

Pension Application for Thomas Adams

S.11949

Declaration in order to be restored to the Pension list under the act of March 1st 1823.

State of New York

County of Monroe SS.

On this twenty fifth day of march in the year one thousand eight hundred and twenty nine personally appeared in open court being a court of record for the County of Monroe aforesaid, Thomas Adams, resident in said county aged sixty seven years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the provision made by the act of Congress of the 18th of March 1818, and the 1st of May 1820.

That he the said Thomas Adams enlisted for the term of nine months on the nineteenth day of July in the year one thousand seventy [?] and seventy nine (according to the best remembrance of the said Thomas) in the state of Massachusetts in the company commanded by Captain Nathan Decks in the redgment [regiment] commanded by Colonel [blank] Weston, being the ninth redgement of the line in Massachusetts on the Continental Establishment, that he continued to serve in the said corps until the nineteenth day of April one thousand seven hundred and eighty when he was discharged forma the service at West Point, in the State of New York, that he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except the present, that his name has been placed on the pension list, that the number of his pension certificate is 11,279 and that he never exhibited a discharge of his property to his remembrance, that he has neglected to make application to be restored to the pension list to this time because he has [???] from frequent channels of information, and until quite lately had given up all idea from receiving anything more from the government being ignorant of the Laws passed on the subject.

And in pursuance of the act of the first of May 1820 I do solemnly swear, that I was a resident citizen of the United States on the eighteenth day of March 1818, and that I have not since that time by gift, sale, or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof, with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress, entitled "an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval services of the United States in the revolutionary war", passed on the eighteenth day of march 1828, and that I have not, nor has any persons in trust for me, any property or securities, contracts, or debts due to me, nor have I any income.

That since the 18th of March 1818, the following changes have been made in my property.

That I do not recollect, that I never at any time made any exhibits of my property, but at or about that time, I was the owner of about eight acres of land, which, was then new and lying in the county aforesaid, and that on the twenty third day of May 1823, I sold the land aforesaid to my two sons. Thomas Adams Junior and [Hzetas?] Adams, in consideration that they had and would assist in my support &

maintenance, that the land at the time of the sale, and went about the sum of fifteen dollars per acre.

That I have one son living with me, aged sixteen years, that I have a wife, and that I and myself reside with; my sons above named.

My son Thomas is twenty five years old, and my son Hzetas twenty four, they both live on and cullivate [cultivate] the land above described, and in moderate circumstances in point of property—I am a farmer but have never been able to pursue the occupation for six or seven years last past, that my sons have hitherto supported me and paid for my expades of sickness, though illy able so to do, and am now in such indigent circumstances as to be unable to support myself without the assistance of my country. And I the said Thomas say that I have not now, nor have I had since my first application for a pension, any personal property, with the exception of my wearing apparel. (Signed) Thomas Adams

Sworn and declared I open court before the Judges thereof, this twenty first day of March 1829. William Grover, Clerk of Monroe County.

State of New York
Monroe CountySS.

On this 5th day of October 1832 personally appeared in open court before James Smith, Peter Price & Samuel Castle; Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in & for the said County, a court having a seal & Clerk, Thomas Adams of the Town of Rega in the County and State aforesaid aged seventy one years (and upwards) who first being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act passed the 7th of June 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States at the respective times and under the circumstances following viz.

That in the spring of the year 1775 residing in the Town of Lexington, County of Middlesex and State of Massachusetts there was an alarum [alarm] & a requisition for the militia to assist in driving the British out of Boston, when said applicant volunteered Y attached himself to a company commanded by Captain Daniel Hirrington, (the names of the Lieut & Ensign he does not recollect nor the Rigiment [Regiment] of the officers thereof. He with his company (after be volunteered) marched to Roxbury where they were engaged in guarding the Fort, while others of the Fort were employed in making fortifications at Dorchester Point—he was here employed only three weeks the British having evacuated Boston, and that too, without any engagement.

That in May or June which said applicant cannot now recollect in the year 1776 he enlisted at the Town of Lexington aforesaid, in the United States service as a private for the term of six months, into a company commanded by Captain Minor of the ?Town of Lincoln—the other officers of said company he does not recollect, and served in a Rigament [Regiment] of the Militia Line as he thinks—the officers of the Rigiment he cannot recollect—after his enlistment they marched to Dorcester Point, which is about fourteen miles from Lexington; here the said applicant (with the others

of his company) was engaged in what was called fatigue parties in repairing what was then called Castle Williams, upon Castle Island, about two miles from Dorchester Point—this Castle was blown up by the British within two or three days after they evacuated Boston in 1776

That nothing of importance or an historical nature transpired during the said six months of his service. That when his time had expired he was dismissed by his Captain at Dorchester which was sometime in the fall, but the month he cannot state—he received no written Discharge of his service—that this company who were all six months men was paraded and the captain appeared before them, & told the company they were dismissed.

