

Pension Application for William Crolius

W.10685 (Husband deceased 21st April A.D. 1830. Widow Mary, she was awarded pension of \$20.00)

The following is a statement made by Mrs. Mary Crolius of what she underwent in some of her Revolutionary struggles.

In 1776 when we anticipated an attack on the City my Father-in-law John Crolius sent his Sloop a new vessel with all his and my Husbands property to—Newark for safety with his aged Father Wm. Crolius on Board. The Captain Employed proved false to his trust and saw the vessel in the hands of the Enemy which was attested to by my Father Capt. Wm Dobbs who lay with a small vessel in the bay as a guard to watch the motions of the enemy. I believe the vessels name was the Goldfinch or Dolphin. He hailed him & bid make for the kills which he pretended to do until he got out of shot distance—Grand Father was not detained on account of his age and sat at Liberty on Staten Island. On the attack of the British we went to Newark (I mean us women & children) where I remained about three months. I then had a desire to see my Husband & Father & Brothers and to Join my Mothers family which I did do by way of Bulls ferry & Spite Devils Creek where I met my Husband & who saw my first born the first time which was only Six weeks old the next day he took me by water to Tarrytown where my mother was and immediately returned to the Army—and hearing that the enemy was coming and in Westchester we retreated to Peekskill where my Husband, Father &c Joined us after they retreated from White Plains (1) where they was all in the Battle we remained here until the Spring where we collected together a few of the comforts of Life. The enemy came up by water and attacked then we retreated to Compond But returned in one or two but found nothing left but what we stood being plundered the second time of every Earthly comfort our life liberty & religious enjoyments excepting when the British came up the river a second time Gen. Macdugal (2) advised my Father to send his family inland where the Public Stores was kept at Danbury Conn. We was here nearly a year and [?] we had a few stores to gather and made a little [?] clothing. The Enemy visited us by way of Norwalk or the Sound where they [show'd] great valour in Killing the Cattle cutting live hogs in two. Thence all our provisions in road set fire to the house and then retreated before the troops under Gen. Mercer Wooster (3) who was unfortunately
kild. [killed]

On the advice of my Husband we joined him at Continental Village near Fishkill in the highlands presuming we had no plan of refuge better we were there but a four months when my Husband was appointed Clerk and assistant under Commissary--Eloe of Provision Depot we went to Fishkill where the stores was. We remained here until the year 80 when my husband [got posted] from in collecting provisions for the army & fodder for horses. He was requested by his superiors to desist a while from his extra exertions as it would cause his death but having that the garrisons at West Point & Newburg was in a sorry condition he said the cause and lives of those garrisons depended on their exertions he went out with 100 men was gone three weeks at which time they slept not 3 hours in twenty four and most all that time he eat & wrote on horseback. Served part connetcut [Connecticut?] and all the adjacent counties in this State this I was told by the men, and on his return he had satisfaction to be thanked by those many officers & men he [?] (with those that assisted him) in saving as they personally said from Starvation. He was so much of a cripple in the Spring he thought he would be of but little service to the Army in any capacity so we went to Newark to Establish his Business (a stone ware potter) which he done but little at owing to the tenderness of his Frozen feet, this was in 81 which afflicted him until the day of his death while here Newark we had to keep a lookout for the Tories & Scouts for the same time Especially when they heard we Entertained some of the unfortunate men who came that way from the prison ships. They

being landed as far up the north river [Hudson] as possible where they lived at the South, this went on until the Battle of Monmouth where my neighbor Mrs. Sanford and my self and our husbands as far as Rahway near Brunswick to join the army after the Battle he returned – and we remained until the Peace when I went to the City and was then threatened with imprisonment by one of the Brothers that supplied the British Navy old Alexander Fink because I went in the city a little before the Army was cald [called?] on for rent of our own house by Matheus the Mayor but he got a cold reception and not being after I had the satisfaction to see Cunningham the provo master as he was termed deliver the Keys of the prison up to our people which closed the scene of many trials and hardships of Mrs. Mary Crolius.

The above is taken down as repeated by my mother after a relapse of fifty two years. Wm. D. Crolius

My Husband was Crolius in 75 & 6 was a private in the granediers under Capt. Van Dyke. Col Lashiers (4) Regt at the same time Lieut of Infantry. Capt Jamesway after which he was assistant commissary of Provisions on one occasion rode an Express assisted once as Waggon Master [blot] was appointed assistant Harbour Master with my Brother Joseph Dobbs (5) and preserved and carried to Albany or destroyed all the vessels that lay at or was building at the landings with the stores & that was along the river side to prevent falling in the hands of the Enemy.

My father Capt Wm. Dobbs was Harbour Master and acting as pilot to French Fleett under com'd. DeGross (6) and when not on that Duty acted under Gen. McDougal as Superintendent of Forges he being a practical Blacksmith. Although following that [blot] sea for a living after he learnt his trade and was commander of Privateer Fox in French war, was nicknamed by Sir Henry Clinton (7) Comodore of Musketos Fleet which he offered a reward for my Father dead or Living he finally carried his hellish purpose by hiring my Fathers Servants to poison their master which ended his mortal career in 178[?] while engaged in defending his country by an invading Enemy the British. Regretted by all who knew him.

