

Pension Application for Jesse Thompson

S.14678

To the Honorable the Congress of the United States, the Memorial of the undersigned humbly sheweth, That your memorialist, though young, took an early part in the revolutional contest, that in the year 1778 he was appointed a Lieutenant in the first Army raised by the then United Collonies [Colonies] not States, as by the Commission accompanying this will appear, that your memorist with the Captain and senior Lieutenant in the same company in pursuance of the orders given for that purpose, raised a respectable company to serve during the remaining part of the year, all at their own expense, that we then dived said company into three sections, that your memoriest too one section, about one third of said company, under his immediate charge, billeted them out and exercised them for a consider time at his own expense, tho' this burden was lightened by the friendship of the people towards him and to the cause we were engaged in. That the orders then came to repair to Albany, we then marched our company above 60 mils [miles] to that place of rendezvous, with such baggage as appeared necessary at our own expense; after which we were provided for and [conduited?] Tho' the campaign [campaign] by the orders of our superior officers which was northward, to the end of the inlistment [enlistment] of our men.

Your memorialist further states, that during said service he received no additional rations for rank or and additional expense, but according to the best of his recollection he received his pay which was about 13 dollars a month in Continental money, without any further compensation—

He further states, that in the following year he for himself and brother officers went to Albany hoping to find some arrangement by which we might be remunerated, but to no purpose save additional expense, no such arrangement having been settled that he could get knowledge of—

Your Memorialist was not further called upon in the regular army, tho' frequently called out, by day and by night, to suppress and detest internal foes—He now comes forward to that government which it has been his ambition to assist in establishing, his pride in its support, for that patronage which has been bestowed on other for services in the Continental Army, he conceives his claim equal to those, when it is considered that he he [sic] stept forth in those period of time when his life was not only exposed if in battle but ignominiously if falling into the hands of a relentless foe – your memorialist views with pleasure the recommendation of a former President, whose exalted mind and benevolent heart conceived a plan to alleviate the aged who had borne, at least in part, the burden of the war which terminated so glorious for our County, and he now views with pleasing satisfaction on equally benevolent President towards faithful soldiers, and whose lofty mind will appreciate the first movers, conductors and actors in the revolution.

Under the foregoing views your memorialist states, that he has arrived within a year and a few months to the age of fourscore years, that he has through the course of a long life paid his proportion of public expense, that his general pursuit has been

farming, and having obtained some knowledge in the Mathematicks [mathematics] has spent a considerable part of his time in surveying, he has been called in public service, having served repeatedly in the Civil, the Military and Legislative departments, but never been in possession of a less active office nor ever arrived to affluent circumstances, is now in possession of a small estate only which yields him a present living with a yearly depreciation, age having deprived him of labour, he therefore has serious forebodings, that if his life should be prolonged to total inactivity that he may be reduced to absolute want.

In thus addressing your honorable body your memorialist is happy that one of its members is from his [?] residence and one another from the County of Dutchess, the place of his nativity and residence till of late, and where and from whence his public services have been performed to whom you are referred for his character as it respects just representations as also of other particulars.—

Your memorialist is contemplating on human events is struck with the fact, that his contemporaries in arms in those early days, with but few exceptions have paid the debt of nature and are no more, and that he must ere long pay that debt; and that the intermediate space between the present and that period may be passed through with as much care as the last stage of human nature will admit, and especially without the painful apprehension of want or of its reality, your memorialist with a candid and full conviction of its justice, asks to be placed on the pension list, together with such other allowance for his former services and sacrifices as your just and human [human] judgment shall direct.

And you memorialist, as in duty bound will ever pray. (Signed) Jesse Thompson

Nov'r 3, 1829. John Grover Justice