

Pension Application for John Whiteside

W.18405 (Widow: Margaret) Married 1780, died May 30, 1841.

State of New York

Washington County SS

On this twenty eight day of August 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas at the Courthouse in the Town of Salem in said County now sitting John Whiteside a resident of the town of Cambridge in the County of Washington and State of New York aged seventy nine 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 seventh 1832.

That he was born in Strasburgh in the County of Lancaster and State of Pennsylvania in the year one thousand seven hundred and fifty two.

That he has a record of his age in the hand writing of his father present here in Court.

That he lived when called into the military service in the war of the Revolution in the town of Cambridge then County of Albany now County of Washington and State of New York that he has lived in the same town of Cambridge ever since the revolution and lives there now.

That he was first called into said service as a volunteer in a company of Minute men commanded by Captain James Wells of the said town of Cambridge organized in the autumn of 1774 and drilled and trained for expected service in a regiment of militia commanded by Colonel Lewis Van Woert and he believes in General Ten Broecks Brigade.

That in January or February 1775 he took the rest of the said company and other militia were ordered to Johnstown Montgomery County New York to disarm and disperse a party of Tories who had risen against their country and Sir John Johnson as he believes. That he went in said service through Albany to Johnstown about seventy five miles, helped disarm about three hundred Tories brought the arms and some hostages he thinks to Albany and returned home. That he was engaged in said service he thinks ten days but is not positive having no documents to refer to for information. Thinks a Colonel Schuyler commanded the party but is not positive.

That in May 1775 he was ordered in and with said company to Ticonderoga & Crown Point on Lake Champlain, went on such service under their captain as superior officer till they arrived at Crown Point where they met Colonels Benedict Arnold, Ethan Allen and a Col. Easton or some similar name.

There was a misunderstanding among the Cols. as to their rank and Col. Easton went away.

That he was employed with the rest of the party in the ordinary duties of the Camp scouting cutting timber for cannon carriages on the opposite side of the lake at Chimney Point in gigging old cannon out of the ruins of the old fort and proving said Cannon. That he served at this period two months to the best of his recollection and belief which was the last publick served the said company of minute men did as such.

That about the time the said company of minute men was broken up there was a company of militia in the same beat commanded by Capt. Elias Golden and in the said Col. Van Woert's regiment. That he with John Cooper joined said company and he was in it from about the month of July 1775 to about the first of May 1777 when said Golden left said company, went to New England and out of the service and was strongly suspected of disaffection.

That from July 1775 to March or April 1777 the principal service the said company performed was under the orders of the committee of safety in taking and bringing before the civil authorities Tories who were plotting mischief and communicating information to the enemy, disarming and disfiguring small bands of the disaffected and keep in a new the domestic enemies of the County.

That in this kind of service he was of the engaged for a few days a week or more at a time as times and circumstances required but of which he kept no record and has no documents to which to refer for the length of time he was so employed, but he then estimated the said time he was so in service between the two periods above mentioned to be at least two months and has now no doubt but that is a correct estimate.

That about the tenth of May 1777 and soon after Captain Golden left the neighbourhood Colonel Van Woert ordered the said company to Fort Edward and from thence to Salem in said county of Washington where they picketed in the meeting house which the enemy afterwards burned in said Town. That he was under Col. Van Woerts immediate command. There was no regular officer there unless Capt Joseph McCracken who was there was one. Col. Webster of the Hebron Militia was also there. That he was engaged in this service to the best of his recollection at least three weeks.

That from that time or about the first of June 1777 to the surrender of General Burgoyne in the following October he was almost constantly under arms as a volunteer but not in the last mentioned company as most of the men belonging to it who had families were gone with them to places of more safety and the said company was virtually broken up and he with the few single men who remained joined any party a company against Burgoyne when they could for the time being do the most good and he has no hesitation in saying he was engaged in actual service as such volunteer during said last mentioned period four months.

That on the fourth of April 1778 he was duly commissioned a Captain in Col. Van Woerts regiment and took command of the company in the beat formerly commanded by Captain Golden. That the said commission was signed by George Clinton then Governor of the State of New York & Abraham B. Baniker Secretary and is in said John Whiteside's possession and present here in court.

That during the five years of the war which he acted under said commission he was in actual service only four months a considerable part of which service appears by pay and muster rolls made and sworn to at the time and now in his possession, another part of said four months service to wit about fourteen days was rendered as a number of a court martial for the trial of certain delinquents ordered into service from the regiment commanded by Col. Peter Yates and that commanded by the said Col. Van Woert, and the residue in performing the duties of paymaster to his men.

That one time during said four months service he was stationed at Fort Edward on the Hudson. The said Col. Peter Yates he thinks commanded at the fort, and he believes a remnant of Col. Warners regiment of Continental were then—

At an other time he was ordered and went for Ticonderoga with his company under the immediate command of Gov. George Clinton. That the whole militia of the county were ordered out to intercept and take the party of the enemy which it was reported were removing valuable property of Sir John Johnson and also burning and destroying the property of the inhabitants.

That the most of the militia were discharged by the Governor at Fort George only about sixty men of C9ol. Van Woerts regiment were retained and he the said said [sic] John Whiteside was assigned to the command of them.

That at another time during the said four months service lhe was at Granville with said company or part of it and at various other times as appears by said rolls. That he was never in service as a substitute.

That he never received a discharge in writing from any officer or from any service aforesaid.

That he has no documentary evidence of his services other than that above specified but that he formerly had many other papers which he has no doubt would have been important at this day if persuaded but which he destroyed years ago as useless papers.

That 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.

That there is no clergyman in his neighborhood nor can certify near them about seven miles of his residence & he cannot therefore.

That he does not remember the services of any of the officers who served with the troops where he served nor any continental or militia regiment except as is above specified. (Signed) John Whiteside

Swprn amd sibscribed the day and yea aforesaid J. S. Leigh Clk.