

John Hinds

HINDS (HYNDS, HIGHER), Pvt., Fifer, John

State of Pennsylvania

Beaver County

On this 12th day of April 1819 before me the subscriber one of the associates of the Court of Common Pleas for said county of Beaver in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, personally appeared John Hind aged sixty years resident in Beaver County, in said Commonwealth who being by me first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the late act of Congress entitled an act to provide for certain engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war, that he the said John Hind enlisted for the term of three years or during the war, on the 2nd day of January 1777, in Westmoreland County in the state of Pennsylvania, in company commanded by Captain Benjamin Harrison in the regiment commanded by Col John Gibson in the line of the state of Virginia on the continental establishment, that he continued to serve in said corps in the service of the United States [apart of the time as a musician] until the end of the war, when he was discharged from service at Pittsburgh Pennsylvania, by Col. Gibson, that he was at the Battles of Brandywine and White House/Horse (the battle was actually White Marsh) and Germantown in Penn. And the muncy towns on the Allegheny river and other B___ with the Indians, this his discharge is lost or worn out and this he is unable to labour, and in reduced and Indigent circumstances and stands in need of assistance of Country for support, and that he has no other evidence now in his power of his said service.

Sworn to and declared before me the day and year aforesaid

David Drennanp

Jn° Hind

The above applicant John Hind made application to me and I took his deposition the 20th day of May 1818 and transmitted it to the war office, and it was returned for want of the necessary certificate

David Drennanp

Hinds was granted a pension (15.025) from the state of Pennsylvania that began on 20 May 1818 at the rate of \$8 per month.

John Hinds, at age 62, applied for a federal pension application, again from Beaver Co., PA on 18 September 1820. He also applied for a land warrant on 15 February 1837. Hinds' pension number is S. 39.696. His Land warrant number is 2.173-100

John Hinds entered the services of the United States on January 2, 1777 in Westmoreland Co., Pennsylvania. He was assigned, as a fifer, to the company commanded by Capt. Benjamin Harrison, a unit of the 13th Virginia Regiment which at that time was still under the command of Col. William Russell. The 13th was present at the battles of Brandywine Creek and Germantown, PA. During the winter of 1777-1778, Hinds and the 13th VA were with General Washington at Valley Forge as indicated on one of Hines' company muster rolls. Shortly there after, Washington ordered the 13th VA regiment, now under the command of Col. John Gibson, to relocate to Fort Pitt in western Pennsylvania.

Washington also named General Lachlan McIntosh as commander of the Western Department. Capt. Harrison's company, along with John Hinds, made their way to Ft. Pitt with the rest of the 13 VA regiment.

Unlike many soldiers that were involved in one way or another with Fort Laurens, John Hinds did not mention Ft. Laurens in his pension application. However, his company muster rolls clearly indicate that Hines was with Harrison and Gibson in October, November, and December of 1778.

General McIntosh departed from Ft. McIntosh with an army of over 1200 men on November 4, 1778. The army began construction of Fort Laurens shortly after their arrival on the banks of the Tuscarawas River around November 22nd. It is important to remember, however, that some soldiers, both continental units and militia men had to remain behind to man and guard both Ft. Pitt and Ft. McIntosh.

Every company had a drummer and fifer as they played a very important role in providing communication and orders to the troops from the commanding officers. With an army of 1200 on the move, it is safe to assume there were several drummers and fifers on the march east.

We believe that John Hines was one of those fifers on the march. We are certain that Capt. Benjamin Harrison's company participated on the march and assume John Hines was among them.

Having constructed a good portion of Ft. Laurens, General McIntosh left Col. Gibson and 150 soldiers to remain at the wilderness outpost. The rest of the 1200 soldiers were given two days provisions and ordered to proceed back to Fort McIntosh. The majority of the soldiers that remained to guard Ft. Laurens were from the 13th VA regiment, including several men from Capt. Harrison's company.

Unfortunately, on February 24, 1779, seventeen soldiers were killed by a British-Indian force hiding outside the fort as the soldiers went to gather horses and firewood to bring back inside the fort. Harrison's company lost at least five men in the attack, including Pvt. William Gibson, Pvt. Timothy Hays, Pvt. George Osburn, Pvt. Greenbury Shores, and Pvt. Peter Simmons. Pvt. Thomas/John Nash, also of Harrison's company, was killed on January 23, 1770, while attempting to purchase food from the Delaware Indians near present day Coshocton, Ohio.

Was John Hines still at Fort Laurens at that time? We just don't know. Col. Gibson did submit a muster role dated December 21, 1778 of those 13th VA and a part of the 8th PA regiments that departed Fort Laurens with the rest of the soldiers that headed back to Ft. McIntosh. Gibson indicated four drummers/fifers were on the return trip. It would be safe to assume that the 150 men that remained at Ft. Laurens had at least a minimum of one or two fife and drummer.

Hinds died in Beaver County, PA in the late 1830s. His burial place is somewhere near New or North Sewickley. He was a school teacher in Beaver County in the early 1800s and was serving in that position when he applied for a pension in 1818.

The information on fifer John Hinds was submitted to the Friends of Fort Laurens Foundation, including documentation of company muster rolls, company pay rolls, two pension applications, and Hinds' land warrant application by Hinds, Clif, Humbolt, TN.

"RE: John Hinds" E-mail to the Friends of Ft. Laurens Foundation. 28 January 2008.

Hard copy of material sent to Friends of Ft. Laurens Foundation sent by Clif Hinds, via USPS on 23 November 2007.

From Pierce's Register: Abstracts of Revolutionary War Pension Files list:

Hind, John, S39638, BLW #2173-100, VA line, appl 12 April 1819 Beaver County, PA aged 60, in 1820 soldier had a wife "an old woman" also 2 sons, Peter 21 and Jacob aged 17 were at home, soldier re-applied in 1837.

The photocopies of Hinds' pension application were extracted from a copy of the archival microfiche roll at the Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research, Houston, TX.

Pension application transcribed by Fisher, Scott, Friends of Fort Laurens Foundation, 27 January 2008.

Carver, Frank F., Fort McIntosh The Story of Its History and Restoration of the Site, Beaver Area Heritage Foundation, Pg. 89; Beaver, PA., May, 1993