

Pension Application for John Tappen

S.14641

State of New York

Sullivan County SS.

On this 15th day of June, one thousand eight hundred & thirty seven personally appeared in open court before the Court of Common Pleas now sitting in & for Sullivan County aforesaid, being a Court of Record, John Tappan a resident of Fallsburgh in the said County of Sullivan State of New York, aged eighty four 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 7th 1832.

That he first entered into the army of the United States, in the year, one thousand seven hundred and seventy five, he believes in the month of September with Captain John Schenck, in Colonel Jacobus Swartwouts Regiment. That the Lieutenant's names were Peter Tappen and John Childs; that he left the service on the first of May one thousand seven hundred & seventy six; that when he entered the service he resided in Dutchess County State of New York.

That during the period of this service the company to which he was a member served as minute men; and their chief business was keeping watch over those who were suspected of disaffection; that during this period of service he was elected an ensign of said Company & received his Commission, that he was stationed in Dutchess County until the first of May when he left the Army as above stated.

That he entered again into the army of the United States as a private on the 2d day of January one thousand seven hundred & seventy seven under Captain Hugh Van Kleeck, and left it again about the first of March one thousand seven hundred & seventy seven; that the Colonels name was John Frear; Brigadier General Scott; that during such second enlistment he marched from Poughkeepsie, to White Plains, Westchester County New York, whilst the company remained here, he was appointed adjutant by the Colonel; that he remained in White Plains but a few days, when the Regiment was sent on to North Castle in said County of Westchester; that he remained at North Castle eight or ten days & was principally engaged in Scouting, that the Regiment was sent on from NorthCastle to a place called Stephen Wards, and there joined the main body of the Army then under the command of General Pearsons or Parsons; that they then took up their line of March and went to Williamsbridge, from whence they marched to within about one mile of Kingsbridge, in said County of Westchester, and encamped for about three weeks; that during said three weeks they had frequent skirmishes with the British who were in possession of a small fort, situated on a hill near the encampment & knows by the Army at that time as Valentine's Hill that he marched from Valentine's Hill back again to White Plains in said County of Westchester, that the main body of the army went back part of the way; that the Regiment then under the command of Major Livingston accompanied the Regiment in which he was back to White Plains; but that the rest of the main body went no farther than Northcastle in said County of Westchester; that upon the arrival

of the Regiment at White Plains he (acting as adjutant to the Regiment) made out the returns, and the Regiment was then disbanded & he went home.

That he was drafted into the army of the United States in the year one thousand seven hundred & seventy nine for the term of three months. He thinks he was drafted in the month of September; that during this term, he acted as a Sergeant; that the Colonel's name was Zephaniah Platt that General George Clinton was the commander of the main body. That the regiment in which he served together with three or four other Regiments were encamped near the Fishkill in Dutchess County State of New York for about the term of three months; that he however remained there only about five or six weeks, when he was sent to Poughkeepsie by the command of General Clinton to assist in guarding the prisoners, in which service he continued until the expiration of the three months for which he was drafted as above stated when he again left the army.

That he was drafted again into the army of the United States in the year one thousand seven hundred & eighty one he thinks in June or July; that the Regiment marched from Poughkeepsie to the Fishkill in Dutchess County New York where they were encamped for four or five weeks, when the Regiment was again disbanded & he returned home; that the Colonel's name was Zephaniah Platt & General George Clinton the commander.

That he has no documentary Evidence of any Nature except the Commission which he received as Ensign & which he believes is now at the Pension Office in Washington. That he regularly received his discharges, but that they are either lost or destroyed that he knows of no person except one Jacob Marriquart whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services; and that he but lately discovered that he was alive; that he was born in the Town of Poughkeepsie Dutchess County State of New York on the eighteenth day of October one thousand seven hundred & fifty three (1753); that the only record of his age which is in existence is in a Bible now in the possession of his sister In the County of Dutchess aforesaid.

That he resided in Dutchess County aforesaid after the Revolutionary War until the year one thousand eight hundred when he removed into the Town of Freesburgh Sullivan County New York where he has resided ever since; that when he entered the army in the year one thousand seven hundred & seventy five he entered as a volunteer; that in the year one thousand seven hundred & seventy seven he was drafted; and that he was drafted also in the year one thousand seven Hundred & seventy nine; that in the year one thousand seven hundred & eighty one he was drafted out as a militia man, as General Washington expected to make an attack upon the City of New York but abandoned the idea, which was the occasion of the last term being so short; that he is known in his present neighborhood to many who can testify as to his character for veracity; and as to their belief of his services as a soldier in the Revolution & among others James Divine, Abraham Seamen & Wm C. Labagh. That he knows of no clergyman who could be procured & who could certify to his character with out great expense & inconvenience.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to any pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any of the United States. (Signed) John Tappan

Sworn & subscribed the day & year first above mentioned. William E. Cady
Clerk of Sullivan County

Letter in folder dated April 27, 1925, written in response to an inquiry.

I have to advise you that from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim, S.14641, it appears that John Tappen was born October 18, 1753, in Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County, New York.

While a resident of said place he enlisted in September 1775 as private in Captain John Schenck's Company, Colonel Jacobus Swartwout's New York Regiment, was appointed Ensign in said company February 19, 1776, and was discharged in May or June 1776. He enlisted in the summer or fall of 1776 and served three months under Colonel Paulding, was engaged in purchasing and loading "fire vessels" for the army. He enlisted January 2, 1777, and served five or six weeks as private and adjutant in Captain Hugh VanKleeck's Company, Colonel John Freer's New York Regiment; was in frequent skirmishes with the British at Valentine's Hill. He enlisted in March 1777 and served until August 1777 as a carpenter under Quartermaster General Pickering; was engaged in building vessels for the army. He enlisted in April or May 1778 and served until January or March as a carpenter under Colonel Pickering. He enlisted in September or October 1779 and served three months as Sergeant in Captain Thomas Lee's Company, Colonel Zephaniah Platt's New York Regiment. He enlisted in June or July 1781 and served four or five weeks in Colonel Zephaniah Platt's New York Regiment.

He was allowed pension on his application executed October 10, 1832, at which time he was a resident of Fallsburgh, Sullivan County, New York. He died in said County March 4, 1846, leaving no widow, but the following children: James of Sullivan County, New York, who was fifty-one in 1851, Tunis of Illinois, George of Pennsylvania, Peter of Ulster County, New York, William and John Henry L. of Sullivan County, New York.