

Pension Application for Thomas Van Horne

W.18210 (Widow: Maria) Thomas served as a Private & Lieut. In Captain Pettingill's Company, Col. Fisher's Regiment. He died February 26, 1841.

State of New York

County of Otsego SS.

On this 16th day of October AD 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Otsego now sitting Thomas Van Horne a resident of Springfield in said County of Otsego and State of New York aged eighty seven 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 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

That at the commencement and during the whole continuance of the war his home and residence was at a place then called Warren's Bush now the town of Florida South of the Mohawk River about two miles within the now County of Montgomery in the State of New York.

That he was there enrolled as a private in a company of militia commanded by Capt. Pettingill in a regiment commanded by Col. Frederick Fisher. That Volkert Veeder was the Lieut Colonel, John Newkirk Major and Peter Conine adjutant of the same regiment. William Snook and Peter Young were the first and second Lieutenants and Conrad Stein ensign of the same company.

That the first service in which he was engaged was in the year before Independence was declared. That an alarm was twice received from Cognewaga [Caughnawaga] about five miles distant and he went with the rest of the militia to guard the Committee of Safety, sitting there. That they staid a day or two and returned home. That he thinks he was out more during that season but cannot remember the particulars.

In the next year which was the year when Independence was declared he went with the whole company to Johnstown distant 11 or 12 miles at the time Genl Schuyler was there and disarmed the Tories. That he was out to Johnstown, Sochnedaga [Sacandaga] and Caunewaga [Caughnawaga] and various other places on service during that summer. Was at Johnstown in the winter before on an alarm when it was said the Indians were coming down on Snow-Shoes.

That in the ensuing summer of 1777 he was with part of Capt. Pettingill's Company under Genl Herkimer and Col. Cox on an expedition to Unadilla distant—about seventy miles in pursuit of the Indians under the Indian Chief Joseph Brant. That on their return they were called out to Fort Stanwix and he was present at the Oriskany battle on this occasion where Genl Herkimer was mortally wounded and Capt Pettingill his own Capt was killed.

That after the Oriskany battle Lieut Snook was Chosen Capt. And this claimant was promoted to the first Lieutenancy of the company and they respectively took command of the Company was such officers from that time. That Col Fisher returned

them for the purpose to obtaining Commissions but that it was some time after that before the commissions arrived, during which time however he served as the first Lieut of the company.

That during this summer they were constantly called upon and were out for the greater part of the time but cannot now remember the one half of the places or instances. He recollects that he with part of the company were on their way to Saratoga at the time Burgoine was taken but stoped [stopped] at Schenectady on hearing by express that he has surrendered. That he was at Ticonderoga in the winter at the building of the bridge across Lake George an expedition of three weeks.

That this kind of service continued every year during the whole war, but he cannot specify the places or instances where they were actually engaged in each separate season. But that he served as Lieut of the company from the death of Capt Pettingill who was killed in the Oriskany battle in 1777 during the whole war. That he was out sometimes a week, sometimes two weeks, and sometimes but a day or two. That he was at Fort Plain, Fort Plank, German flatts, Stone Arabia, Little Falls and various other places many times each in service.

That he guarded the Batteux with provisions up the Mohawk river to Fort Stanwix and at another time guarded to the same place a drove of cattle. That he was at Cherry Valley immediately after the burning and Murders Clove at that place. That one these occasions he went uniformly armed, with six days provisions. That during the whole war he was in actual service every summer a great share of his time thinks at least three months from the opening of the spring until fall. That eh was also out many times in winter.

That while at home he was at all times liable to be called out at a moments warning and was constantly prepared for alarms. That he did not pretend to do but little business. That whatever was raised was liable at all times to be destroyed and burned. That the settlement within half a mile of where he lived was entirely burnt off by the Indians in one of their incursions. That in consequence of his frontier situation and being an officer in the Militia, nearly his whole time was spent either in scouting abroad, or in protecting himself, family and neighborhood at home. That he verily believes that he served his country during the war as a soldier, including the time he served as Lieutenant at least two years, and that about two thirds of that time he served as Lieutenant.

That he has now no documentary evidence of his services except his commission which is herewith transmitted.

He hereby relinquishes all 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) Thomas Vanhorne.

Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid Horace Lathoop, Clerk

Letter in folder dated January 2, 1940, written in response to an inquiry.

Reference is made to your letter relative to Thomas VanHorn, a soldier of the Revolutionary War.

The data contained herein were obtained from the papers on file in the Revolutionary War claim for pension, W.18210, based upon the military service in that war of Thomas Van Horne.

Thomas Vanhorne or Van Horne was born in Hunterton County, New Jersey, in 1745, day and month, and the names of his parents are not stated.

While a resident of Warren's Bush, which was later the Town of Florida, Montgomery County, New York, he entered the service in 1775, as private, served at various times under Captains Harmanus Mabie, Joseph Yeomans and Samuel Pettingill in Colonel Frederick Fisher's Regiment Tryon County New York Militia until the summer of 1777 when he went on an expedition against the Indians under Captain Pettingill and Colonel Cox; on his return he was called out and was present at the battle of Oriskany. After the battle Lieutenant William Snook or Snuke was chosen captain and Thos Van Horne was promoted to first lieutenant in Colonel Frederick Fisher's Regiment Tryon County New York Militia, but did not receive his written commission as such until March 8, 1781, in which capacity he served at different periods until the close of the war, about two years in all.

After the Revolution he moved from Warrens' Bush to Minden, Montgomery County, which was later the Town of Stark, Herkimer County, and about 1813, he moved from there to Otsego, which was later the Town of Springfield, Otsego County, New York.

Thos Van Horne was allowed pension on his application executed October 15, 1832, while a resident of Springfield, New York.

He died February 26, 1841, in Springfield, New York.

This officer married October 21, 1779, in Florida, New York, Maria Frederick. They were married at the home of her father, Phillip Frederick, by Reverend Thomas Romeyn, Pastor of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of Caughnawaga.

Maria Van Horne was allowed pension on her application executed June 28, 1841, while a resident of Springfield New York, Aged eighty-three years.

In 1841, their third child, Philip van Horne, was a resident of Springfield, New York, and aged fifty-seven years. In 1853, their daughter, Leah Davis, was a resident of Ontario County, New York, her age not stated. There are no further family data.