

Pension Application for Alvan Lyon

R.6552

State of New York

Westchester County SS

On this fifth day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty two personally appeared in open court before the Court of Common pleas in and for the said County of Westchester now sitting at White Plains in the said County of Westchester, Alvan Lyon, a resident of the Town of York Town in the said County of Westchester aged seventy one (on the 2nd day of December Inst.) 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 entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

That is to say in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy seven he is declarant lived with his father Benjamin Lyon in the Town of White Plains In the said County of Westchester.

That his father & himself & his three brothers belonged to the party called Whigs and had taken an active interest in the cause of Independence. That after the battle of White Plains, the Country about White Plains was very much exposed to the marauding parties of the enemy and became so unsafe that his father himself, Brothers, & Family were obliged to abandon their home in White Plains aforesaid and in the spring of the aforesaid (year) removed to Crumpond in the Northern part of the said County of Westchester. That this Declarant was living at Crum Pond aforesaid in the month of January one thousand seven hundred seventy eight and was in that month enrolled in a company of Militia commanded by Cap'n Henry Strang of Crum Pond aforesaid in Col. Samuel Drakes Regiment of Militia in the said County of Westchester and was immediately appointed a Sergeant in said Company and acted as such in said company till the close of the Revolutionary War.

That this declarant was called out by his said Captain and engaged—constantly either under the orders of his said Captain (or as a volunteer) in Guarding the American Lines and out Posts in that vicinity. That there was a large number of Whig Inhabitants living at and near Crumpond aforesaid who had been obliged to quit their homes in the lower part of the said County of Westchester and were obliged to defend themselves their property, and the surrounding country from parties of the enemy that came from the lower part of said County. That so exposed was this Declarants situation that he was compelled to carry his gun with him wherever he went even into the fields when he attempted to work on the land for fear of a surprise from the enemy.

That in this manner this declarant was compelled to serve and go armed till the close of the Revolutionary War. That the said Regiment of Col. Samuel Drake belonged upon what was then termed Cortlandt's Manor composing the present Towns of Cortland, YorkTown and Somers and were obliged to Guard the American Lines and out Post along the Croton River in the said county from the month of Croton where

there was a Continental Detachment to Pines Bridge where occasionally there was a subalterns Guard of Continentals leaving a Distance of about eight Miles of the American Lines between those two Posts to be guarded by the Militia Men living In that vicinity that this declarant lived about one mile north of the Croton River upon the lines about Midway between the aforesaid Continental Guards where there was a fording place in the Croton River called Lounsbury's ford much resorted to by the enemy when going above the River to plunder or harass the Inhabitants—

That this Declarant being a sergeant in his aforesaid company of Militia was exposed to almost constant service in his said company or with a Detachment of his said Company in small parties on scouts or Guard.

That this declarant served in his said company of Militia and in volunteer parties under arms as a Sergeant in said Company in actual Service in the years 1778, 1779, 1780, 1781, & 1782 at least six months in each of the aforesaid years and a good portion of that service was on Guard in the night time on the American Lines and out Posts in the vicinity of Croton River aforesaid and he was during all of the aforesaid years, liable to be called out on any alarm or at a minutes Notice and bound to hold himself in readiness whenever his services were required.

That it is impossible for this Declarant at this day to designate each particular service and duty he performed in the said company of Militia in consequence of the lapse of time and the various occasions he served under arms during the aforesaid years.

That on several occasions the aforesaid Regiment of Militia commanded by Col. Samuel Drake and to which this Declarant's company belonged as aforesaid was during the years aforesaid embodied at CrumPond aforesaid their had quarters and marched to Peekskill to defend that place or to the Middle and Southern parts of the said County of Westchester on foraging parties for the Continental Army or in pursuit of the enemies parties but the principal service of this declarant was rendered in his said company and small parties thereof in Guarding the Lines and out posts or pursuing the refugees & small parties of the enemy that were constantly going about murdering and plundering the Inhabitants of the said County of Westchester.

That this Declarant has no Documentary or written evidence of his aforesaid services or relating thereto and but one witness living as he can discover that belonged to his aforesaid Company or Militia during the Revolutionary war who can testify to his aforesaid services, and that his Brother Samuel Lyon also lived with this Declarant in the same House at CrumPond aforesaid from the year 1777 to the close of the Revolutionary War & who served with this Declarant in the same company of Militia from the Month of January (1781) till the close of the Revolutionary War and whose affidavit is hereto attached.

That this Declarant claims a pension or annuity for his services as aforesaid as a Sergeant in Cap'n Henry Strang's aforesaid Company of Militia for five years from the beginning of the year 1778 to the close of the war in the winter of 1783 if the department should be of opinion that his services were such as entitle him to claim for the whole of said years, but if the Department should be of a contrary opinion this

declarant claims a pension for two years and six months actual service underarms by him as a Sergeant in his aforesaid Company of Militia in the years 1778, 1779, 1780, 1781, & 1782 as he has above set forth in this his Declaration.

That this Declaration has not any record of his age but from information derived from his parents and which he has no doubt is correct he was born on the second day of December in the year of our Lord 1761, at White Plains in the said county of Westchester, where this Declarant continued to reside till the year 1777 when he removed with his father to CrumPond where he continued (except his absences on duty) till the close of the Revolutionary war when he removed back to White Plains aforesaid and lived there till about the year 1797 when he married and removed to YorkTown in the said County of Westchester where he has ever since resided and still resides.

That this declarant lived at Crumpond afore said when he was called into service as aforesaid. That he never was drafted or served as a substitute neither did he ever received a Discharge from the service, but always served by order of his aforesaid Captain and as a volunteer as he has above stated.

That this declarant recollects Col. Green Major Flagg, Col Aaron Burr Col. Sheldon, Col. Meigs, Col Nixon, Col Chas Webb and Col Samuel Webb as some of the Continental officers that were with the troops where he served.

That he recollects leaving seen the following Continental & Militia Regiments during the Revolutionary War Col. Green's, Col Aaron Burr's, Col. Sheldon's Col Milan's Col Webbs & Col Samuel Drake's. That this declarant is known In his present neighbourhood to Wilhenmus Gerritson and Elijah Hyatt, both Residents of the Town of York Town in the said County of Westchester, but thus Declarant could not produce them before this court without much inconvenience and expense to this Declarant as they live twenty miles from the place where this Court is not sitting.

That this declarant with a view to his present application has obtained and now annexes to this declaration this certificate of the aforesaid persons taken before Thomas Vail a Justice of the Peace of the said County of Westchester in which they have testified to their belief of his age and of his Reputation as a soldier of the Revolution. (Signed) Alvan Lyon

Subscribed & sworn to in open Court the day & year aforesaid. N. Bayles, Clk