

Pension Application for Constant Church

W.22765 (Widow: Deborah) Constant was born December 30, 1758 in Bristol, Rhode Island. Constant Church and Deborah Wheeler were married July 5, 1884 in Petersham, Worcester County, Massachusetts. They had 11 children, the oldest was born in 1785, the youngest in 1805. Constant was the son of Charles Church and Eunice his wife. Constant died June 23, 1836.

State of New York

Ulster County SS.

On this 11th day of September in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty two, personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the County of Ulster aforesaid, now sitting at the Court House in the Town of Kingston in said County, Constant Church of the Town of New Paltz in the County of Ulster aforesaid aged seventy 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.

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

In the fall of the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy five at Bristol in the State of Rhode Island, I enlisted for the term of one year in a company whereof Billings Throop was Captain, Caleb Carr Lieutenant and Samuel Hicks Ensign, in the first regiment raised by said state, commanded by Colonel William Richmond, we were engaged nearly the whole time at NewPort, repairing the Fort and guarding the harbor. After we had been about three months in service, Captain Throop died and Lieutenant Caleb Carr was promoted to the office of Captain of said company. About one month before the expiration of said year our company went in whale boats to Long Island in pursuit of a company of Indians, Negros and Tories, under one Captain Glover who were in the habit of stealing from the inhabitants of Connecticut and otherwise annoying them. We took Glover and his company and brought them on board a sloop into New Haven, from New Haven we returned to Providence and NewPort at which place late in the fall of the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy six, I was honorably discharge. Samuel Hicks the Ensign in said company and David Mayfield whose affidavits are hereinto annexed were with me during the whole of the aforesaid term. During this time I remember Genl Lee came to NewPort and reviewed the troops, and compelled all persons in NewPort who were suspected of being disaffected to take an oath to be true to the Continental Congress.

In the forepart of the winter in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy seven I enlisted under Captain Caleb Carr for the term of fifteen months we were engaged during said term at Bristol, Providence and other places in Rhode Island guarding against and watching the movements of the British who had possession of NewPort Island, Colonel Conary commanded the regiment to which Captain Carrs Company he belonged. I served the whole of said term of fifteen months and was honorably discharged at the expiration thereof. Towards the latter part of said term General Sullivan commanded the troops. I remember colonel Olney's Regiment of nine months men were quartered on the Narraganset side of Providence bay.

In the spring of 1777 General Spencer undertook to raise men to take the Island from the British on going down the West Passage of the Island on [Triveot ?] town shore the British fired on Spencer's men and killed two of them when Spencer abandoned the expedition.

In the summer of the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy eight at Petersham in the State of Massachusetts I was hired by one Sylvanus Howe as a substitute for a class of militia for the term of six months which term I served under Captain Benjamin Agel in Colonel Jacob's Regiment belonging to General Green's Brigade. General LaFayette with his Brigade was with us and General Sullivan commanded the whole army, during this term of service The French fleet under the command of Count De'Easting arrived at Rhode Island Harbour. General Sullivan intended to give battle to the British army and with the assistance of the French fleet to take the British. But the French fleet put to

sea on the approach of a British fleet off the harbor. General Sullivan marched to Newport and after firing about one day and a half at the British, leaving the French fleet had put to sea, retracted to the back part of the Island, the British army followed us up and an engagement took place in which the British were defeated.

Deponent does not know that he cannot procure the testimony of witnesses who were with him in the two last terms of service, but he thinks his name will be found at the City of Washington, in the record of the troops in the Rhode Island line—having received continental pay from Government as he has been informed in answer to an application which he made for a pension in the year 1818.

Deponent further says in answer to the questions put to him by the said court in the County of Ulster.

He was born at Bristol in the State of Rhode Island on the 30th day of December 1758. He has a record of his age in his family Bible.

Deponent lived at Bristol aforesaid at the time of the two first terms of service above mentioned, and at Petersham in the State of Massachusetts, at the time of the third term of service, above set forth.

He has lived since the Revolutionary War at Westmoreland, Cheshire County, State of New Hampshire, about forty years during the last seven years he has resided in the town of New Paltz aforesaid where he now resides.

Deponent enlisted as a volunteer in the two first terms of his service, and at the third term of service he went as a substitute for Sylvanus Howe.

In addition to the officers above named deponent remembers to have seen Lieutenant Colonel Topping and Major Barton who took the British General Prescott on Rhode Island, by surprise. Does not recollect any other continental and Militia regiments, than above stated, nor any other general circumstances of his services, but as are above set forth in this declaration.

Deponent never received any written discharge. The troops were discharge on returning in their arms.

Deponent is known to Wells Lake Esqr, recently one of the Senators in this State and to John J. Terwilliger residing in his neighborhood, who can testify to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution. I am also well known to the Rev'd Dowe VanO'Linda, Pas[tor] of the Reformed Dutch Church in said town.

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 any state. (Signed) Constant Church

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. A. D. Soper, First Judge. A. G. Hardenbergh, John A. Deyo, John Jansen, Judges.