

Pension Application for John Canfield

S.10425

State of New York
Orange County, SS

On this 16th day of February in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty three personally appeared before me Gilbert Ogden Fowler one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the County of Orange aforesaid John Canfield resident of Cornwall in said County aged eighty two years who was 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.

When the Revolutionary War commenced deponent belonged to a company of Militia commanded by Captain Christian VanDeusen of the Town of Cornwall aforesaid which belonged to the Regiment of Colonel Woodhull of the County aforesaid sometime on or about the month of April in the year 1777. It was determined to sink a cheveus-de-frise across the North River from Nicolls Point in the Town of New Windsor to prevent the British from passing up the river—

For this purpose soon after they had taken possession of New York which was sometime in the latter part of August or beginning of September in the year last mentioned preparations were made for building the same under the character of Captain Machin Chief Engineer and materials were collected for that purpose.

Sometime in the month of February in the year last aforesaid according to deponents recollection and belief he was directed by said Machin (who was authorized by law to press man and train for that purpose) to draw timber and Planks and other materials necessary for the building and making the same deponent immediately thereafter commenced drawing the said materials with one yoke of oxen belonging himself and other teams which were furnished him as circumstances required.

Deponent drew said materials to Nicolls Point aforesaid and continued to draw the same to the place aforesaid until the latter part of the month of March next thereafter when he was honorably discharged from said service deponent well recollects that James Edmonson whose affidavit is annexed drew timber to the same place for the same purpose some part of the time whilst deponent was drawing as aforesaid—

The company of Captain Vandeuzen was divided into detachments one of which was generally in service on the frontier whilst the other remained at home. I belonged to the detachment commanded by Ensign [Weeks?] of said Company. My brother Joseph now deceased also belonged to our company as circumstances required and was one of the detachment commanded by Captain Vandeuzer in person or the Lieutenant of our company.

In April 1777 according to deponent to which deponent belonged was ordered to Fort Montgomery under the command of the said Ensign Weeks to stand [tear] forgoing. We went down by him? And staid one week and then returned home. Whilst there we were engaged in cutting [?] and building fortifications under the direction of Colonel Thomas Palmer we were relieved by the detachment of said company to which me and my brother belonged under the command of the said Captain VanDuzer who also staid a week and so on [?] week and week about until the fortifications were finished which was about eighteen months. Deponent was down at said Fort Montgomery with said company at every alarm which were frequent to about harvest [harvest] time in the year last aforesaid. We were there three or four weeks & deponent thereby lost all his grain not being able to get anyone to cut it.

When the fort was taken deponent was on his way north and company on board of a sloop we stopped at Fort Constitution opposite to West Point for ammunition and then proceeded on with all possible dispatch. When we arrived near Buttermilk falls we were mett [met] by Captain Machin who

had been at the battle of Fort Montgomery which was fought on the sixth day of October he directed us to a turn saying that that the fort had surrendered to the enemy. We returned accordingly—I was in actual service at that fort upwards of three months.

Generals George and James Clinton commanded at Forts Clinton and Montgomery which were on opposite sides of the [?] Kill Colonel Dubois said deponent was there or a part thereof Colonel Hardenburgh with his regiment of militia was there Colonel McLaughry and his militia regiment was stationed at Fort Clinton—Thurston Wood Esquire of the Town of New Windsor was a private in Captain John Belknaps Company at that place John Wood and Henry VanDuzen whose affidavits are annexed and also Roger Barton of said Town of Cornwall belonged to the said company with deponent and either served in the same detachment with him or knew of deponents service in said company as aforesaid after the British fleet came up the river we were stationed on the shore at Cornwall to prevent them landing and remained there until after they had gone down under the command of the said Captain VanDeuzer or were in actual service at the times and place aforesaid from 3 weeks to one month—

John Wood & Henry VanDeuzen whose affidavits are annexed were there at the same time & also the said Robert Barton according to Deponents recollection and belief in the year last aforesaid about the time the British left Hackensack I was one of a detachment of said company which was ordered to Ramapoo in the State of New Jersey from there we were ordered to Pyrhamas [Paramus?] and then went to Hackensack in the state last aforesaid. We arrived there shortly after the British had left that place with sleds which we had pressed from Hackensack we returned to Pyrhamas. I was in actual service at this time under the command of said ensign under the command of said ensign Weeks one month McLaughry's regiment or a part thereof was there at the same time.

In the next spring thereafter I was one of a detachment of said company which was ordered to Ramepoo [Ramapo] and served there about two months under the command of Captains Parsons & Tuthill who commanded the Company of which our detachment formed a part alternately—Henry VanDuzen whose affidavit is annexed was there at the same time and belonged to the same detachment and company with deponent.

In the spring of the year 1778 the Americans began to fortify West Point I was ordered with a detachment of Captain VanDuzens Company down to that post to assist in erecting fortifications at that place. We worked on the fort nearst the river under the command of General Wisner who acted as Engineer James Edmonson, John wood & Roger Barton were there at the same time. The detachment was under the command of Ensign Weeks I served at West Point every other weeks and we were then relieved by the other detachment of our company—Henry VanDeuzen was there at work with a team whilst I worked there deponent served as aforesaid at West Point [?] three months.

In the spring of the year 1779 I removed with my family to the Town of Walkill in said County of Orange and joined the Militia company commanded by Captain Watkins of the regiment commanded by Colonel NewKirk who had been promoted after Colonel McLaughry was taken prisoner at Fort Montgomery Moses Phillips who had been Major in McLaughry's Regiment was now Lieutenant Colonel of said Regiment. Deponent cannot now recollect any officers of said company except Captain Walkins.

About harvest time in the year last aforesaid a detachment of our said company was ordered to join other detachments under the command of the said Lieutenant Colonel Phillips and proceeded to Mumbanchus on the [?] frontier. I was stationed with some others at Neponox.

The residence of the father of Simeon DeWitt and father in law of General James Clinton I helped build a picket fort around Dewitts House and stood guard there one month and was then honorably discharged and in answer to the interrogatories specially put to this deponent by said Judge in pursuance of the Instructions of the Secretary of war he on his oath saith that he was born at Bedford in WestChester County & State of New York in the year one thousand seven hundred and fifty.

That he lived at Cornwall aforesaid when called into service I lived there ever since except twenty years when he lived in the Town of Walkill as aforesaid and in Ulster County. That he now lives

in said Town of Cornwall in said Town of Cornwall. That he was called into service as Militia man as aforesaid. That he has already stated the names of all the Regular officers who were with the troops where he served he can now recollect and the Continental and Militia Regiments he recollects & the general circumstances of his service.

That he has been informed and now recollects that one Roe was first Lieutenant and one Smith Second Lieutenant of said Company commanded by Christian VanDeuzen and deponent also saith that he never received a written discharge from the service.

That he is known to Henry VanDeuzen Roger Barton and Joseph Morrel Esquire who can testify as to his character for veracity and belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution – and deponent also saith that in consequence of taking necessary as he believes he is decrepit & wholly deprived of the use of his legs that he is unable to at this time the [?] Court of Record to be held in this county or any other Court of Record and further saith not.

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 with his mark) John Canfield

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid before me Gilbert Ogden Fowler one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for Orange County.