My Brothers Joseph & William was in the service all the war in Capacities suitable to their [?] where both taken twice and imprisoned in the Jersey which lay at the walabant once while recruiting in Staten Island they served they was out lived Some time after William left a widow who is now living in Connecticut.

The foregoing was not to brag on account of what my family performed then as they done no more than their duty but to convince those who may not have a fair view of things in those days and satisfy that my family one and all done their duty as good citizens. There could be many things added to this that might be interesting to many such as showing how the country people in those days insulted us for not staying away the British and why they made bread for the sick & fatigued Soldiers and they kept part of the flowers [flour?] but on finding this out all us women my fathers sister self & others baked it gratuitously [sic] my husband has been cald [called] a fool for not being able as Elbert Andersons & others who had the salt [offals?] &c but if they was to reflect how many womens & childrens was in his neighbour hood from this city while their husbands was in the army and which Congress made no provisions for they could easily persons when his [?] went being humane beings who had to eat & drink like others.

I hope this recital may not fatigue the Eyes and Ears of those who may read or hear it read as it is the language of a good woman Eighty years of age though in its dictation was actually some fifty five years since and that intentions in petteing [petitioning?] to obtain something to smooth down the five years she may yet live in this rugged rode [road]of life. For Mary Crolius. New York 3 June 1834. Wm. D. Crolius

Brooklyn State of NY

On this seventh day of September 1836 personally appeared before me Joseph Dean one of the Justices of the Municipal Court of the City of Brooklyn County of Kings and State of New York said Court being a Court of Record having a clerk and seal—

Mary Crolius a resident of Brooklyn, Kings County, New York, aged Eighty one years who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision, made by the act of Congress passed July 4th 1836.

That she is the widow of Wm. Crolius whose revolutionary services commenced on the Second of March 1775 at which time he entered a company of Grenadiers commanded by Captain VanDyke under Col. Lasher, and served in guarding the New York City records—on being relieved from that duty in 1776 he was engaged in the erecting of a work on Bunkers Hill, and in fortifying the banks of the Hudson River.

In the same year, as a Volunteer (in the five months service) he marched from the City of New York, and was in the attack at Harlaem Heights (8)—afterwards in the action at White Plains—and in the retreat to Peekskill—in November of the same year, was appointed Harbor Master under Capt. Wm. Dobbs—and in 1777, after the storming of Fort Montgomery (9) by the English, he served under the orders of General McDougal in removing the vessels and stores to Albany, and in the destruction of such as might be taken by the enemy.

From Albany, after the capture of Gen. Burgoyne, (10) he, under the orders of Col. Morgan Lewis, (11) attended to the transportation of provisions for the Troops at Peekskill.

In 1779, he served in the Quarter Masters Department as Waggon Master, Express rider, and Collector of Provisions.

In 1780, he served under Col. Stevens and continued in the issuing Department till 1781, when, from ill health, he returned to New Jersey on his recovery, he volunteered in Capt. Spears company of Artillery under Col. L. Courtland, and served therein until the conclusion of the war with England.

A document, signed by him dated April 26 1825, confirming the foregoing facts, and certified by two officers, James W. Lent & Lewis Rogers, (who served during the war of The War of the Revolution) was forwarded to the War Department in 1825, and may be found on the files of the Pension Office, Washington.

The foregoing information I derive from a statement in writing, made by my deceased husband some years, since for the purpose of obtaining a pension and it is not in my power from the nature of the case, to set forth more explicitly his services.

His character of a revolutionary soldier is well known by a considerable portion of the old and most respectable inhabitants of the City of New York—and to fully satisfied was the New York committee of his services during the Revolutionary War, that they granted for my relief a small pittance, but the greatest that their limited funds would admit her.

She further declares that she was married to the said Wm. Crolius on the 28th day of February 1775 and that her husband the aforesaid Wm Crolius died on the 21st day of April A.D. 1830 and that she has remained a widow ever since that period, as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed. (Signed) Mary Crolius

Sworn to and Subscribed on the day and year above written before me Joseph Dean Justice of the Municipal Court in the City of Brooklyn.

The deponent being by bodily infirmity unable to attend and appear before Court. Joseph Dean, Justice &c.

Memorandum of some of the Duties performed during the Revolutionary War.

