

Pension Application for Henry Davenport

S.28702

State of New York

County of Orange SS.

On the fourth day of December 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 Orange aforesaid being a Court of record now sitting Henry Devenport a resident of the Town of Monroe in the County of Orange and State of New York aforesaid aged eighty five, who being duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath made the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he entered the militia service of the United States in the year 1776 the precise time not recollected as a private under Captain David Miller the regiment was commanded by Colonel Woodhull—that he lived in the town of Monroe when he entered the service that he first marched to West Point—Gen DeLaFayette—he thinks was in command at the Point, Gen James Clinton was there Gen. Putnam was there, that Captain Buch & Captain Brewster was there—That he assisted to build at Fort there, which was called Fort Putnam—That he was out on the s'd tour 6 weeks. – Six weeks at least—he was there dismissed and returned home.

That he again entered the service of the United States as a militia man at the expiration of one or two weeks after his return—under one Captain John Gardner in Colonel Odles regiment—That he marched to Haverstraw in the County of Rockland and state of New York and on the banks of the Hudson River, passing through the town of Monroe in the County of Orange, aforesaid.

That there were regular Troops of the American Army at Haverstraw but he cannot now recollect the names of any general officers but he recollects that Captain David that Captain David Swezy was there in command of a company from Goshen in the county of orange, aforesaid. That Captain Miller and Captain Buch were both there. He remained at Haverstraw three weeks. That he then marched with other troops to Nyack in the State of New Jersey and on the Hudson River.

That while at Nyack they had an engagement with the British some of whom had been dispatched from the British ship Phenix lying upon the Hudson near Nyack for the purpose of affecting a landing but they were repulsed by the American troops and forced to return – that some of them were killed in their boat by Riflemen of a company then stationed at Nyack. That none of the Americans were killed Colonel Hay was then stationed there and had his hat pierced with a ball during the engagement after residing at Nyack considerable length of time watching the shipping of the enemy—we marched down the river to a place called the New City that he remained at the New City several months.

From there he proceeded with his regiment to Fort Lee near the City of New York—that the British when then in possession of New York that while stationed at Fort lee they had a skirmish with some of the British Army, thinks they were Hessians who were out getting firewood near Weehawk.

That the Hessians were forced to retreat. That several of the Americans were wounded—and that seventeen horses were taken by the Americans – after remaining sometime at Fort Lee he returned with his company to New City he was there dismissed and returned home—having served out their tour at least one year.

That he again entered the service of the United States under Captain Francis Smith –thinks in the year 1777 cannot state the precise time. – He marched to Fort Montgomery—That Gen George Clinton was in command there. That Captain Brewster was there and likewise Captain Buch.

That he was in the Fort when it was taken, that previous thereto he had been absent from the fort about a week having for that time hired a substitute, that upon the morning of the day the fort was attacked he returned into the Fort—and his substitute was likewise forced to remain in the fort by command of the commanding officer and was killed in the engagement.

That he recollects Colonel McLaughrey having been there.

I saw him come out of the Fort holding up his entrails which had protruded from his body he having been severely wounded brandishing his sword and Hurraring—That this deponent made his escape by leaping the walls of the Fort after the command had been given “save himself who can” that he received a slight wound on his leg but how he cannot tell—he sought his home and after remaining there one day again returned to his company, then at Captain Francis Smith’s in the town of Monroe aforesaid.

From thence they proceeded to Cornwall on the Hudson River from thence to New Windsor watching the enemies shipping which after the taking of Fort Montgomery had proceeded up the river.—While at New Windsor received information that the British and burned Kingston on Esopus and had returned down the river whereupon they followed down the river and again returned to Francis Smith’s and that neighborhood where they were dismissed and he again returned home having served on this town one month at least.

And this deponent says that that [sic] he was out at other times and upon other occasions—But he cannot now state the particular incidents of his service with the precision required—he as frequently out in the pursuit of Tories—and frequently out in pursuit of one Claudius Smith a great robber and particular friend of the enemy—that he was likewise at Haverstraw on Tappan when Major Andre was hung.

That he is an old and infirm man and to state his service with more particularly that he has done, is out of his power, because he has now neither the vigour of mind now the [?] of recollection of youth or middle age.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

That he was born at Pompton New Jersey in the year 1747.

Has no record of his age.

He lived in Monroe when called into service and has lived there ever since.

He entered he service as Militia man, sometimes did days duty.

He cannot now state more fully the names of officers than he has done.
Never rec'd a written discharge.

That he is known to Robt Fowler, John McGarrah, and William Jackson who reside in his neighbourhood, all inhabitants of the town of Monroe aforesaid who can testify as to his veracity and then belief of his service as a soldier of the revolution
(Signed) Henry Davenport

Subscribed & Sworn in open court the 4th day of December 1832 before me.
Asa Dunning Clerk of Cr. Com Pleas.

Letter in folder dated August 14, 1931, written in response to an inquiry.

You are advised that it appears from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim, S.28702, that Henry Davenport was born in 1747 in Pompton, New Jersey, exact date not shown.

While a resident of Monroe, Orange County, New York, he enlisted in 1776 and served about six weeks as a private in Captain Garrit Miller's Company, in Colonel Woodhull's New York Regiment. After about two weeks, he enlisted as a Private in Captain John Gardner's Company under Colonel Odle in the New York troops, was in an engagement with the enemy at Nyack, in a skirmish near Weehawk and was discharged at Fort Lee, having served one year. He enlisted in 1777, served one month in Captain Francis Smith's New York Company and was in the engagement at Fort Montgomery when it was captured and received a slight wound in his leg during said action. He was out at various times against the enemy, specific dates not stated, and was at Tappan when Major Andre was hung.

He was allowed pension on his application executed December 4, 1832, while a resident of Monroe, Orange County, New York.

There are no data relative to his family.