Said applicant returned to his residence in Lexington & in the fall of 1777 the particular time he cannot now recollect he volunteered at the said Town of Lexington to go upon and expedition against General Burgoyne who was descending the North River from Canada with his Army—the company in which said applicant belonged was composed of volunteers & commanded by Captain Tarrer of the Town of Lincoln,—the other officers of his company he does not recollect—the Colonel of the Regiment was Brook, his Christian name, he does not recollect—Lieut Col. William Monroe--& Adj't Wood—are all of the other officers of said Regiment who he now recollects. After he volunteered as aforesaid said applicant and his Company, marched to old Concord & there joined his Regiment—the next day they took up the line of their march to intercept General Burgoyne upon his descent on the North River—passing through the Towns of Pepperle & Hoosack, in the state of Massachusetts, Burrington in State of Vermont & Cambridge was he thinks in the State of New York to a place called Battenkill opposite to Saratoga on the East side of the North River—he does not recollect the other Towns or places through which they marched, other than those stated—the country being very new through which they passed—they were about fifteen day son the march before they arrived at Battenkill, as near as said applicant can recollect—here they joined the American Troops on the East side of the River, who with the Troops on the Wet Side formed a circle around General Burgonynes [Burgoyne's] Army who were encamped upon Saratoga heights, within about Gun Shot of the Troops on the west side of the River—thus the American & British Armies lay (nothing being done by either) until about Seventh day after their arrival & the 17th day of October, when the enemy by their General marched down to the River grounded their arms & surrendered themselves prisoners of war—

They were marched [this part crossed out. *Over to the East Side of the River, where said applicants Regiment, went as a gard with about one half the Prisoners*] by the Regular Troops on the West Side of the River to Stillwater, where they were crossed to the East Side—here said applicant's Regiment (having marched on the east side) took about one half of the Prisoners & guarded them to Prospect Hill near Boston & Charlestown in the State of Massachusetts, their march back was not by the same rout as they came from Lexington – but by the way of Greenbush in the State of New York – from thence to Pittsfield in the State of Massachusetts thence to Worcester, & from thence to Prospect Hill—these are the only places he can recollect this which they

marched back—the whole length of time which said applicant spent in said Expedition from the time he marched from Lexington aforesaid to his return was thirty seven days. The American Generals in Command, at Battenkill & Saratoga, were General Gates & Starkes—Gates succeeded General Arnold, previous to his arrival here at Prospect Hill said applicant continued with his company & regiment as a guard of said Prisoners for the term of three months being discharged sometime the last of Marched [March] 1778. The Regiment was stationed at Cambridge Fort No 2 being about a mile distance from Prospect Hill—they were discharged at Cambridge in the state of Massachusetts—by their Captain by the word of mouth.

The said applicant again in the forepart of the month of July 1778, the day of said month he cannot state volunteered at the said town of Lexington as a private in the Militia service of the United States for the term of six months—said applicant was enrolled at the Town of [Swansey?] in the State of Rhode Island [Rhode Island] in a company commanded by Captain Smith, Lieut. Hartwell – the other officers of the company he does not recollect—officers of the Company he does not recollect—the only officers of the Regiment which said applicant recollects is the name of the Colonel, which was Jacobs—after said applicants enlistment, he was taken sick & confined about a fortnight & his company marched to Swansey without him—where he joined it soon after—

The next day after said applicant joined his company, they crossed the River (which he believes was Taunton) by Swansey Terys to the Island at Newport in the said State of Rhode Island. The object of the crossing was to join the American Troops at their Fort at what was called Quakers Hill on the Island and march against the British who were encamped at a Fort called either MaDomine or Matomine near Newport Harbar [harbor] also on said Island—they marched down within about a mile of the British Fort when the enemy was reinforced by Troops which were landed about the night before the American Troops crossed over to the Island. Here were encamped about twenty thousand of the American Troops; most of them Militia commanded by Generals Sullivan & Cornell—they did not remain encamped here, but a day or two, before it was rumoured, that Colonel Green, had been as a spy to the British camp & ascertained their strength & movements—on his return the troops were called out just before the beat of the Tatum & 1500 men selected out of the several Companies for a covering guard to the Picket Guard which was selected in the morning to cover them in their guarding the main army in its retreat to Butts Hill, about eight miles from the encampment—

