

Pension Application for Benjamin Drake

S.2182

State of Ohio, Huron County SS.

Norwalk 27th July AD 1832.

On this 27th day of July personally appeared in open court before the Supreme Court for said [state] of Ohio within and for said County of Huron now sitting Benjamin Drake resident of Oxford in said County aged sixty six years of age, born at Peekskill in Westchester County 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 under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

That he entered into the service of the United States as a volunteer in the year AD 1779 in the Fall of that year in the Militia of said State of New York in a company commanded by Captain Ebenezer Boyd in a Regiment commanded by Colonel Samuel Drake, David Ferris was a Lieutenant in his company served a considerable time to guarding cattle for the use of the Army was stationed at Peekskill & neighborhood from Fall of the year 1779 to the next fall in and assisted in guarding cattle from Peekskill to that vicinity to the Army. His father lived about three miles from Poughkeepsie and kept a great [victually house?] for the American Army where has seen General Washington.

That in the Fall of the year AD 1780 he was enrolled in the Militia Guard on Patrols. He then served in that Country and vicinity until the peace between the United States and Great Britain during this service he was always under arms & fully equipped. He was enrolled to do duty by rotation & duly performed it the Country being frequently infested by CowBoys & the lower refugees. That he served in the whole more than two years, was well acquainted with and served most of the time with the same officers.

He knew Colonel Sheppard from Connecticut a man of very grey hairs. Lieutenant Colonel [Sprout?] was of the same regiment with Colonel Sheppard was also acquainted with Philip VanCortland who was a Colonel of a Regiment who was frequently stationed where he was. He knew a Captain Scott who commanded a Company and a Captain Cherry with Continental Line. He has no record of his age, has no documentary evidence of his service. He knows of no person living who can testify [?] his services in said war. He was at TarrensTown [Tarrystown?] when Major Andre was taken as a Spye by John P:aulding, Isaac VanWort & Abraham Williams who were neighbors of hi s& was intimately acquainted with them & they were his particular Friends. He saw Daniel Sprang and American of West Chester County a spye hung at Peekskill. He also saw Edward Palmer another American Spye hung on Gallows Hill who first joined the British & came out as a spye. General McDougal then commanded at Peekskill when Fort Montgomery was taken which he thinks was in 1777 he was at Peekskill he was there when Stoney Point was taken by General Wayne, the time he saw General Washington at his father's house was at the time the

American French Army moved from Peekskill to the White Plains who marched from thence across the North River on their way to YorkTown in Virginia. His father's name was Jeremiah Drake. (Signed) Benj'n Drake

Subscribed & sworn the day & year aforesaid. Attest. D. Gibbs Clerk Sup. Ct.

Letter in folder dated March 5, 1940, written in response to an inquiry.

The data which follow were obtained from papers on file in pension claim, S.2182, based upon service of Benjamin Drake in the Revolutionary War. This is the only Revolutionary War pension claim found based upon service of a Benjamin Drake.

Benjamin Drake, the son of Jeremiah was born April 18, 1766, at Peekskill, Westchester County, New York. During the Revolutionary War, his father lived about three miles from Peekskill. The name of his mother is not shown.

Benjamin Drake, volunteered in Peekskill, New York, early in September 1779, and served until the middle of November, 1780, as a private in Captain Ebenezer Boyd's company, Colonel Samuel Drake's (no relationship to soldier shown) New York Regiment, was stationed in Peekskill and in that neighborhood and assisted in guarding cattle and sending them to the army; after the termination of the above service, he immediately re-enlisted and served at different times until the close of the war as a militia guard and patrol under the same officers, entire length of his service more than two years.

The soldier was allowed pension on his application executed July 27, 1832, at which time he was residing in Oxford, Huron County, Ohio

No further family data are shown.