

### **Pension Application for Gamaliel Taylor**

W.18101 (Widow: Anna)

State of New York

County of Jefferson SS.

On this twenty seventh day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty three, personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the court of Common Pleas in said County of Jefferson now sitting Gamaliel Taylor, a resident of Fredericksburgh in the County of Lenox, Province of Upper Canada, aged seventy five years who being first duly sworn according to Law, doth on his oath make the following declaration 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 first entered the service of the United States by enlistment in the United States Army according to his best recollection on the first day of July, in the year 1776, and served from that time until the last day of December of the same year being six months, in what was termed the six months service.

That he enlisted under Lieutenant Nathaniel Smith, and served in Captain VanWyck's Company, Colonel Swartwout's regiment, until the battle was fought at White Plains, in which this declarant fought against the common enemy of his country, at that time Captain VanWyck was killed during the engagement, and Lieutenant Smith was made Captain or took command of the company as First Lieutenant immediately after and commanded the Company aforesaid until this declarant left the service on the last day of December 1776—

That he recollects that the name of the Second Lieutenant belonging to said Company was Henry Bailey, and the name of the Orderly Sergeant was James Champlin the name of another Sergeant in said company was Downey, and that time was a Corporal in said Company by the name of William Champlin a brother of said James.

That he does not recollect the number of the regiment or brigade to which his company belonged. Declarant recollects that the name of the Brigade major was Paulding and George Clinton was Brigadier General.

The declarant further says that he was born in Huntington, Suffolk County, New York, in the year 1758 where he lived until about the month of August 1775 when he removed to a place called Oswego in the County of Dutchess, New York, near Fishkill. That he lived at Oswego until the time of his enlistment in July in the year 1776 aforesaid. That immediately after enlisting he joined the company aforesaid in Colonel Swartwouth's regiment at Fishkill. Soon after, he marched with said regiment to King's Bridge, about fifteen miles above the City of New York. That the said regiment remained at or near Kings Bridge for a considerable time, perhaps a month, or more.

That during the time said regiment was at the last mentioned place, a considerable portion of their time was occupied in the building of a fortification on a hill, a short distance from that place, which was called Fort Independence. That while this declarant was engaged in working on the fort, he recollects seeing the volume of

smoke and flame produced by the burning of the City of N.Y., rising like a cloud in the air.

That during the time the regiment aforesaid was at or near Kings Bridge, this declarant was detached with others to Harlaem and Morrisania, in the County of WestChester, to oppose the landing of some British troops who were then on board some vessels in Long Island Sound, that he was gone on that service about ten days, according to his best recollection.

That this detachment was commanded by Captain Viele and was sent to Harlaem &c, to reinforce a body of American troops then at that place. Declarant was at Harlaem when the fort was taken by the enemy was taken at Howes Hook. That soon after he joined his regiment again they marched to the fort at or near White Plains commanded by General McDougal. That they remained at White Plains until after the battle, called the battle of White Plains. From thence he marched with the said regiment to Fishkill, at which place he remained until discharged on the last day of December 1776 aforesaid, his term of service having expired, but whether he received a written discharge he does not now recollect. But that if he did receive a written discharge the same was long lost or destroyed and the declarant does not know where it now is – served as a private.

The said Gamaliel Taylor further on his oath declares, that from the time of his discharge as above mentioned, until the first of May in the year 1777 he resided at Oswego in the County of Dutchess aforesaid, and that at the time last aforesaid he again entered the service was a volunteer, in Captain Ezekiel Cooper's Company of Rangers, for one year and that on the organizing of the said Company, this declarant was appointed as Sergeant, and that he served in that capacity during one year from the said first day of May 1777.

That the name of the first Lieutenant in said company was Jasper Filmore, the name of the second Lieutenant was James Ray. That the names of the other sergeants in said company were James Jackson and James Hurley & the name of one of the Corporals was Francis Van Hozer, as this declarant believes from his best recollection.

That the said Company of Rangers was not attached to any regiment or other body of forces, according to declarants recollection.

That immediately after volunteering as aforesaid, he joined the said company at Poughkeepsie, on the Hudson river, where said company remained for a considerable time.

From Poughkeepsie the said declarant marched with said company to Esopus, above Poughkeepsie, for the purpose of conveying from thence to Hartford in the State of Connecticut, about three hundred and fifty prisoners of war, who had been captured and sent to Esopus previously by the American Army, or detachments thereof. That he recollects the said company to which he belonged taking charge of the said prisoners, and that they conveyed them to Hartford aforesaid.

That they crossed over from Esopus to Rhinebeck on the East side of the Hudson, that from thence they marched through a large village, the name of which was Sharon in Connecticut, Litchfield, Cornwall & Springfield. From Hartford they

marched back to Poughkeepsie above mentioned, where they remained a short time. That soon after, they were ordered to a place called Pompanuck north east from Poughkeepsie, to oppose a company of British Rangers, said to have been commanded by one Captain Myers, who were at that time committing the most horrid outrages in the destruction of the lives & property of the defenceless inhabitants at that place and its vicinity.

That in marching to the latter place they passed through Red Hook on the Hudson River. That the said company while at Red Hook captured a British spy, by the name of Jacob Dimon who finally escaped from the guard having charge of him.

The declarant also recollects that when he arrived at Pompanuck the British company of Rangers has just left the place, and that they joined the inhabitants in a state of great distress and consternation a number of inhabitants having been [?] massacred apparently but a few hours before—amongst others, he recollects that a son of Colonel VanNess was killed—that VanNess as a resident of that place, and a colonel of Militia.

After pursuing the British Rangers without being able to overtake them he returned with said company again to Poughkeepsie. That while in pursuit of the British rangers aforesaid, they marched near to where General Burgoyne's army then lay, above Stillwater. That he recollects hearing the sound of the drums from General Burgoyne's quarters.

This declarant further says that the said company to which he belonged, was quartered at Poughkeepsie during the winter of 1777-8 and that in the spring of 1778 the said company was frequently ordered out on short excursions, from Poughkeepsie not [?] over 30 or 40 miles, until his term of service expired on the first of May 1778, when he left the service and returned to his residence in Oswego aforesaid, not receiving any written discharge to the best of his recollection.

This declarant further on his oath says, that he has no record of his age but that he states the same from the recollection of facts which render him positive of its correctness.

That he lived at Oswego aforesaid about seventeen years after the close of the Revolution, when he moved into the Province of Upper Canada, where he has since lived, principally in Fredericksburgh aforesaid at which place he now resides.

That in the neighborhood where he now lives, William Griffis, Stephen Griffis, Hugh McDonald, George Sills, John Sills, Alpheus Cadmen, John Huff, James Vanderwaters, Abraham Diomon & Daniel Defoe and many others to whom this declarant is well known, can testify as to his character for veracity, and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution.

That he does not know of any person now living by whom he can prove his services as such soldier of the Revolution. That he can not now recollect whether he received a Sergeant's warrant, but that he believes he did & that the same is lost or destroyed.

That from his age and infirmity, his powers of recollection are considerably impaired, which is the reason he cannot state more particularly all the circumstances

of his service—and that his poor circumstances in regard to the means of obtaining a comfortable subsistence, render it necessary that he should avail himself of the generous provisions made in behalf of those who bravely fought in the days that tried men's souls.

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) Gamaliel Taylor

Sworn and subscribed to the day and year aforesaid. P. Burchard Clerk