There were seven including said applicant selected out of his company—the Lieutenant & six privates—after the Picket Guard were stationed, the main Army took up its retreat -- soon after the beat of the Tatum of the same evening the Picket Guard was attacked by the enemy—a retreating fire commenced by the Picket and covering guard and continued with a considerable effect upon the enemy until they had retreated near to Butts Hill when a signal was given to retreat to a Redout [Redoubt] near by the retreating guard where was concealed a number of the American Troops—here with this force they engaged the enemy and compelled him to give back—soon as

it became dark the enemy made safe his retreat, as well also the Picket & Covering Guard & the other Troops at the Redoubt to the main Army at Bulls Hill—the next night the main Army continued its retreat by the way of Howlands Ferry to the mainland to a Fort commanded by General Cornelle—two only of the seven (of which said applicant was one) reached the main army in said—the others were killed—at the Fort to which they retreated as aforesaid said applicant remained the residue of his said six months, when said applicant and his company were discharged in the month of December by his Colonel—Jacobs—he received no written discharge.

After said applicant was thus discharged he returned to his residence, the said Town of Lexington where in the month of July 1779 he again enlisted for the term of nine months & enrolled in a company commanded [by] Captain Nathan Decks & Lieut Welch the other officers of said Company he does not recollect—and served in the 9th Regiment of Regular Troops or Continental line, commanded by Col. Wesson of Brooklyn near Boston—the other officers of said Regiment he does not recollect – they were marched from the place of his enlistment through Worcester, Springfield, Litchfield & from thence to West Point in the State of New York—here they were stationed & employed in Guarding & repairing the Fort during the whole of his said term of nine months—nothing of importance to his recollection during the said term—said applicant was discharged on the 19th of April 1780 on the East side of the Hudson river opposite to West Point—he was discharged by his captain Nathan Dicks—but received no written Discharge.

That he has no documentary evidence of his said terms of service—and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure; who can testify to his services.

That said applicant was placed upon the Pension roll under the act of the 18th of March 1818, in pursuance of an application made by him sometime in the, in pursuance of an application made by him sometime in the forepart of the summer 1819 the particular time he cannot state—that he then resided in the said Town of Rega then County of Genesee, but now [?] that the date of his Pension Certificate is 3d June 1819 & number 11,279 that he has been struck from said Pension Roll on account of property.

And hereupon the said Court aforesaid propounded and put the respective Interrogatories as prescribed by the War Department under the Act of the 7th of June 1832 to the said applicant, who upon his oath aforesaid makes answer thereunto as follows viz—

To the 1st he says he was born in the Town of Woburn County of Middlesex in the State of Massachusetts in the month of November, the year he cannot recollect—but he has kept his age in his mind and recollect, that he will be seventy two years of age in the month of November next.

To the 2^d He says, that he has no record of his age in his possession, but believes, there is one in the Town of his birth aforesaid.

To the 3^d & 4th He says—That he entered the service as a volunteer under this first term of service—he enlisted under the second—his third and fourth terms were as a volunteer & his fifth & last term he enlisted—That said applicant was living at the

respective times he entered the service as aforesaid at the Town of Lexington County of Middlesex & State of Massachusetts—that since the Revolutionary War he has lived in the said town of Lexington in the Town of Goshen & County of Berkshire, in the Town of Hinddale also in the said County of Berkshire in the said State of Massachusetts & in the Town of Rega County of Monroe & State of New York where he now lives.

To the 5th He says that the names of either the Regular officers who were with the Troops where he served or those of the Militia; in addition to those herein before given, so far as he now can recollect are Col. Jackson of the City of Boston & Col Jackson of the Town of New town & Capt Varnum, who were Regular Officers at West Point at the time of his service of his said nine months—that he does not recollect the number of any Regimen other than the one in which he last served, which was the 9th of the Regular Troops—nor can he state further the general circumstances of his service, than as herein stated.

To the 6th He says that he never received any written Discharge of his said services.

To the 7th He says that the names of the person to whom he is known in his present neighbourhood and as he believes can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolutionary War—are Elihu Church, Ebenezer Clark, George Richmond, Billings Richmond, Enos Morse, Ichabod Sprague, Samuel Baldwin, Oliver Ide, Nehemiah Frost & others.

And the said applicant hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declare that his name as a person in the receipt of a pension is not on the Pension Roll of the agency of any State. (Signed) Thomas Adams
Sworn & Subscribed to the day & year aforesaid. J. Cutter, Dept. Clerk.