

Pension Application for Garret Derrick or Derrick Clute

W.23813 (Widow: Margaret {Shibley, maiden name, daughter of John Shibley of Schodac}) Garret D. Clute died April 20, 1843, in the County of Prince Edward in Canada West.

Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress of the 7th of June 1832.

State of New York

Jefferson County SS.

On this 10th day of February 1834, personally appeared before me George Brown Esq., one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in the then County of Jefferson in the State of New York, Garret D. Clute who declares himself to be a resident of the township of Milford late Hanorvill the County of Lenox in the Province of Upper Canada aged seventy two years & eleven months, who being first duly sworn doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the act passed by Congress passed June 7th, 1832.

That I volunteered as a Militia man about the last of March or first of April & I am of the belief it was the first of April in the year 1778 (I am sure it was the year after the surrender of Burgoyne) (1) for the term of three months; under Capt. Joseph Elliot (2), of Rhinebeck; Lieut. Nicholas VanVranken of Niskayuna & Lieut. Nicholas VanderCarr of Half Moon. The Regiment was commanded by Col. John Bateman or Beekman (3). The second day of my service Capt. Elliot asked me if I could write? I told him I could; & he there upon appointed me an Orderly Sergeant (4), in which capacity I continued to serve until I was dismissed from the service. At the time I volunteered I resided at Niskayuna about ten miles from the City of Albany in the State of New York & the day after I volunteered I joined my company & went to Albany where I remained until my dismissal. My duty consisted principally to call the roll in the morning & at evening & in writing & keeping accounts. While in Albany I was billeted at a home & in the family of one Garret Lansing a Silver Smith in Albany with two other soldiers one of the name of James Jourdan the other of Simon Frazur. Jourdan & Frazier (5) were about this time sent with some prisoners to New Haven, I think where they both enlisted as Continental Soldiers, as I understood. The greatest part of the time while I remained at Albany I performed the duty of Quarter Master Sergeant together with my other duties. About two weeks before the term expired for which I volunteered, our company was ordered to be called out onto Parade, Capt. Elliot appeared in front of the company, took off his hat, made a short speech thanken the soldiers for their good behavior & told us we were dismissed until further orders, & that we might return home. I immediately turned around, took off my hat, pulled out my Cockade, took off my sword, returned to my quarters, packed up my things & returned home to Niskayuna.

In the summer of the year 1778, I volunteered in the militia under a Lieut. Ezekiel Taylor (6) & served over five weeks & during this time I went up to Cherry Valley.

In the fall of 1778 or 1779, I cannot remember exactly, but I know if was the year Cherry Valley (7) was burnt by the Indians, I went as a volunteer in the Militia to Cherry Valley & was in the service over one month. I served at this time under a Capt. Vanderburgh of Halfmoon. I think the Militia was under the general command of a Col. Clock.(8) During a part of this time we lay at Fort Plank.

At another time but I cannot say at what time, but I am pretty certain it was in the year 1779. I served two weeks under Capt. White (9) of Ballston & Lieut. Cook (10) of Newtown. At this time we lay at a fort at Johnstown. The Fort was picketed around the Jail at Johnstown & we were billeted among the Inhabitants. I served two weeks at Stone Arabia and two weeks at Palmerstown in a Picket Fort but I am unable to name my officers.

In the year 1780 about the first of February & now on reflection I am quite certain it was a few days after the New Year in January while I resided at Niskayuna, I enlisted for the term of one year in a company commanded by Capt. Teunis Fisher of Albany & Lieut. William Sowles a soldier in a regiment commanded by Col. Morgan Lewis. (11) I went to Albany where I remained the principal part of the time during the year. I quartered with one Garret Van Vranken in Albany. I then went to Philadelphia with Mr. Edward Chinn (12) who was a paymaster & kept a Bank as I understood in Albany. I was gone to Philadelphia seven weeks. While I was in Albany, I was put by Col. Lewis on board of a Sloop lying in the North River, called the "Magazine" where I remained over three weeks. I received from Col. Morgan Lewis a regular & an honorable discharge for my years service. My discharge I gave to my mother who is dead, & my discharge I suppose is lost as I have not seen it in 54 years.

