

Pension Application for John P. Critchett

R.2490

Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

State of New York

County of St. Lawrence SS.

On this twenty fifth day of September in the year of our Lord 1832 appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in the said County, now sitting John P. Critchett a resident of the Tow of Depeyster, in the County of St. Lawrence & State of New York aged 78 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 on the first day of August 1776, for five months as a volunteer in the Company commanded by Captain Bernardus Swartwout, in col. Swartwout's regiment in Genl George Clinton's brigade, in the town of Poughkeepsie in this state & were raised for the purpose of guarding the shores of Dutchess & WestChester Counties.

That his company was immediately marched to Fort Washington where they joined Genl Miffin's Battalion of Pennsylvanians & marched from there to New York and arrived there shortly after the battle of Flat Bush & that they made no stop at New York but proceeded to Long Island under the command of Genl Miffin & marched to the lines.

That some days thereafter all the American forces retreated from the Island, & this deponent went with them to Kingsbridge & remained there a few days & marched again to white Plains, where he remained till about the 1st of November & then marched to Peekskill & thence to Fort Constitution, in the Highlands, where he, this deponent, served out the regular time of his enlistment for five months & was discharged on New Years day 1777 by Capt. Swartwout.

That Captain Swartwout then stated that he had orders to raise a company for two months service, when this deponent again enlisted as a volunteer & served the two months at Fort Constitution where he was regularly discharged by Cap.t Swartwouts that just before Capt. Swartwout's company left the effort, they were relieved by a company of Artillery raised there & by some New Hampshire troops.

That early in the spring of 1777, he this deponent again entered the public service as a private soldier in the Artillery commanded by Captain Moody when Captain Matchin was wounded in the fort, & was employed in sinking Cheval de Frise in the river below New Windsor near Polypus Island. That he this deponent went up the river with his company in connexion with Col. Webbs Regt of the Connecticut line & marched under Genl George Clinton, as far as Esopus, where the British had preceded their & burnt the place. That he had command of a Government sloop a good part of the summer & carried Genl Clinton several times.

That this deponent with Capt. Moody's Company proceeded with all possible dispatch with a 24 pounder to NewBurgh where they fired on the British shipping as they returned.

That this deponent was discharged at new Windsor about the 1st of January 1778 by Genl Clinton, when this deponent proceeded to Boston & entered as Boatswain on a Privateer & had an engagement with a British Letter of Marque, whom they took, but the same was retaken by a British man of war, before arriving at Port.

That this deponent while on a voyage the Exeter Galley from Exeter England to Portsmouth in New Hampshire, his native place, when off the latter Harbor he this deponent & four others were impressed on board of the British man of war, the Cancer, on the 3d of June 1774 or 1775 (before the tea was destroyed) & remained there until the beginning of October, when he this deponent deserted at Kennebec & proceeded to Boston. That this deponent in all his enlistments in our service was known & called John Peacock, to evade being recognized as the deserter from the Cancer man of war should he be retaken by the British.

That he has no documentary evidence & knows of no person whose testimony he can procure to testify to his services.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the agency of any state.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

And to the Interrogations propounded by the court this deponent answereth and saith—

That he was born in Portsmouth New Hampshire in the year 1753 on the 18th of September.—

Has a record of his age in his Bible, and thinks his baptism was recorded in the Episcopal Church in Portsmouth, and his age recorded by the Town Clerk.

That when he first entered the service he was living at Poughkeepsie and working in the shipyard, and entered as a volunteer—that he enlisted afterwards at each term as stated in his declaration.

That for 10 or 12 years after the war of the Revolution he lived in New London Connecticut and followed the sea. When he quit the sea, he removed to Argyle in the County of Washington New York State and lived there near 20 years. He then moved to Pawlet, Rutland County Vermont and lived there about 6 years. Then removed to the Town of Innis, Seneca Co., NY and lived there about 6 years—then moved to the Town of Depeyster St. Lawrence County where he has lived about 7 years & where is son in law was living.

That at each term of service he enlisted voluntarily.

That the names of the officers are stated in his declaration as far as recollected.

That he never received any other discharge that he recollects, other than a pass from General George Clinton who observed that he was sorry to part with him—that the paper was worn out & lost.

That he is well known in his present neighborhood and refers to the Revd Luther Lee and to the persons who have subscribed the annexed certificate, who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution. (Signed with his mark) John P. Critcheet

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. A.C. Low, Clk

Letter in folder dated August 23, 1927, written in response to an inquiry.

I have to advise you from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim R.2490, it appears that John P. Critchett, applied for pension September 25, 1832, while a resident of DePeyster, St. Lawrence County, New York, and alleged, that while residing at Poughkeepsie, New York, he entered the service in August 1776, and served in Captain Bernardus Swartwout's Company, Colonel Swartwout's Regiment, also served in Captain Moody's Company of Artillery, after which he went to Boston and entered as Boatswain on a privateer, and had an engagement with a British letter of Marque.

The claim was not allowed as there was no proof of service, as required by the pension laws.

It also appears in said claim, that John P. Critchett was born September 18, 1753 at Portsmouth, New Hampshire; and that "before the tea was destroyed" he was pressed on the British Man of war "Cancer" and deserted from it, and that in all of his enlistments he was called John Peacock, for fear the British would recognize him as a deserter, and would be retaken by them.

He stated that after the Revolution, he lived for some years in Washington County, New York.

He had a son-in-law (his name not given) living in DePeyster, New York in 1832; and in 1853, his son Jedediah is referred to. No further family data.

The above noted John Pritchett or John Critchett is the only soldier of that name found on the Revolutionary War records of this Bureau.