

## **Pension Application for William Eldridge**

S.23613

William Eldridge of Lisbon in the County of St. Lawrence & State of New York aged eighty years next March (1833) makes the following declaration in order to obtain a pension under the act of Congress passed June 7, 1832—granting pensions to certain soldiers of the Revolution, to wit.

That he was born in the town of Exeter in the State of Rhode Island about the year 1753, that he resided with his parents at Exeter aforesaid until he was about eighteen years of age when he went to Dover in the County of Dutchess in the State of New York where he worked out by the month during the summer in the month of March 1776 the first of the month, he enlisted in the said town of Dover for the term of nine months by one Richard Weaver who was a Sargeant, who had recruiting orders. That he mustered in said Town under Captain Nathan Pierce—his first Lieutenant's name was Dozenberry, his Christian he cannot remember—his second Lieutenants name was Zephaniah Plott & his Ensign's name was Thornton, but his given name he cannot remember.

His colonel name was Richmore, but his given name he never knew.

His Lieut. Col. name was Weysen Phelps—

This declarant further says that Christopher Penny was his orderly sergeant & one of his sergeant's name was Manning. This declarant says that his Captain, the said Nathan Pierce, when his time was about half expired, was taken sick & went home & one Captain Baldwin took his place who continued until the nine months expired.—

This declarant was discharged at Peekskill by Lieut. Col. Phelps—his Col. was at this time, he understood, enlisted as a Col. in the three years service. During this enlistment this declarant was at the following places. He stayed in Dover about four weeks to learn to exercise & march & then he went in a sloop with the rest of the company to New York where he joined his Regiment & he continued in about New York until the City was taken as he thinks in 1776.

He was in several skirmishes in going up to Kings Bridge near which he lay about four weeks though he was sent about to different places during the time he lay there.

After leaving Kings Bridge he marched up towards White Plains & made a stand near there a short time & was then in the battle of White Plains where he lost all his clothes & baggage. After the battle he marched up the river most to Peek's Kill & lay there & at Peekskill until he was discharged, which was between Christmas & New Years, having overstaid his time about three weeks, none of Company received written discharges but the company was paraded & all discharged at once. He then returned home & staid but some three or four days & then enlisted & went to West Point—his enlistment was for three months & he continued at West Point nearly all the time of this enlistment.

His Col's name was Burcham, his given name he thinks was James & he believes he belonged to the malitia. [sic]

His Captain's name was Viele, but his given name he does not know. His Lieutenant's name he cannot recollect.

While at West Point he did little except stand guard, that it was a very cold winter. This declarant was dismissed at West Point the last of March or first of April 1777, & did not receive a written discharge—This declarant returned home to Dover & staid but two or three days when he enlisted under the same Captain as a minet [minute] man—one Jerry Clark was his Lieutenant. This enlistment was for three months & was spent in going to different points about that vicinity to keep the tories in check & he was discharged in town adjoining Dover & also at joining the Nine Partners which he things was then called Swagos—there were no written discharges given at this time which was toward fall he should think & in the year 1777 as he believes.

This declarant returned home & staid but a few days before he again enlisted at Dover for a month under Capt. Francis West & Col. Bucham & went across the Hudson River towards the Susquehanna River to keep the Indians in check who had been burning & destroying to a great extent. At the expiration of said month the whole company were discharged at Fishkill by Captain West & declarant returned home. Soon after this the whole of the Regiment of Malitia was called out to Fishkill & he was under Captain West & Col. Bucham—at this time they expected the British up from Ne York & when he arrived there a guard was taken out of the company—declarant saith that one Sargeant & one Corporel [sic] were taken out of Capt. West's Company & placed under Lieutenant Clapp & then went to Poughkeepsie to guard the jail when the tories were in prison.

Declarant staid at Poughkeepsie about one month—during this last time Declarant while standing sentry one night – fired at a person who attempted to pass without permission & Governor Clinton came running & come without [?] himself, alledging that he thought that the tories had broke jail.

After being discharged at Poughkeepsie, declarant returned home to Dover. Declarant staid at home about one month & then went up to Granville in New York, with Captain Hodge & Col. King of Cambridge, NY had command of the Regiment & Declarant was out at this time about two—three or three months, was no enlistment— all went without enlistment.

