

Pension Application for Jonathan Travis

S.21540

Declaration. In order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

State of New York

Putnam County SS.

On the fourth day of February in the year of our Lord 1834 personally appeared in open court in the Court of Common Pleas held at the court house in the town of Carmel in Putnam County in the state of New York, Jonathan Travis a resident of the town of Carmel in said county aged seventy two years who being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of congress of June 7, 1833.

That in the year 1778 he entered the military service of the United States and served as herein after stated. That he then lived in a place now called Yorktown in Westchester County & within the beat of a company of militia commanded by Captain Smith Heddy, William Gailer was the Lieutenant in the company & the company belonged to the regiment under the command of Colonel Samuel Drake.

In the month of May in the said year 1778 the company to which declarant was attached was ordered into the service. The declarant went with the company under the command of said Captain Smith Heddy, the company went to Verplanks' Point & then down the river to Tarrytown then across to Bedford, guarding & protecting the country from the enemy, this declarant entered with his said company in actual service for more than three months during this time the enemy came & burned the meeting house at Crumpond which was occupied by said company as barracks, during this term also the declarant was engaged with others in a scurmish [skirmish] with the enemy near Verplank's point. After the time above mentioned has classed the company & declarant among them was permitted to return to their homes.

Whether ten or fifteen days after declarant returned home the company was again called out in consequence of the landing of the enemy at Verplank's Point, all the able bodied men in that section of the country were then called upon the deponent as one of the company of Captain Hedder & under the said Captain went out & continued on the lines in the county of Westchester until some time in December 1778. The service during this summer & until December was at least seven months which the declarant performed as a soldier in Capt. Hedden's company. The enemy continued to occupy the place called Verplanks Point until late in Dec'r & it was in watching the operations of the enemy & in preventing them from making excursions into the country that that [sic] declarant & others were employed.

General Putnam & General McDougal had the command of the American troops during this time. The whole of Colonel Drake's Regiment was in the service on this occasion.

In December 1778 after the above service was performed Colonel Drake gave to this declarant a written discharge which by time & accident has been lost.

In the month of March 1779 Capt Hedden's company was again called out & [rendered?] all of Col. Drake's regiment declarant went with the company to a place called Continental Village a little above Peekskill. William Gailer was at this time the Lieutenant in the company of Capt Hedden in which declarant served.

The troops remained at Continental Village about six weeks, when the alarm had somewhat subsided. The whole of Col. Drake's regiment remained to Yorktown & remained there as head quarters through the season, parties were detached at different times & different duration as the officers directed, this declarant continued in the service from March 1779 until the month of November of the same year, during this year Col. Drake was in command whilst the troops lay at the Village, Lieut Col John Hyatt, & Major Joseph Strong were under Col. Drake in the above service.

In the month of May 1780, the British light horse came up into Westchester County a letter above Pines Bridge & killed. Colonel Green & Major Flagg at the house of Richardson Davenport, within the town of Yorktown. This occurrence caused all the militia to be again called out & this declarant again went into the service under the aforesaid Captain Smith Hedden a Wm Scott was Lieutenant, marched to Pines Bridge, thence to the mouth of the Croton thence up to Peekskill thence to Yorktown where the whole of Col. Drake's Regiment remained for about two months this declarant continued with the troops in the military service of the county for the whole of this period, when they were marched to Crumpond meeting house, remained there four or five weeks, then to the house occupied by John Cooklin, remained there four or five weeks that being the head quarters of the regiment.

The declarant remained in the service moving from place to place through the season until December, being a continued service of more than six months. During a part of this season this declarant was in Capt John Drake's company, said Drake having the command of a company made up out of Col. Drake's Regiment to scour the country in different directions. Col. Hammond had the command of the Regiment below Drake's regiment in which Declarant did serve when on scouts out of his own regiment, after the militia was discharged in December the declarant returned to his father's house and remained until about the first of January 1781 when it was rumored that spies or cowboys were running about in the neighborhood of Pines Bridge. Col Drake ordered Capt Henry Strong to go with a company of men & apprehended them this declarant was called upon to go on this service & did perform that duty which resulted in the capture of two individuals who were sent to West Point, declarant was absent from home in this & other military operations at least one month. During the year 1780 the treachery of Arnold was discovered & Andre apprehended these employments produced much alarm & the militia living on or near the lines as declarant did were kept in constant employment.

Early in the year 1781 the declarant again went into the service & continued in the same until the close of the war. The employment of the declarant was upon the lines sometimes down into the lower part of Westchester County, sometimes in the eastern part of it, during this service the declarant was generally under the command of or attached to Col. Samuel Drake's Regiment but at the times the company in which

he served was under the immediate command of some other Colonel John Drake, Henry Strang, & Elvin Purdy, were at times in command of the company in which declarant served in 1781 & 1782. Capt Heddy having left the regiment & gone to New London.

During the military service of the declarant he assisted in taking one Stephen Pain who had when taking orders for inlisted [enlisted] soldiers for the British Army. He also assisted soldiers for the British Army. He also assisted in taking some spies who were afterwards hung for that offence.

From old age & the consequent loss of memory declarant cannot be more particular & definite as to the periods of his service & the officers under whom he served, than in this declaration made by him before the Marine Court of the City of New York on the first day of June 1833.

Declarant was born at the place called Crumpond in the town of Yorktown in Westchester County & there entered the service, that he has the possession of the family bible in which is entered the time & place of his birth.

He has no documentary evidence to establish his claim to a pension. The testimony of Daniel Carman which is contained in the papers heretofore presented to the Marine Court in New York (the said Daniel Carman having since died his testimony cannot be taken in any other manner). The testimony of John Hyatt which is also hereto annexed is all the evidence within his knowledge or within his power to obtain.

After the revolution the declarant lived for a few years in Yorktown in Westchester County, from that place he removed to the town of Carmel in which town he now resides and has resided therein for more than thirty years last past.

Whenever he was called into the service it was by a general call for the Militia & he always [always] obeyed that call & went with the company to which he belonged he never served as a substitute for any one. He always served as a private soldier.

General Washington, General George Clinton, Colonel green, Colonel Sheldon, Colonel Miller, Colonel VanCortlandt were with the troops were [where] he has served Colonel Drake, Colonel Hammond, Lieut Colonel John Hyatt, Major Joseph strong were also with the troops were declarant served.

Declarant did on one occasion receive a written discharge from Col.; Samuel Drake, lbut the same has by time and accident been lost.

The declarant is known to Beneah Y. Morse a Clergyman living in Carmel. William Drew, W. Tailor, & Thomas, persons being in his neighborhood & who he believes can testify to his character for veracity & their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution. (Signed) Jonathan Travis

Subscribed & sworn in open court February 4th 1834. J. Morehouse clk.