

Pension Application for William Dodge

S.16767

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

State of New York

City and County of New York. SS

On the third day of December one thousand eight hundred and thirty two personally appeared in open court General Sessions of the [?] in and fore the City and County of New York—now sitting William Dodge, a resident of the City, in the County of New York and State of New York, aged seventy four 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 4th day of March 1758, which record of his age is contained in the Family Bible of his father, now in the possession of sons of his brother, Henry deceased, at Vernon, Oneida County, State of New York.

That he was living when called into service, at Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County, State of New York, and has lived in the City of New York, since the Revolutionary War, where he continued to reside.

That he enlisted into the service of the United States, as a volunteer, in the months foJune or July 1776, in the company of Captain Bernardus Swartwout, and Regiment of Colonel Jacobus Swartwout, at Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County; he believes; however his service commissioned on the 1st of August; that it was one of the terms of the enlistment, that I should be optional with the company to go below Kingsbridge.

That while laying at Kingsbridge, orders came from the headquarters of the American Army, on Long Island, that as many as would, should come to that place. The colonel therefore paraded the Regiment and the Captain told the Company the necessities of Government, all the company volunteered to go, he with his fellow soldiers, went to New York, and arrived at Long Island at sunrise of the next day after the great battle; that he went to Fort Greene, about two miles from the Ferry, but he does not know who was the commander of the fort, to wit, General Mifflin, the British were laying encamped before the lines; he things. He was there two days; at 12 o'clock in the night, the company was ordered to march; they did so and halted at the old church, about one mile from Brooklyn; in compliance with orders, they marched back to the same fort, where they lay till break of day when they came away to Brooklyn Town; he there saw the soldiers of the army going off towards the City to bateaux and there for the first time knew the army was retreating that he landed at the shipyards, at about eight o'clock and the weather being very foggy; he with the rest of his company, rendezvoused in Beaver Street, under the same Captain; that he staid a few days in New York when he was ordered to Harlam; that he did not stop till he came to Kingsbridge, where he was when the City was burned; he was ordered thence to White Plains and was in the battle at that place, and one of his company was killed by the side of him; he does not know, what Continental officer commanded.

After the British had retired from the plains, he, with his company moved to the Highlands, at Fort Constitution opposite to West Point; that he remained there till his time expired, being about the last of December or first of January; he entered the service for five months and was not absent from duty a single day by sickness and from any other cause whatever. No written discharges were given; he was on guard at Kingsbridge, when the battle was fought at Harlam Heights; he does not recollect, whether there were other companies at Kingsbridge or at Fort Constitution; he understood. Though never saw, General Heath, the commander of Kingsbridge. On the morning of the retreat from Long Island he saw a person who was said to be General Washington; he recollects no other officers or companies.

That he again enlisted at Poughkeepsie, aforesaid in a service of nine months. He forgets the name of the captain & colonel and also the year, but he thinks in the years 1779 or 1780; he marched to Easton, Pennsylvania but does not recollect the particular place he passed through; he met at Easton, a part of the continental Army and leaving his company by permission, he joined the regiment of Colonel Dubois from New York; that he with the said Regiment returned to Peekskill and laid on the Heights, on the farm of General VanCourtlandt; that at Peekskill he was exchanged for a substitute, his brother, Richard a musician, who, to the best of his belief, served all the war and was at the surrender of Cornwallis; the said Richard died in August last; that he served in the whole about two months; he was a volunteer; he forgets the name of his continental captain.

That he was employed in the service of the United States, in the latter part of 1780, or in the beginning of 1781, under David Brooks, deputy [?] General, whose station was at New York; he was Assistant Commissary of Hides to William A. Forbus, the commissary and was stationed at Fishkill; that his duty was to obtain hides from the butchers, have them dried, and to exchange them with the Country people for boots and shoes; he made monthly returns to said Forbus; that he was in the service when Cornwallis was taken and continued therein all the succeeding winter; that he does not recollect the precise length of his service, but to the best of his recollection and belief it could not have been less than a year. His pay was that of a captain at \$40 per month; he believes he left the service in February or March 1782, when the accounts were closed up of persons engaged in the service, he recollects Major Hesse of the Quarter Master's Department and ___ Stevens Commissary of Pensions, both of Fishkill; he recollects no continental officers.

That he has no documentary evidence but that Abraham Leggett, a fellow soldier, and Daniel Dodge, his brother and the above mentioned David Brooks, both Custom House Officers, can testify to his actual services.

That through old age and loss of memory he cannot state the precise extent of his services but that he served not less than seven months as a private and not less than one year as a commissary receiving the pay of Captain.

That William Parkinson, a clergyman and William W. Todd and John Turner, all of the City of New York can testify to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution.

That on further reflection he states it as his belief, that he enlisted in the nine months service aforesaid, at Poughkeepsie in the summer of 1779 that he joined Colonel Dubois' regiment at Easton Pennsylvania on their return from General Sullivan's Western Expedition against the Indians; that James Rosenkrantz was his Continental Captain and his brother Henry Dodge was the lieutenant.

That he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except he present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any State. (Signed) Wm Dodge

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