

## **Pension Application for James Harris**

R.4658

Declaration. In order to obtain the benefits of the Act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

State of New York

Otsego County SS.

In this 19<sup>th</sup> day of February 1833 personally appeared before James C. Walworth Esqr one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of the said County of Otsego it being a court of record James Harris a resident of the town of New Lisbon in said county of Otsego and state of New York aged eighty three years last July who being duly sworn according to law and doth on his oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit [benefit] of the act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1833.

That he was born in the town of Bedford in the County of Westchester and State of New York in the year 1749 in the month of July that he first entered the service of the United States in the year 1776 in the month of August at the town of Bedford in the County of Westchester and state of New York he volunteered in the company of Captain Flemings and Col. Daniel McDonald's Regiment of State Militia and was mustered and appointed first Sergeant in said company and was marched soon after to the Battle at White Plains but did not arrive there until a few hours after the Battle was over and was stationed on East Shore of the Hudson River in guarding the inhabitants against British and Tories scouting parties until late in the fall and was then marched back to Bedford and verbally discharged by Col. McDaniel & then again was called out in the year 1777 as first sergeant in the same Captain Fleming Company and kept guard [guard] for as much as three months or more but from his extreme old age, and the consequent loss of memory he cannot state all the particulars and was verbally discharged by his Captain Fleming.

Then again in the year 1778 or 1779 he served in Captain Flemings Company of State Militia and served as a sergeant for 4 or 5 months a keeping guard to prevent the British plundering parties from conveying [conveying?] up from New York City and Kings Bridge and plundering the inhabitants at the town of North Castle, they took a small party of the enemies plundering party, prisoners there was nine of them and put them into Dutchess County jail and this declarant obtained from them for his share a good musket & cartridge [cartridge] box and boyonett [bayonet] and his captain afterward claimed three muskets wrongfully took it from him.

Then again in the year 1780 at the town of Bedford aforesaid he was frequently called out as a sergeant in the company of Captain Fleming and served for a term of not less than four months a guarding the shores of Hudson River from the incursions of enemy's scouting and plundering parties from landing from the British Vessels then in that river & the CowBoys from stealing their cattle from the inhabitants.

Then again in the year 1781 served in the same company and on the same duty for a term of not less than three months and was under the same officers and was

discharged and returned home he then invaded into the Town of Stephentown in the County of Rensselaer and sate of New York.

Then again in the year 1782 he in the town of Stephentown aforesaid he volunteered into Captain John W. Samerhorn's [Schemerhorn?] company and Col. Abraham Scamerhorn's Regiment of New York State Militia as a private and marched through Albany and Schenectady to Fort Hunter and Fort Plank on the Mohawk River had a skirmish with them and Indians took some prisoners and some property and this deponent had a fine British officers hat and feather for his share and took it home with him this service was not less than five months and was then verbally discharged by his Captain and then returned home.

And that since the war he has lived in the town of Nassau formerly Stephentown in the County of Rensselaer and for 16 years past he has lived in town New Lisbon in the County of Otsego where he now resides.

And that he never received a written discharge from any officer and never served as a substitute for any other person.

And that he knows of no Documentary evidence to prove his service nor no living witness except his daughter Elizabeth Marks.

And that there is no Clergyman residing in his neighborhood and that he from bodily infirmities is unable to attend the courts.

And that Solomon Davis and Bathiah Church are his neighbors and can testify to his general character for truth and veracity and their belief of his services in Revolutionary War in the neighborhood where he resides.

He this deponent hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension rolls of the agency of any state.

And that he has no record of his age in his Bible in his possession.

And he further saith from old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods in [?] before for one year and five months. I served as a sergeant for five months I served as private and for such services I claim Pension. (Signed) James Harris.

Subscribed and sworn the day and year first aforesaid.

Subscribed and sworn this 19<sup>th</sup> day of February 1833, before me James C. Waldorth a Judge of Otsego County Courts.