

Pension Application for John Cooper

W.17659 Widow: Lydia. Married December 14, 1780, in the Protestant Reformed Cutch Church of Schaghticoke in the County of Rensselaer in the State of New York. John died September 13, 1832. John served as a private, sergeant, lieutenant and a captain.

State of New York

Washington County SS.

On this 29th day of August 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas at the Court House in the town of Salem now sitting John Cooper a resident of the town of White Creek in County of Washington and State of New York aged eighty 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 at Octarara in the County of York, he thinks, 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 as he believes and present here in court.

That he lived when called into the military service in the war of the revolution in the town of Cambridge County of Washington (Then County of Albany) and State of New York that he has lived in the same town part of the time since the Revolutionary War and part of the time in the town of White Creek (formerly a part of the said town of Cambridge) and that he lives in the said town of White Creek now.

That he was first called into such service as a volunteer in a company of minute men commanded by Col. Lewis VanWoert and he believes in General Ten Broeck's Brigade.

That in January or February 1775 he was ordered in said company with other militia to Johnstown Montgomery County New York to disarm and disperse a part of Highland Tories who had risen under Sir John Johnson as he believes—That he went in said service, helped to disarm about three hundred of the tories and returned. Went to Johnstown through Albany and up the Mohawk River about seventy five miles march. That he was engaged in such service about ten or twelve days and believes a Col. Schuyler commanded the party.

That in the Spring of 1775 latter part of April or first of May as eh believes he was ordered in and with said party to Ticonderoga, Crown Point, & St. Johns on Lake Champlain to meet Col. Arnold and Allen. That they marched under their Captain to Crown Point where they met Col. Benedict Arnold, Eathan Allen & a Col. Easton he thinks.

The Colonels quarreled about rank and Easton went away. That he was employed in the ordinary duties of the camp and part of the time as a carpenter hewing and preparing timber for Cannon Carriages and other uses and cutting timber from Chimney Point on the East side of the lake.—That he served at this station and at the above time two months.

That about the first of March or last of February 1776 he enlisted in a company of New York Levies as state line troops commanded by Captain Robert Edmondsston and in the regiment commanded by Col. -----VanSchaick—That he enlisted as second [serjeant] sergeant in said company and served as such during the campaign.

That he served as a recruiting officer for some time after his enlistment and till the said company was filled.—That the latter part of April or first of May he thinks he marched from Albany up the Hudson River to the lakes George & Champlain to meet General Montgomery's army then retreating from Canada.—That Col. VanSchaick did not go on with them but Col. Peter (he thinks) Gansevoort commanded the regiment on the march up and indeed till he got back to Fishkill on the Hudson then he things Col. Schuyler took the command.

That they went as far as somewhere between St. Johns & La Prairie & began to meet that part of the American Army which retreated by the lakes in small parties and halted and waited till it was

necessary for all to retreat then retreated from time to time to Ticonderoga thence by Lake George to Fort George at which place he with the said regiment arrived the fifteenth day of July.

That he lay at Fort George till some time in the fall of 1776 then the regiment left there and marched to Fish creek and stayed there till late in the fall or beginning of winter and then were marched to Albany and there billeted out in different places till after Christmas when he with the rest of the said company was discharged without writing.

That from that time to the time he was enrolled in Captain John Whitesides Company in the spring of 1778 he was a scout or Indian spy early in the spring of 1777 and about the month of May went by the order of Col. Lewis Van Woert to Fort Edward and from there was ordered to Salem in said county of Washington when he helped picket the fort around the meeting house in that place which was afterwards burned by the enemy and was three weeks in that service, then he was a volunteer in service principally as a scout till the middle of July when he took his brother Williams place in the company of Batteauxmen commanded by Captain VanAvery & employed transporting provisions & munitions from Albany up the Hudson to Gen. Gates army and other posts in which service he continued as boat or batteau man or otherwise till after the first of January 1778 when he was discharged without writing and was in actual service during said year at least eight months.

That in the spring of 1778 he became a member of a company of militia in Colonel Lewis VanWoerts regiment commanded by Captain John Whiteside. That he was in actual service in said company at Ticonderoga and on the march there and back fifteen days under the immediate command of Governor George Clinton on his expedition to that place but at what particular time he does not positively recollect.

That he was in 1778 in service in said company on an alarm from Saratoga three days.

That from the 27th to the 30th March 1780 inclusive he was in actual service on an alarm from Fort Edward.

That he was in actual service in said company at Ticonderoga from the 28th May to the 7th June, 1780 inclusive eleven days—and in the same year he was in such actual service in said company from the 11th to 14th of October inclusive four days in an alarm from Fort Edward.

That the same year he was in actual service in said company from the 27th of October to the 2^d of November inclusive seven days at Granville in said County of Washington.

That in 1778 he was eight days in actual service in said company about the middle of November and served as Lieutenant thereof.

That the seven last preceding tours of duty he performed in Captain John Whitesides company as appears by the pay and muster rolls of the same service in the possession of the said John Whiteside and which the said John Cooper has examined and believes count.

That from the time he joined Capt. Whitesides Company for three years thereafter he was in actual service as a volunteer in any party that was going out, in any scouting party which was needed or in any service which could be beneficial to his country and verily believes and has no doubt that he was during that period in actual service over and above that stated above more than one third of the time but under what particular officers he cannot now recollect and that he often times had the command of a party assigned to him.

That there were part of the campaign of 1776 above mentioned some continental officers with them but he does not recollect their names except one who he believes was a continental a General De Wolff who died at Fort George and was buried with great pomp the twenty ninth day of July that year.

That early in the year 1781 he was enrolled in a company in a regiment commanded by Colonel Joseph Caldwell, James Lowden was then the Major and afterwards in the same year John McClung was appointed Major. At this time the territory or State of Vermont claimed the said town of Cambridge was within her jurisdiction and organized the militia accordingly. – That he the said John Cooper was soon

chosen Lieutenant of said company and on the 1st day of August following was duly elected captain and took the command of it as such.

That he acted as such to the end of the military service or war and did considerable actual service but how much he is not able to state but there was not so much then to do in that section as in former years.

That whether his commissions either of them ever reached him or not he cannot positively say. He cannot find them among any of his old papers nor any proof of the fact relating thereto except the [imputed] papers hereto annexed which are in the hand writing of the persons whose names are subscribed thereto and were made at the time and for the purposes therein specified.

That he believes verily that he was in actual service as captain as aforesaid all of three months.

That he never received any writing discharging him from the service.

That he has no documentary evidence other than that above specified and knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services other than is specified in the affidavits annexed.

That there is no clergyman in his neighborhood who can certify for him as required by law and account of the last time they have resided in his neighbourhood not being more than one year.

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) John Cooper

Sworn and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid. J. S. Leigh Clk.