

Pension Application for John Wasson or Wanson, Wauson

W.18236 (Widow: Betshannah)
State of New York
Chenango County SS.

On this 14th day of February 1845, personally came before me a Judge of Chenango County, Betshannah Wasson, a resident of Norwich, in said county and state, aged, seventy eight years and upwards, and being duly sworn according to law, makes this declaration to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress of July 7, 1838, and the acts amending or extending the same, viz.

Her maiden name was Betshannah Gibson, a daughter of John Gibson of Schenectady; she was born on 19th of May 1766, and was married to John T. Wasson at Schenectady on the 14th of February 1792, by George Wasson, Esq. a Justice of the Peace of that vicinity. Her banns of marriage had been published in the Reformed Dutch Church of Schenectady and it was her intention to have the minister of that church marry her, but from his inability to attend the ceremony was solemnized by Mr. Wasson as above. Her husband died at Norwich aforesaid on the 25th day of January 1839.

She refers the Department for proof of her husband's services, to his papers on file. She would sooner have made this declaration, but did not until recently know of the law for her benefit. Her husband's pension under the law of June 7, 1832 was \$30 per annum. Her age and infirmities render it impracticable for her to attend Court to make her declaration. She has never intermarried since her husband's death. (Signed) Betshannah Wasson

Subscribed and sworn to this 14th day of February 1845 and I certify that I am satisfied that from her age and severity of the weather, she cannot attend Court to make this declaration.

Chenango County SS.

Sophia Ransford of Norwich in said county being duly sworn says she is 40 years of age and upwards and is a daughter of the above deponent with whom she has always resided. That her father died on the 25th day of January 1839, leaving her mother a widow and that she has continued his widow ever since and has never intermarried since his death. Sophia Ransford

Subscribed and sworn to this 14th day of February 1845—and I certify that the above Sophia Ransford is a woman of entire credibility—and I am satisfied that the above Betshannah Wasson is the true widow of the written named John T. Wasson (1) the Revolutionary Pensioner.-- Philo Robinson, Judge of Chenango County Courts.

State of New York
Chenango County SS.
AMENDED DECLARATION

On this 28th day of May 1833, personally appeared before me the undersigned, a Justice of the peace of the town of Norwich in said County John Wasson who being duly sworn according to law deposes and says—that he served as he as stated in his declaration as a private in the New York Line—in the New Levies under Captain Gross, and Col. Willet for the full period of nine months, and for that time he claims a pension—he further states that during the said period of nine months for which he served and claims a pension he was not engaged in any civil occupation or pursuit but was engaged exclusively in the army which he believed and does now was called out by the authority of this state. (Signed) John Wasson

Subscribed & sworn this 28th May 1833 before me, James Thompson, Justice of the Peace.

State of New York
County of Chenango SS.

On this [?] day of October A.D. 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Court of Common Pleas of said county now sitting.

Present. John Tracy, Nathan Taylor, Levi Biglow Hezekiah Read, Charles York, Judges

John Wasson a resident of the town of Norwich in the County of Chenango and State of New York aged sixty eight 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 7, 1842.

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

In 1781, on the last day of March he enlisted at Schenectady, Schenectady County State of New York for nine months (each company in Town were divided into classes and each class had to furnish a man he enlisted as a man for one of the classes) into what was called the New Levies in a company commanded by Lawrence Gros (1) of Canajoharie Montgomery County (then Tryon County) State of New York Captain, one Simmons (3) first Lieutenant, Simon Froman (4), Second Lieutenant one Hutton (5) of Albany third Lieutenant the regiment to which his company was attached and belonged was under the command of Marinus Willet Colonel one Troop [Throop] (6)

Major Jellis A. Fundy (7), Adjutant, Seth Rowley (8), Sergeant Major, knows not who was the general and the regiment was never reviewed by a General at the time he enlisted he passed muster, at Schenectady was mustered by Jellis A Fundy that he was employed by the class as mentioned before and enlisted to the said Jellis A. Fundy, received from the class at the time of enlistment fifty dollars as a bounty—in four or five days after time of enlistment went with that part of the company which was raised at Schenectady to Helderbergh Albany County and there was also a company of Continental soldiers of Colonel Cortland's (9) regiment and about fifty Oneida Indians under the command of an Indian called Colonel Lewy who marched down with his company they went to attack Brandt whom report said was at that place, but not finding him after scouring the woods, returned to Schenectady the next day and then remained in Schenectady about a week and then went up the Mohawk river in boats with his company or as many of them as was then raised to Fort Stanwix (now Rome) which was then occupied by a company of Continental soldier of Colonel Cortland's (10) regiment went up for the purpose of carrying provisions to the company at the Fort remained at the Fort one day and then returned back down the Mohawk to Fort Plain where his company joined his regiment and was there stationed that being the rendezvous of his regiment remained a part of the summer at that place some part at the Fort Dayton & a part of the time at Fort Herkimer but does not recollect the precise time he was at each as he was not at anytime in either place over two or three weeks at one time and also in the time was sent out on scouting parties, and sometime in October was engaged in a skirmish with the British Tories and Indians, said to be under the command of Major Ross (11) which skirmish was about a mile north of Johnstown Village in Montgomery County (then Tryon County) and which skirmish lasted most of the afternoon and about dusk those under the command of Major Ross retired leaving the ground in possession of the Americans about four hundred and fifty under the personal command of Colonel Marinus Willet first commenced the skirmish or battle but before it was finished they were joined by the rest of the regiment and some militia and it was said at the time there were about nine hundred of the enemy – on the next morning the most of the regiment under the command of Colonel Willet marched for West Canada Creek Herkimer [Herkimer] County (then in Tryon County) for the purpose of intercepting the enemy but when they reached the place they had all crossed the creek and the main body had marched on leaving one company under the command of Captain Butler (12) as it was said, as a rear guard and to prevent the Americans from crossing the creek, had a skirmish with this company which was a short one Captain Butler being killed in short time and they retreated and a few were taken prisoners and after crossing the creek followed the enemy about five miles and then camped for night and then next morning marched back to Fort Plain and remained there a few days and then was one that went down to Albany to escort the prisoners captured at the skirmish at West Canada Creek remained at Albany only one night and then returned to Fort Plain and there remained until the expiration of the nine months for which he enlisted and then received a written discharge from his Captain which is hereunto annexed. Was engaged in no battles or skirmishes except the afore mentioned. Sergeant Orderly, Peter Young (13), Canajoharie, 2d Sergeant Reuben Brainer of New Cannan also called Chatam in Columbia County NY, Corporal Joseph Crawford of Schenectady, Moses VanCamp a Sergeant of Canajoharie, Ephraim Ketchum Sergeant of New Caanan, Henry Flanders, Jacob Flanders, Henry House, Henry Tick, Peter Fox all of Canajoharie privates all served in the company to which he belonged.

