

Pension Application for Philip Bortle

R.1035

State of New York

Columbia County SS.

On this fifth day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty four personally appeared before John J. Miller Esquire First Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the County of Columbia, Philip Bortle a resident of the Town of Claverack in the County of Columbia and State of New York aged last January eighty three 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.

This declarant Philip Bortle says that he was born on the 12th of January 1751 in the Manor of Livingston in that part now the Town of Livingston in son of Hendrick Bortle.

This declarant says that he sometime in the summer of 1776 thinks in August this declarant entered the service of the United States under the command of General or Colonel Robert VanRensselaer, John VanAllen was first Major and Richard Esselstyne was second major, Casparus or Casper Canine was this deponent's Captain one John Osterhout was Second Lieutenant James Etting was first Lieutenant and this deponent was ensign in said company of Captain Canine,

This deponent received from Peter VanNess his commission, marched to Albany and remained at Greenbush two months and returned home in September as this deponent believes and and [sic] then returned home in September as this deponent believes and in 1777.

This deponent with the company to which deponent belonged was again called out and marched as far as Albany at this time it was a general tour out at Albany, General or Colonel VanRensselaer ordered this deponent to take with him twelve men whom this deponent commanded and march back to Claverack and stand guard from Hudson to Clavarack and guard the property of the Inhabitants in that region and in case of meeting any suspicious person either by night or by day to apprehend such and carry them before the committee of vigilance this deponent says that for three years this deponent had command of the guard that was stationed in that part of the county whose duty it was to patrole [patrol] the roads and guard the public stores belonging to the United States and to apprehend all suspicious persons and to carry such before the committee for examination during all which time of those years from 1777 till 1780. This deponent was engaged in no civil pursuits whatever but continued on guard in the United States service .

This declarant says that one John VanDeusen and one Cornelius Miller were two of the Committee men and who the third was this deponent does not now remember.

This deponent in 1777 when the enemy were coming up the Hudson River again was called out to march to some point on the East side of the Hudson River to watch the movements of the enemy and repel their landing and also to prevent any destruction of property was out on this expedition a week & upwards and on the return of this deponent he was again ordered out with his select guard and this deponent again took command of the guard and continued to guard in Clavarack in said County of Columbia until the Colonel of the Regiment to which this deponent belonged deemed a regular organized guard no longer necessary which this deponent believes was in 1780 in the fall.

This deponent recollects some of the names of the guard who served under this deponent viz Adam v'n Deusen, Stephen k. Miller, Samuel Lape, Henry Kelse, Cornelius Miller, John Keyser, Daniel Hawkins, George Oltheizer, Thomas Blakely, all of whom as this deponent is informed and verily believes are dead.

This deponent says that during the time he had command of the regular guard stationed by Colonel V'n Rensselaer this deponent sill held his commission in the company of Captain Canine as ensign and when the guard was discharged form further duty this deponent returned to his station and acted as ensign in said company to which this deponent belonged and during the years 1781 & 1782 this

deponent did duty in the militia whenever he was called or by the commanding officers of said regiment which active duty during said two years of 1780 & 1782 in the whole at various times amounted to two months & more but this deponent cannot say when the service was performed as it was at various times sometimes was called out and would be gone three four or five days on alarms and again not over one day but was very frequently called out.

This deponent says that during the period of standing guard and thinks the second winter that this deponent stood guard in 1778 he froze his feet very bad and has been lame ever since and still continues lame from the effects of the frost that effected his feet.

This deponent further says that he did the greater part of his active duty in this part of the county now called the County of Columbia in the Town of Claverack and in the manner of Livingston and in Hudson along the East Bank of the Hudson River. I had a written commission duly sealed but I have lost the same and as I am informed and verily believe the same was torn up by one of my children many years ago and I therefore can produce no documentary proof of some of my services performed during the Revolution but I would refer to John A. Smith of the Town of Claverack for proof of part of the services performed by me during said war of the revolution.

This deponent 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.

To the following interrogatories put by said Judge before whome [sic] proceedings were had to said application Philip Bartle for a pension on account of services performed in the militia in the service of the United States this declarant answers as follows.

1st Quese: Where and in what year were you born?

Ans. I was born 12th January 1751 in that part of the manor of Livingston now called the Town of Livingston.

2-Quese: Have now any record of your age and if so where is it.?

Ans: I had my age recorded many years ago in an old family Bible but the same is lost and I have no record except my recollection.

3d Quese: Where were you living when called into service when have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Ans: I resided in the Town of Clavarack then county of Albany when the war broke out now County of Columbia and I have continued to reside in the same town ever since and now reside in said Town of Clavarack County of Columbia.

4th Quese: How ere you called into service were you drafted did you volunteer or were you a substitute?

Ans: I always did duty as a volunteer for myself and not as a substitute—while on guard.

5th Quese: State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops were [where] you served such continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Ans: I saw some of the regular officers at Albany but I cannot state who they were and as my duty was principally confined in that part of the county called Claverack and Hudson and as to the general circumstances attending my duty performed by me I cannot state the same more fully than I now have stated. The same in my declaration to which I refer.

6th Quese: Did you ever receive a discharge from the service & if so by whom was it given and what has become of us?

Ans: I was regularly discharged that I had no written discharged I always served according to the requests of my commanding officers and was discharged by my colonel after I had been on active duty or captain of the guard for upwards of two years.

7th Ques: State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the revolution.

Ans: I would refer to the Rev'd John G.F. Nele, Jonas Rossman, John A. Smith & others of my neighbors who are well acquainted with me and may have known of my having performed duty duty [sic] during the war. (Signed by his mark) Philip Bortle

Subscribed and sworn before me the 5th day of July 1834. John J. Miller.