On the 2d day March 1775 I entered on Public Duty by guarding the City Records at Wm Bayards House in Capt VanDykes Company of Grenadiers under Col. Lasher, I next assisted in the Erection of a Fort on Bunker Hill and fortifying the Bank of the Hudson River in which service I remained till 1776 I then Volunteered in the five months service (12) & on leaving the City we marched to Harlaem heights where we had a skirmish with the Enemy. We then marched to the White Plains where we had a severe Engagement from thence retreated to Peekskill—On the 9th Nov. of same year I was appointed assistant Harbour Master under Capt. Dobbs and remained on this line of duty till 1777—When the British stormed fort Montgomery I received orders from Genl McDougal to take a sufficient number of Watermen and remove all the Craft we could find, to Albany and destroy all such Vessels & Stores as would fall in the hands of the enemy which I executed with apparent satisfaction. While in Albany and after the taking of Burgoine [sic] I received orders from Col. Morgan Lewis, to repair to FishKill with Provisions for the Army that was stationed in that Quarter which I executed—In 1779 I entered the QuarterMasters Department as Waggon master Express rider, & Collecting Provisions for the Army in which I had my feet much frozen—On the 2d April 1780 I was appointed Clerk under Col. Stevens in the issuing department where I continued till April 1781 at which time I was obliged to quit the service owing to ill health and retired in Jersey.

On recovering my health I volunteered in Capt. Spears (13) Company under Col. P. Courtland (14) as an Artillerest [Artillerist] to Guard the Frontiers, and remained on duty till the conclusion of Peace between Great Britain & the United States of America, I then returned to the City of New York to enjoy that Freedom which I had the honour to assist in obtaining. When Congress had made a provision for the Revolutionary Armies—I in 1817 made application for a Pension, which I did not obtain, owing to my having been in the Staff.

New York 26th April 1825 (Signed) Wm. Crolius

End Notes—W.10685—William Crolius

1. The Battle of White Plains, N.Y. was fought on October 28, 1776.
2. Brigadier General Alexander McDougall of the Continental Army. McDougall was the Colonel of the First New York Continental Regiment until his promotion on August 9, 1776 to Brigadier General and then he was promoted to Major General on October 20, 1777.
3. The Danbury, Connecticut Raid was from April 25 to the 27th 1777. Major General David Wooster was wounded on April 27th and he died of his wounds on May 2, 1777.
4. Captain Abraham VanDyck was the Captain of the Grenadier Company in Colonel John Lasher's First Battalion of Independent Companies in the City of New York.
5. In a "Return of Riding Horses Kept by the Officers of the Line and Staff at and in the Vicinity of the Several Posts and Cantonments of the Army, January 6, 1781." Fish Kill Wm Dobbs, Superintendent of Blacksmiths 1 Public. Joseph Dobbs superintendent of Salting Beef 1 Private." They were part of the Quartermaster General's Department. FROM: Revolutionary War Records, ed. George Austin Morrison, New York Genealogical & Biographical Record, Vol. 48, January 1917, p 59.
6. Francois Joseph Paul deGrasse, Marquis de Grasse Tilly. Comte de Grasse, Admiral of the French Fleet that operated along Virginia in September and October 1781.
7. General Sir Henry Clinton of the British Army in New York City.
8. The Battle of Harlem Heights, NY was fought on September 16, 1776.
9. Fort Montgomery, NY was captured by Sir Henry Clinton's troops on October 6, 1777.

10. Lieutenant General John Burgoyne surrendered the remnants of his invading forces from Canada to Major General Horatio Gates of the Continental Army on October 17, 1777.
11. Colonel Morgan Lewis was appointed deputy Quartermaster General on September 12, 1776 in the Northern Department.
12. On February 11, 1776 Captain VanDyck's Grenadier Company was stationed at the home "of Mr. Nichols Bayard in the Out ward of the City of New York to guard the Records of the Province, removed there by Order of Congress." They were there until March 11, 1776 according to the Pay Roll of Captain VanDyck. The officers were Captain VanDyck, First Lieutenant John Anthony, Second Lieutenant James Byers, Third Lieutenant Ephraim Brasher; with four sergeants, four corporals, 1 Fifer, 1 Drummer and forty privates. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls: 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 72, folder 72, National Archives, Washington, D.C.---On March 4, 1776 at the Provincial Congress meeting "Nichs Bayard Esq. this morning attending was admitted. He informed the Congress, that a Grenadier Compy of Col. Lasher's Regiment had been the guard of the Records of this Colony, since they had been at his house;--that he has been informed it is to be changed and their place supplied by another company. That the said Grenadier Company have behaved so prudently, that it would oblige him to have them continued." FROM: Documents Relating to the Colonial History of the State of New York, ed. Berthold Fernow, State Archives, Vol XV, Weed, Parsons and Company, Printers, 1887, p. 78. - On page 80; Colonel Lasher was ordered to provide a guard of 48 men out of his regiment to protect the records to be relieved from time to time by detachments, so as to give the different companies In the regiment their proper proportion of duty. They also ordered that said detachment of 12 men to be the proper guard for 24 hours.
13. Captain Spears is unknown. A Spears as an officer of any grade was not found in the Continental Artillery Regiments.
14. Possibly referring to Colonel Philip VanCortlandt, who commanded the Second New York Continental Regiment. A Captain Spears was not part of this regiment which was an infantry regiment.