And he further states that he has no documentary evidence of his services except his written discharge hereunto attached, and knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services except Seth Rowley of Norwich whose affidavit is hereunto annexed.

In answer to the interrogatories required to be put by the War department to applicants for pensions he answers as follows viz.

1st Was born in the town of Schenectady, Schenectady County New York on the eighth day of June 1764.

2nd Has a record of his age in a family bible which he has which was copied from the record of his father which was destroyed in moving.

3rd He resided at the time he enlisted at Schenectady and resided there after his service until the year 1793 and thence moved to the town of Norwich Chenango County New York and remained a year and then moved to Guilford Chenango County and remained there until 1805 and then removed back to Norwich and there resides now and has ever since resided.

4th He enlisted voluntarily into the service as stated in his declaration for the class which was obliged to furnish a soldier.

5th his discharge was written one and is hereunto annexed.

6th He knew Captain Elsworth (14), Captain McKeen (15), Captain White and Captain Phelps (16) who were Captains in the same regiment but knew no other regimental officers besides those mentioned in his declaration. The general circumstances of his services are stated as fully in the body of his declaration as he can recollect them.

7th He give the name of Perez Randall late Clerk Jarvis K. Pike Clerk, Samuel Pike, Justice of the Peace, James Thompson, Justice of the Peace, Cyrus Wheeler Merchant, Benjamin Chapmen Merchant, David E. Bedford,

Merchant, Truman Enos, Tanner, all of Norwich Chenango County his present residence as men to whom he is known and can testify to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution.

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 Wasson

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid, J.K. Pike CLK

End Notes—W.18236—John Wasson

1. Sophia Ransford in another affidavit says her father signed his name as John or as John T. Wasson. he used the T as a middle initial at times when he lived in Schenectady because he had a cousin named John Wasson.
2. John enlisted as a private in Captain Lawrence Gros' Company on April 23, 1781, in Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant Marinus Willett's Regiment of New York State Levies. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 78, folder 173, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
3. First Lieutenant Jacob Sammons of Gros' Company.
4. Second Lieutenant Simon J. Vrooman of Gros' Company.
5. Lieutenant Timothy Hutton of Gros' Company.
6. Josiah Throop was appointed Major on April 28, 1781 in Willett's Regiment.
7. Jellis A. Fonda served as a Lieutenant and Adjutant in Willett's Regiment in 1781 and most of 1782. In November of 1782, he was appointed Captain of Captain Abner French's Company since French had retired from the service.
8. Seth Rowley was a sergeant in Captain Stephen White's Company in Willett's Regiment. The Sergeant Major in 1781 was Jesse Wilson and not Rowley.
9. Colonel Philip VanCortlandt of the Second New York Continental Regiment.
10. Colonel Lewis.
11. Major John Ross of the Second Battalion of the Kings' Royal Regiment of new York commanded the British forces and Willett commanded the American forces at the Battle of Johnstown which was fought on October 25, 1781.
12. Walter Butler was a Captain in Lieutenant-Colonel John Butler's Rangers and second in command under Major Ross. Butler was killed in the skirmish at West Canada Creek on October 30, 1781.
13. Peter Young served as the Orderly Sergeant of Capt. Gros' company, Reuben Brainer was the Second Sergeant, Joseph Crawford was a Corporal, Moses VanCamp was a Sergeant, Ephraim Ketcham was a private and is listed as deserting on July 24, 1781. Henry Flanders, Jacob Flanders, Henry House, Henry Deck, and Peter Fox were privates.
14. Peter Elsworth was appointed Captain in Willett's Regiment on April 27, 1781. Elsworth was killed in an ambush on July 6, 1781.
15. Robert McKean was a Captain in Willett's Regiment and was mortally wounded on July 10, 1781 in the Battle of New Dorlach which is present day Sharon Springs, Schoharie County.
16. Phelps is Captain Anthony Whelp. The name is also called Welp or Phelps. He was also appointed on April 27, 1781 in Willett's Regiment.