

Pension Application for Charles Dickinson

S.29119

Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June the 1832. State of New York SS.

On this eleventh day of December one thousand and eight hundred and thirty two, personally appeared in open court before the Court of General sessions of the Peace, in and for the City and County of New York, now sitting, Charles Dickinson, a resident of Orange Town, County of Rockland, and State of New York, aged eighty 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 was born, in the City of New York, November 18th 1752: that the record of his age is in the Family Bible, now in the possession of his sister.

That he was living in the said City when called into service, and has resided therein since the Revolutionary War, till the year 1828, when he removed to Orange Town, where he continues to reside.

That the place, where the Court of Rockland County is held, at New City, a distant from his residence about 19 miles, as he believes; that in consequence of his old age and of an infirmity, with which he has been afflicted for many years, he is unable to ride to the said New City; that hence it is more convenient and agreeable to him, by a passage in a steamboat to come from his residence to the City of New York to make this his declaration.

That at an early period of the difficulties with the mother country, he entered into the service of the United States a volunteer in a uniform Company, of which John J. Roosevelt was Captain and he himself was First Lieutenant, that he cannot state the time more precisely nor, does he recollect any other particulars.

That he again entered with the service as a volunteer as Captain of a company in the Regiment of Colonel Lasher; that he marched his company to Jamaica in consequence of a report that the Tories had collected arms there; he neither met any body of Tories, in opposition nor saw any arms; he cannot state how long this occurred before the landing of the British troops on Staten Island, nor can he state any other particulars.

That he again enlisted in the service, a volunteer, as Captain in the same Regiment of Colonel Lasher, and Brigade of General Scott, one being Major in a service of six months; that he cannot state the time, but thinks, it was before the British landed on Staten Island; he directed his company in building a redoubt along the Hudson River, but recollects no one in particular; he was ordered to Long Island, where breastworks and fortifications were built; he was stationed on the lines, on the Heights, near a Fort whose name he does not recollect.

He believes he went there before the British had landed. He had full sight of the battle between Lord Sterling and the British when it commenced and when it left off; he recollects one of the soldiers of his own company coming up with the cap of a British Officer; he recollects retreating to Brooklyn, but not the weather—he saw many

there, but he has no recollection of General Washington nor General Putnam, nor of the names of any other person; that he went to New York; he went about marching with his company to Kingsbridge, when he learnt that the British had landed at Kipp's Bay and had taken on VanDyke, of the same Regiment.

Captain of a Grenadier Company, a prisoner and had cut off all communication with Kingsbridge; he crossed over to New Jersey, & proceeding some distance recrossed over to Kingsbridge; he met his company there, where they built barracks; while lying at Kingsbridge he was sent to Morrisena on guard; there was a great display of the British boats going and returning; Colonel Drake commanding the Guard. Thought us advisable to make it known at head quarters; the said Colonel Goshern to write, when he understood an army was on the alert, he was not in the battle at White Plains, but joined his company in their retreat to Peekskill; after remaining there a short time, they removed to Haverstraw, where the period of enlistment that his six months expired, and the soldiers of his Company were discharged.

That he again entered into the service, a volunteer, as a private, at Albany, when Sir John Johnson came with his Indians, and burned the houses and grain at the German Flats; a battle took place in the evening, when he saw two of our men wounded; the enemy retreated at night crossing the river and leaving behind some of their Artillery.

He does not recollect the name of his Captain nor the time of the war; VanRensellaer was the General; Chancellor Lansing, whose station he does not recollect, told him to return with one Mr. VanSchaick, who was wounded, his health being very delicate.

That all his services, with the captain of that last mentioned, were commenced in the City of New York, that his health and memory are very impaired by age and infirmities; that to the best of his recollection and belief he served no less that three months as First Lieutenant; nor less than nine months as a Captain; nor less than one month as a private; and for those services he claims a pension.

That he held his Captain's commission from the Provincial Congress, but lost it, when many years since going to Morristown; that before he removed to Orange Town he had some of the papers of his company, but he does not know what has become of them; that at present he has no documentary evidence.

That he knows no one, now living except Samuel Delamater, of the City of New York, a private in his company who can testify to his actual services. That the Reverend Doctor Cox and Henry Remsen, late President of the Manhattan Company of the City of New York, but resident of the said City can testify to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution.

That he has been a member of the Reformed Cutch Church of the City of New York for more than forty years, and at certain times, a deacon and elder thereof, and was an Alderman of the Third Board in the said City, having been Chairman of a Committee, who superintended the Creation of the City Hall.

That he has no particular recollection of any general officers, nor militia and Continental regiments except that he saw General Lee, Though he cannot state, when or where.

That he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. (Signed) Charles Dickinson

Sworn and subscribed to the day and year aforesaid in open court. Richard Hatfield, Clerk

Letter in folder dated October 10, 1935, written in response to an inquiry.

In compliance with your request of recent date, you are furnished herein the Revolutionary War record of Charles Dickinson as found in pension claim, S.29119, based upon his service in that war.

Charles Dickinson was born November 18, 1752 in New York City, names of his parents not given. His mother and sister and "most of his other relatives" were residents of Albany, New York, during the Revolution, no names given.

Charles Dickinson was a resident of New York City early in the Revolution, and he stated that he served three months as 1st lieutenant in Captain John I. or J. Roosevelt's company of Oswego Rangers; served as captain three months in Colonel Lasher's New York regiment; served as captain six months in Colonel Lasher's regiment, during this service, was at the battle of Long Island in the retreat, and his company was employed in building redoubts along the Hudson River; and served one month as private, when Sir John Johnson came with "his Indians" and burnt the houses and grain at German Flats, when he volunteered in this service was in Albany, New York.

He was allowed pension on his application executed December 11, 1832, then a resident of Orange Town, Rockland County, New York, where he had moved from New York City in 1828.

Upon a reexamination of his claim, his pension was suspended, and this soldier was requested to furnish more specific proof of each tour of his service. This proof was not furnished and his name was not restored to the pension roll.

Charles Dickinson was at one time an Alderman on the 3rd Board of New York City, also Chairman of the Committee to superintend the erection of the City Hall.

Nicholas Lansing, V.D.M. of Tappan in 1832, stated that he had known the soldier, Charles Dickinson for about fifty years, and that he (Charles Dickinson) is married to my sister and I have been married to his sister"; the wife of Nicholas Lansing had been dead about eighteen years. The names their wives were not given.

Reference was made in 1835 to Mr. J. L. Dickinson, son of the soldier. There is no further reference to Children.

One Thomas S. Smith in 1835 was Register of the Treasury of the United States.