Declarant soon after enlisted at Shaftsbury, Vermont for nine months under Capt. John Wheeler—his company was never filled out nor was the Regiment on account of the war being at an end.

During the several periods above mentioned, this declarant served as a private soldier, but never received any written discharges & he cannot recollect dates so as to state them correctly. His periods of service were so short, some of them, & he was at so many different places that he cannot state any of them in connection with dates any further than he has done.

This declarant has no evidence of his enlistment & services, except the annexed affidavit of William Trude of what was testified about thirteen years ago by one Richard Weaver as to declarants services—Declarant further states that he supposes

that the oath of said Weaver is on file at the War Department among the papers presented by Declarant to obtain a pension under the act of 1818, which application he understands was rejected on account of his services not having been such as would entitle him to a pension under that act.

This declarant further states that after the war he resided at White Creek, now in Cambridge in the County of Washington in the state of New York where he married.

He then, after living there many years removed to Hebron in said County & staid there about four & then removed to Warrensburgh in Warren County in Warren County [sic] in the State of New York & staid there about seventeen years & then removed to Middleburg Vt., & remained there about eight years & then removed into Lisbon in the County of St. Lawrence & state of New York where he now resides.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity, except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. (Signed with his mark) William Eldridge.

Sworn & Subscribed in open court this 25<sup>th</sup> day of September 1832. A. C. Low, Clk

Letter in folder dated March 4, 1938, written in response to an inquiry.

Reference is made to your letter in which you request the record of William Eldridge, a soldier of the Revolutionary War, who received pension while a resident of Lisbon, New York, and who, you state, died August 17, 1837, in Clarke, Ontario, and you desire to know whether his widow, Elizabeth or Betsey, who died in July, 1842, at the home of her daughter, Phoebe Parker, in Hartland, Ne York, made application for pension.

You are furnished herein the record of William Eldridge as found in pension claim, S.23613 based upon his service in the Revolutionary War.

William Eldridge was born in March 1753, in Exeter, Rhode Island, where he resided with his parents, their names not given, until about eighteen years of age, then moved to Dover, Dutchess County, New York.

While residing in Dover, New York, William Eldridge enlisted about March or April 1776, served as private in Captains Nathan Pearce's and Baldwin's companies, Colonel Ritzema's New York Regiment, stationed at different places, was in several skirmishes and the battle of White Plains and was discharged after having served nine months three weeks, then returned home. After remaining at home a short time, he enlisted and served three months as private in Captain Viele's company, Colonel James Burcham's New York regiment (evidently meant for Captain Viele's company, Colonel James Vandeburgh's New York regiment), stationed at West Point and was discharged the last of March or first of April, 1777. After remaining at his home in Dover two or three days, he again enlisted and served a tour of three months in "Captain Viele's" New York company. He enlisted and served two months as private in Captain Francis West's company, "Colonel Burcham's" New York Regiment, a part of the time engaged in guarding Tory prisoners at Poughkeepsie. After that tour he remained at home about a month then enlisted and served two or three months as

private in Captain Hodge's company, Colonel King's New Your regiment, further dates of enlistment and details of service not given.

After the Revolutionary War, the soldier resided at White Creek and at Cambridge, both in Washington County, New York. He married while living in Washington County; the date of marriage and name of his wife not stated. After living in Cambridge many years, he moved to Hebron in the same county, where he remained four years, thence to Warrensburgh, Warren County, New York, which was his place of residence seventeen years; from there he moved to Middleburg, Vermont where he lived eight years, thence to Lisbon, Saint Lawrence County, New York.

William Eldridge was allowed pension on his application executed September 25, 1832, while a resident of Lisbon, New York.

The soldier died August 17, 1837, in Canada, where he had gone to live with a relative, whose name and relationship were not stated. He was survived by a widow, her name not given. She did not apply for pension.

In 1832, soldier's son-in-law, William Trieude aged forty-two years, was living in Lisbon, New York, and stated that he had known the soldier, William Eldridge, nineteen years, but did not given [give] the name of soldier's daughter whom he married. No further reference was made to children.