

Pension Application for Isaac Christeyance

S.28678

State of New York

County of Schenectady SS.

On this second day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-two personally appeared before me Elvid L. Davis one of the Justices of the Peace in and for said County, Isaac Christeyance, a resident of the City of Schenectady in said County aged seventy seven years and upwards, 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 7th 1832.

That he was born on the 1st day of January 1755 in the then township now City of Schenectady aforesaid. He has no record of his age except that contained in the Register of Baptisms in the possession of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of said city.

Since his birth he has all the time been a resident of Schenectady aforesaid.

He entered the service of the United States in the army of the revolution under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

In the summer of the year 1775, he entered the company of "minute men" (raised by the continental congress) and commanded by Captain John Mynderse. Besides this company there was only one other company of minute men which was under the command of Captain Jellis (J.) Fonda. The former was called "the Blues" & the latter "the Greens" from the color of their uniforms. The names of the other officers in John Mynderse's Company were Lawrence Mynderse & James H. Peck Lieutenants, & Abraham J. Truax, Ensign.

He continued to serve in said Company of minute men until the spring of the year 1777, when said minute company was disbanded and Captain Mynderse & the other officers above named took the command of a company of Militia in Colonel Abraham Wemple's Regiment; and the claimant then continued to serve in said company of Captain Mynderse until the end of the revolutionary war.

Schenectady was constantly threatened with incursions from the tories & the Indians who on several occasions came within a few miles of the place. The services of the militia of Colonel Wemple's Regiment aforesaid were therefore inconstant requisition to guard the place. By order of the government it was surrounded with pickets, and a fortress and military works of defence were erected. That portion of said militia who were not out for the time being on distant expeditions were divided into classes who took turns by night as well as by day to guard this place. From the very nature of this service and the anxiety & confusion incident to those troublous times, it is now impossible for him to specify the particular periods of his services as such guard, but he is certified that they in the whole exceeded six months.

The principal expeditions in which he engaged as near as he can recollect them were as follows.

In the latter part of the year 1775 and the beginning of the year 1776, he was out with his company under command of Generals Schuyler and TenBroeck to Johnstown to attempt the capture of Sir John Johnson & his 300 tenants & dependants, who however surrendered themselves prisoners of war. He was out on this expedition nearly three weeks.

In the summer of the year 1776, he was with 30 others (some of whom were from this company) ordered to Ticonderoga landing & he remained there & at Ticonderoga nearly three months in erecting stone houses & aided in the building of boats for the use of the American Army. He was then under the command of Captains Jacob Vrooman & David Canew.

He was in the service in the summer and fall of the year 1777 for the term of two months and two weeks previous to and at the time of the surrender of Burgoyne and his army. He was during that period in camp at Fort Miller, Fort Ann, and Fort Edward & at what was turned the half way camp between Fort Ann & Fort Edward.

Previous to any encounter with Burgoyne, it being reported that his troops were approaching, the claimant volunteered with a party of 300 militia and regular forces to impede their progress. They overtook the enemy and had an engagement with them at or near Snookkill or Pine Creek. The American troops then retreated & continued to skirmish in their retreat to the American camp. He was also in the battle near Stillwater on the 19 Sept 1777.

In the year 1778, he performed garrison duty for more than three weeks at the upper fort in Schoharie under the command of Captain Fink. In the year 1779, he was with a detachment of militia engaged in guarding the German Flatts for about three weeks. At Germantown he aided in guarding the farmers who were bringing in their harvest. Captain Mynderse was with him on this occasion. He has also assisted in guarding Fort Clyde (situated near German Flatts aforesaid), for about two weeks.

He has several times performed garrison duty at Fort Hunter—the occasions he cannot now recollect, nor yet for how long a period. He also performed garrison duty on one occasion at Fort Paris in Stone Arabia for the term of three weeks.

In the fall of the year 1780, he marched with a detachment of militia to Ballston after it was burnt by the enemy, & pursued them in company with 50 men, as far as Kayaderosseras Kill. He was out in this last expedition about three weeks. He has on many occasions under Command of Capt. Abraham VanEps and other militia officers ranged the woods in search of sundry tories who were known to carry intelligence to the enemy.

In addition to his service of two years in Captain John Mynderse's company of Minute men as aforesaid, he is certain that he has performed actual service in the militia from the summer of the year 1777 to the termination of said war in different short terms exceeding in the whole twenty four months, or two years.

The following are the names of some of the regular officers whom he knew, or who were with the troops where he served, and such continental and militia regiment or companies with which he served, or as he can recollect, viz: General Arnold, General Gates, General Schuyler, besides those whose names are herein before given.

He never received any written discharge from the service.

He has no documentary evidence, and knows of no persons whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service, except those whose depositions accompany this declaration.

The following are the names of person to whom he is known in his present neighborhood, and who can testify as to his character for veracity, and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution, to wit: [blank]

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. (Signed with his mark) Isaac Christeyance

Subscribed and sworn to the day and year first aforesaid before me. Elvid L. Davis, Justice of the Peace.