout at the door.

Claimant hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. (Signed with his mark) John Stockham

Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. Thomas Waring, Charles C. Marshall.