

Pension Application for Stewart Dean

R.2809 Reason for rejection: "He did not serve 6 months."

State of New York

County of Livingston SS

On this thirtieth day of September in the year of our Lord 1833, personally appeared in open court, before the court of Common Pleas of the said County of Livingston, now sitting, Stewart Dean, a resident of the town of Lima in the County of Livingston and State of New York, aged eighty five years and upwards, 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 soon after the commencement of the Revolutionary War, and although by reason of his advanced age and consequent loss of memory, he is unable to state precisely when and how long he served at the different periods when he was engaged in such service, yet from the best of his recollection he was engaged in the land service of the United States as a volunteer private soldier in the militia of the State of New York at detached periods, not less in the whole than three months; and that he was engaged in the naval Service at different times not less in the whole than fourteen months, as master commandant of the vessels herein named, in virtue of Letter of marque and Reprisal, granted by Congress, the particulars of which land and naval service is far as he can now recollect them are as follows;

On the 12th or 15th January in the year 1776 he marched from Albany to Johnstown on the Mohawk river, under the immediate command of captain Gerritt Groesbeck of Albany, Genl Schuyler commanding the expedition, and assisted in the capture of Sir John Johnston [Johnson] with 60 or 70 prisoners was out at this time a week or 10 days, when he returned to Albany where he then resided.

In the year 1777 having hired a substitute during the war and equipped him in pursuance of an act of Congress, in the latter part of the month of July in the forepart of August of that year, he again volunteered in a company of Artillery that he thinks was also commanded by Captain Groesbeck, but does not distinctly remember and marched from Albany to Fort Plain, and was engaged in pursuit of the Indians at Cherry Valley, German Flats and other places a little more than two months in the course of that year, during this period Genl VanRensselaer had the command of the troops concerned in this expedition.

In the year 1778 an alarm was given that the enemy was making incursion from the north, when he with others marched as a volunteer from Albany to Schenectady, (under whose command he does not recollect) and was out about a week when there being no occasion from his further continuance, the enemy having retreated, he returned again to Albany.

In the year 1779 sometime in November or December he marched from Albany to Schoharie as a volunteer and continued at the latter place two weeks or more when he again returned to Albany, whether he was attached to any company before or on

his arrival at Schoharrie [sic] he does not now remember Genl Schuyler or Genl Tenbroock had the command of his expedition but which of them he cannot say.

In the month of June 1776, he thinks about the 20th of that month, having received a commission of Letter of Marque and reprisal as of the Sloop Beaver, he sailed from New York to New [Land?] where he fitted and manned the beaver for a cruise, and immediately on receipt of the news at New London of the Declaration of Independence, departed in the Beaver for Providence on the 7th or 8th of July as near as eh recollects bearing that intelligence.

The day after his arrival at Providence he set sail, on a cruise to the West Indies, and when four or five days out, fell in as he anticipated, with a fleet of British merchantmen of about 150 sail, which had just parted with her convoy, and in the course of 5 or 6 days assisted in capturing four sail, one of which the Earl of [Errol?] carrying six 4 pounders was not taken till after a sharp conflict of two hours. The latter vessel, arrived safely at Boston, the others were recaptured. He arrived with the beavers at the island of St. Martin's about the middle of September and after disposing of her cargo and laying in another sailed for the United States, and arrived safely at New Port, Rhodeisland [sic] sometime in October following—From the time he received his commission till his return with the beaver to New Port was about five months.

In the year 1782 went to Philadelphia and there superintended the building of an armed vessel called the Nimrod for Robert Morris & Co. The Nimrod carried 10 four pounders and had a compliment of 25 men. In the forepart of April in 1782, having received a commission of Letter of Marque and reprisal, as master commandant of the Nimrod, he sailed from Philadelphia with dispatches from the French Minister in the United States for Count DeGrasse, and in about 20 days arrived at the island of St. Christophers, where he learned that the count had been defeated a short time before—

While lying in the harbor at St. Christopher the Nimrod was attacked by two 20 Gun-ships, and after a short but severe conflict captured and carried to Antigua—he was badly wounded during the engagement, and immediately after the surrender of the Nimrod, and was detained a prisoner about 20 days; at the expedition of which time through the friendly interposition of Admiral Crosby and the then Governor of Antiqua, whose name he has forgotten, the Nimrod with the remainder of her crew was restored to him, and after returning to St. Christopher's, whiter he was towed by one of the Admiral Ships and laying in a cargo, arrived safely at the head of Elk river in Maryland in August or September having been absent between 4 and 5 months.—

Immediately after disposing of theeCargo of the Nimrod and laying in another he sailed for the Havanna under the same commissioner, where he arrived soon after—The vessel was embargoed at that port and detained about 2 months—after which he sailed for Philadelphia where he arrived in safety in the latter part of December or forepart of January following; that the whole time he was employed in the two cruises in the Nimrod after receiving his commission for that vessel, including the time of fitting here and laying in her cargoes, he should think at the least nine months.

That he has lost both his commissions, and has no documentary evidence whatever of his services to his knowledge.

That he resided in the City of Albany at the several times when he entered the service of the United States, and since the Revolutionary War he has resided the principal part of the time in Albany and New York, but for near three years past has resided in the town of Lima in the county of Livingston and State of New York, where he now resides.

The following persons he believes will recollect something of his land service all of whom reside in the City of Albany namely; Abraham VanVechten, Leonard Gansevoort, John P. Dow and Zachariah Sickle—William Patterson of Baltimore in Maryland knows that he commanded the Beaver and something of his services while in command of that vessel although the said Patterson was not on board of her during her cruise a Mr. Livingston of New York was a part owner of the Beaver and he believes is still living, though he cannot recollect his Christian name. The name of the first mate of the Beaver was John Autchea that of the 2d mate of the Nimrod, Francis Manscollock—The owners of the Nimrod so far as he knows are all dead, nor is there any person living to his knowledge who knows anything of his services while in command of her—

That he was born on the 4th of July 1748 in Somerset County Maryland, he has no record of his age, nor was there ever to his knowledge any record made thereof except in the Family Bible and whose that is he does not know—he never received any discharge for his services in the militia, nor does he know by whom the Letters of Marque and Reprisal under which he cruised were signed.

The following are the names of some of the persons in his present neighborhood to whom he is known, and who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his revolutionary services, namely, Matthew Warner Augustus A. Bennett, Revd John Barnard Junior, Henry Grout, Erastus Clark and Melachon W. Brown.

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) Stewart Dean

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year first aforesaid in open court. S. G. Haven, Dep. Clerk