

Pension Application for Major Watson

S.38460

State of New York

St. Lawrence County SS

Major Watson a resident of the Town of Oswegatchie in the County of St. Lawrence and State aforesaid being duly sworn doth depose and say that he this deponent made his declaration in open court before the Court of Common Pleas held in and for the County of St. Lawrence being a court of Record for said County on the seventh day of June 1825, in order to be placed on the Pension List under the acts of the 18th March 1818 and 1 May 1820 –

And in order to assign the reasons why this deponent did not make earlier application for a Pension, doth further depose and say that he was a resident of the Town of Owego [?] aforesaid at the commencement of the last war between the United State[s] of America and Great Britain and had been so resident for upwards of twenty years—

That on the first day of January 1814 this deponent enlisted for one year in the volunteer Rifle company commanded by Captain John Lytle under Maj'r Forsyth's command at Ogdenburgh where Maj'r Forsyth was then stationed—

That this deponent continued to serve in captain Lytles Company until the 22d day of February following when Ogdensburgh was taken by the British forces and this deponent made Prisoner and carried to Canada.

That within a few days after this deponent was taken prisoner, he together with the other Americans captured were sent to Montreal and imprisoned in the goal of that City for four months, when he was sent to Quebec, and there imprisoned in a transport ship—

That about the middle of September this deponent with twenty other American Prisoners were shipped to Halifax and shortly after to Portsmouth in England from whence they were sent to Chatham and put on board a prison ship in that Harbour and detained as hostages—

That they were detained on board of said prison ship until the month of October 1815, when this deponent together with the other Prisoners were sent home to the United States in a cartel, and landed at Norfolk on this 23d of February 1816, -- proceeded to Baltimore and was there paid off.

That this deponent shortly after his arrival at Baltimore was taken sick of a fever and was unable to do any thing for eleven months, when having expended all his money, he endea[vored] to work his way home on the St. Lawrence –

That in the month of March 1817 on his way home, he this deponent found employment in the Town of Hunter in the County of Greene in the State of New York, in getting lumber, and was for three years engaged in that business and the greater part of the time in the woods.

That his employed [employer?] then failing an absconding, and not received payment of his wages, this deponent engaged to work in a glass factory and never received any information and had no knowledge of the Law granting Pensions for

Revolutionary services until the month of April 1824, when he was informed of it at Catskill in said Country of Greene—

That this deponent then determined to return to the County of St. Lawrence soon as he could and make application to be placed on the Pension list—

That he arrived at his former residence in the Town of Oswegatchie in the month of May 1825 and made his application at the first court thereafter.

That this deponent is poor and has had no property since his return in the cartel. (Signed) Major Watson

Sworn and subscribed before me this 23d day of November 1826 and I do certify that I am acquainted with said major Watson, have known him for many years & that he is a man of truth & credibility. Thos Hill