About the first of April in the year 1781 I enlisted for the term of Nine months in a company commanded by a Capt. Aylesworth.(13) I never saw my Capt. as it was said he was killed by an Indian while he was fishing in a small lake called Schuyler's Lake before I found my company. My first Lieut's name was Hendricks (14) my 2d Lieut's name was John Shaw of Albany. The Regiment was commanded by Col. Willett. I joined my Regiment at Fort Plain, from whence I marched to Fort House, where we remained until Major Ross (15) & his Indians came to Johnstown—Col. Willett then marched down across the Mohawk River at Caughnawaga, towards Johnstown, us met Major Ross & his party in a field in sight of Sir William Johnsons' house at Johnstown; us fought & defeated Ross who retreated across the East Canada Creek—We pursued him & Ross continued to retreat & crossed the West

Canada Creek, when he made a stand until Col. Willett came up & then we had another hard fight (16) & Ross was compelled to retreat with considerable loss. The celebrated (17) Butler was killed in this action. We had a field piece (18) which was taken & lost there several times during the battle. After this battle we returned to Fort Herkimer & from Fort Herkimer to Fort Plain. Col. Willett's Regiment was dismissed a few days after Christmas 1781. I never received any discharge. Lieut. Hendricks continued to command our company until I was dismissed.

I have now stated as near as I can, the services I performed during the Revolutionary War, but one remark I wish to make that during the year 1778 & 1779 I served nearly all the time by short turns, but it is utterly impossible for me to state particulars. But putting my services all together I actually served my country faithfully more than three years.

I have no documentary evidence in my possession or within my knowledge of my services as a soldier.

I know of no record of my age; but I expect a record might be found in the City of Schenectady but am not certain. There are several persons living at or near Albany who I expect could testify to my services.

I reside in Canada about 77 miles from Jefferson County & I cannot procure the attendance of my neighbors who know me to certify to my character; but I have brought a written certificate with me which is hereunto annexed. I make this declaration before George Brown Esqr, out of Court, because I am informed & believe that the Court does not set in this county until the last Monday in February this present month.

I hereby relinquish any claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & I declare that my name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state. Signed) Garret D. Clute.

Sworn before me this 10th day of February 1834. G. Brown Judge Jefferson County Court.

End Notes—W.23813—Garret Derrick Clute

1. General John Burgoyne surrendered his British Army on October 17, 1777.
2. This enlistment appears to be a draft of the Albany County Militia to form a detachment from several regiments. Joseph Elliot was Captain of the Second Company in Colonel Peter R. Livingston's Tenth Regiment of Albany County Militia, Nicholas VanVranken was the Second Lieutenant of the Second Company (Captain Nanning N. Visscher), in Colonel Jacobus VanSchoonhoven's Twelfth Regiment of Albany County Militia. Nicholas VanDerkar was the Second Lieutenant in Captain John VanDenburgh's Company in the Twelfth Albany.
3. Lieutenant Colonel John Beekman of Colonel Kilian VanRensselaer's Fourth Regiment of Albany County Militia.
4. On the existing muster rolls Garret is listed as a private. He does describe some of the duties correctly for the Orderly Sergeant. He had to write and keep records. On some 1775 and 1776 muster rolls, sometimes the word "Clerk" would be written by a man's name.
5. This is interesting that he was able to remember this kind of information. Simon Fraser and James Jourdon did enlist in Captain Thomas Seymour's Second Troop in the Second Continental Light Dragoons commanded by Colonel Elisha Sheldon. Their enlistment date is listed as March of 1778.
6. Garrett is likely to be mistaken because Ezekiel Taylor was the First Major of the Twelfth Albany. There was a Joshua Taylor who was the First Lieutenant in Captain Elias Steenbergh's Company in the Twelfth Albany.
7. Cherry Valley was destroyed on November 11, 1778.
8. Jacob Klock was the Colonel of the Second Regiment of Tryon County Militia.
9. Captain Stephen White (Sixth Company) in the Twelfth Albany.
10. Joseph Coke (Cook, Cooke) was the Second Lieutenant in Captain Elias Steenburgh's Company in the Twelfth Albany.
11. Colonel Morgan Lewis was the Deputy QuarterMaster General of the Northern Department from September 12, 1776 and served in that capacity until the end of the war. Visscher and Sowles (Soles, Soules, etc.) would have been in this department.
12. Edward Chinn was the Paymaster of the Second Canadian Continental Regiment commanded by Colonel Moses Hazen.
13. Peter Elsworth was a captain on April 27, 1781 in Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant Marinus Willett's Regiment of New York State Levies. Captain Elsworth with part of his company was ambushed on July 6, 1781 near Steele's Creek and Elsworth was killed.
14. Bartel Hendricks, John Shaw and William Bloodgood served as lieutenants in Elsworth's Company.
15. Major John Ross of the King's Royal Regiment of New York commanded the raiding force. The Battle of Johnstown was fought on October 25, 1781.
16. The skirmish at West Canada Creek was fought on October 30, 1781.
17. Captain Walter Butler of Lieutenant-Colonel John Butler's Rangers.
18. The 3 pounder brass field piece was captured and retaken at the Battle of Johnstown.