

**Pension Application for John Yerks**

S.23502

State of New York

County of WestChester SS.

Be it known that on this ninth day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty three personally appeared before me Edward Kenneys one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for aathe said County of the degree of counsellor in the Supreme Court of the said State, John Yerks a resident of Mount Pleasant in the said County aged seventy four years who being my me first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath depose and say that he is the identical John Yerks in the annexed declaration for a pension named and who made the same in manner form and effect as is therein mentioned and set forth, and that the same is in all respects true. And further deponent said not. (Signed with his mark) John Yerks

Sworn to and subscribed this 9<sup>th</sup> day of January 1833 before me.

Edward Kenneys one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in & for WestChester County

Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

State of New York

County of WestChester SS

On this third day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty two personally appeared in open court before the Surrogate of the Surrogate Court of said County and State now sitting, John Jerks, a resident of the Town of Mount Pleasant in the said County, aged seventy four 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 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated; that is to say, he entered the service as a volunteer in the militia of the State of New York on or about the first of March in the year 1776 for the term of nine months in the company commanded by Captain William Dutcher and was attached to the Regiment commanded by Colonel Drake.

That at the time he enlisted as aforesaid he resided in the said County of WestChester; that he enlisted at Tarrytown in said County, and thereupon immediately marched with said Company to Fort Independence in the southern part of said County and was employed in constructing said fort which was not at that time completed. That there was a considerable body of Troops at the fort when he arrived there but he cannot now state what Regiment or Regiments were there; that he was stationed at said fort until, about the first of September following, when the Regiment to which he belonged, and he along with it marched to Dolbs Ferry on the banks of the Hudson River in said County about twenty miles north of Fort Independence; that he was stationed at said Dolbs [Dobb's] Ferry from that time until the Battle at White Plains in said County when he marched with his regiment to Peekskill about twenty

miles north of said Dolbs ferry and was stationed there until the expiration of said term of nine months and was honorably discharged at said Peekskill some time in the month of December 1776; but does not now recollect he received a written discharge or not.

That he again entered the service of the United States in the militia in the State of New York as a volunteer some time in the Month of March in the year 1777 at Philipsburgh now, town of Mount Pleasant, for the term of three months in the company commanded by Captain Sybert acker who was then a militia captain and who raised a company of volunteers for the purpose of serving on the lines in said County. That he faithfully served out said term of three months in active service and was quartered at Peter Vantassel's and at Cornelius Vantassel in said county.

That he was discharged at Sing Sing at the expiration of said term of three months which was some time in the month of June 1777 he did not receive a written discharge.

That some time in the month of February 1778 he again entered the service of the United States as a volunteer for the term of nine months in a company of rangers commanded by Captain Gilbert Dean; that said Company was raised for the purpose of guarding the lines in said County; that it was stationed during said term, at Youngs house and at Dutchess house and at Ackers house all in said County, and on, or near the American lines in said County--:

That some time in the month of July in said term he was in an expedition sent into the southern part of said County, against the British and had a skirmish with them at Tuckyho in said County in which skirmish he was wounded in the thigh; that at the expiration of said term he was honorably discharged from said service at Tarry town in said County.

That the Regiment of Militia of the County of Westchester and State of New York under the command of Lieutenant Colonel James Hammond was called into the service of the United States for the term of one year commencing sometime in the month of May 1779 and ending some time in the month of May 1780. That said Regiment served the said term of one year in the County of WestChester guarding the lines. That he belonged during the said year to the company of Militia in the said County, Commanded by Captain Jesse Baker and Regiment commanded by Lieutenant Colonel James Hammond, that he faithfully served the said year commencing some time in the month of May 1779 and ending some time in the month of May 1780, in the company of Militia commanded by said Captain Jess Baker in the regiment commanded by said Lieutenant Colonel James Hammond and was at the Expiration thereof honorably discharged at Philipsburgh now town of Mount Pleasant in the said County of WestChester. That he was stationed a part of the said year at Bedford in the said County and part of it at Philipsburgh in said County; that the said Regiment was called into the service of the same year, for the purpose of guarding the lines and protecting the inhabitants as the British troops almost constantly making inroads into the said County, from the City of New York and from their lines in the southern part of said county.

And the declarant further states that he assisted in the detention of Major Andre the British spy, immediately after his capture as is set forth in the annexed petition to Congress.

That he was born in the year 1758 in the County of WestChester and has always lived in said County; that his age is recorded in the church book of the Dutch Reformed Church in Tarrytown in said County; that he entered the service as herein before set forth that he always served as a private and does not recollect that he ever received a written discharge from the service, that he does not now recollect the names of any of the Continental officers with whom he served; that he knew several in the time of the revolution; but their names he does not now recollect; that there were but a few Continental troops in the places he served, as the troops on the lines in said County of WestChester at such times were principally militia.

That he has no documentary evidence and knows of no persons whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his service, other than those whose affidavits are hereto annexed.

That the names of the persons to whom he is known in his present neighborhood and who can testify as to his character for veracity are Henry Angevine and Jonathan Hatfield.

He hereby relinquishes very 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 with his mark) John Yerks

Sworn to and subscribed this 3d day of September 1832 before me. Jonathan Ward Surrogate.

Letter in folder dated February 14, 1932, written in response to an inquiry.

Reference is made to your letter relative to John Yerks, a soldier of the Revolutionary War.

The data furnished herein are obtained from the papers on file in pension claim, R.23503, based upon the Revolutionary War service of John Yerks.

He was born in 1758 in Westchester County, New York. His age was recorded on the books of the Dutch Reformed Church in Tarrytown, Westchester County, New York.

While residing in said Westchester County, New York, he enlisted and served as a private with the New York troops, as follows—from March 1, 1776, nine months in Captain William Dutcher's company in Colonel Drake's regiment, and helped to build Fort Independence; from sometime in March 1777, three months in Captain Sybert acker's company; from sometime in February 1778, nine month sin Captain Gilbert Dean's Company of Rangers, in an expedition against the British, and in a skirmish at "Tuckyho", where he was wounded in the thigh; from sometime in May 1779, one year in Captain Jesse Baker's company in Colonel James Hammon's regiment, guarding the lines; in the fall of 1780 he assisted in the capture of Major Andre.

He was allowed pension on his application executed September 3, 1832, then a resident of Mount Pleasant, Westchester County, New York.

There is no reference to wife or children.