

Pension Application for Cornelius J. Elmendorph or Elmendorple

S.12858

State of New York

Dutchess County SS.

On this twenty second day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty two personally appeared before Robert S. Livingston Esquire one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Dutchess, Cornelius J. Elmendorph a resident of the Town of Red Hook in the County of Dutchess aforesaid and State of New York aforesaid 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 7, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

In the year 1774 when he resided in the Town of Rhinebeck in the County of Dutchess aforesaid, in that part of the Town which is now Red Hook, he was elected Ensign and David VanNess, Captain of a company of militia under the new organization, when the old Colony militia officers were abolished—

In the latter part of February or forepart of March of the year 1775, this applicant, then following the business of a carpenter, volunteered together with several others from the counties of Dutchess and what is now Columbia to go to Saratoga under the command of one James Robertson –

They proceeded according to Albany and thence to Saratoga taking their own tools with them.—

From Saratoga taking their own tools with them—From Saratoga they proceeded to Fort George, where they met two other companies, one from Albany and one from Schenectady—At this place their Captain James Robertson disappeared & they were ordered by General Schuyler to elect another in his place; and they accordingly elected John Fawkes in his place—They here received, to the best of his recollection one month's pay and then volunteered to proceed on to Ticonderoga—

They proceeded on the ice drawing their tools on hand sleds, on the Lake—on the way they slept one night on shore in the woods—After reaching Ticonderoga they were employed in cutting & hewing timber until the Lake was clear of ice—they then went up Lake Champlain in boots to Crown Point—

From there to St. John's and thence to Chamblee where they remained until the army retreated from Three Rivers—they accompanied the army back to Crown Point where they remained some days—thence to Ticonderoga where they also remained some days—thence to Fort George—Here they were required to leave their tools which they did and received pay for them—They then came on to Albany & received their pay at General Schuyler's office and then returned home about the last of the month of July 1775 having been engaged in this tour four months and a half at least as near as he can recollect.

In the month of January as near as he can recollect he was called out to go to Westchester County—He was then ensign in the company commanded by Captain

David VanNess in Colonel Morris Graham's Regiment & General Peter TenBroeck's Brigade but acted as Lieutenant.—

He went accordingly as Lieutenant in the company above mentioned—

They proceeded through Poughkeepsie, Fishkill, & Peekskill to NorthCastle in Westchester County, where they remained some days & after that were engaged in different places in Westchester County in patrolling the country—among other places, he was at DeLancy's mills at one time on a picket guard.—From this place they retreated north to Ward's several miles, in the night in a snow storm, and the next day continued onto Harrison's Purchase—Here a consolidation was made of the remainder of the Regiment as there were too many officers in proportion to the number of soldiers and this applicant fell into a company commanded by Captain Peter Westfall, and served in this company one month, as first Lieutenant as before—

While in this company they were engaged in different part of the County of Westchester and among other movements he was called out at one time on a secret expedition or rather volunteered to go.—

They marched down in the night into an orchard near Fort Independence called Valentine's orchard where the British Picket guard was stationed as they supposed— Finding no guard there, they went on to the Post Road at William's & secreted themselves in three parties in houses & waited for some British light horse which were expected there—a few came out two of them were shot and killed—after which they retired back to their former quarters several miles north.

In this tour of service he was engaged as he thinks at least a month & a half when they were dismissed & returned home in the latter part of February or forepart of March 1777—

After his return as near as he can recollect in the spring of 1777, he received the commission of second Lieutenant, but had previously and did afterwards act as First Lieutenant at all times when in service—This commission he has lost who it was signed by he does not recollect.

Sometime in the spring of 1777 as he thinks & when Lieutenant, he was appointed a member of a Brigade Court Martial held at different places in Dutchess County, and served as such member about two weeks.—To the best of his recollection, Colonel Morris Graham was the president.

In the same spring of 1777, there being many robberies committed and many disaffected persons lurking about the country. The town committee convened & sat at the house of Jacob Thomas in that part of Rhinebeck which is now RedHook, and this applicant was called out by the committee to act as Lieutenant commandant of its guard, consisting of about thirty men—

He accordingly acted as such commandant & was employed in guarding the committee, arresting & bringing disaffected persons before the committee for trial and taking some of them to Fishkill to the committee of safety. In this service he was engaged about two weeks.

After this but at what time he does not recollect he was called out by the Town committee and engaged for about one week, in serving teams for the northern service, acting as Lieutenant—

In the spring of the same year 1777 he was commissioned Lieutenant commandant and directed to raise a company of twenty four volunteers for three months to guard the powder works for John R. Livingston in Rhinebeck—

The required company was accordingly raised and he entered upon the duty of guarding the said works as such commandant on the fifth day of May 1777 and continued in this service until the thirtieth day of June following, when the powder works accidentally exploded on account of some mismanagement in the work and the company was then discharged—He was engaged in this service in beating up volunteers, guarding the works and travelling to receive the pay of the company at least two months.—

His commission he has lost. He has the pay roll of the company in his possession, which is herewith transmitted. Who signed the last named commission he does not recollect.

In the forepart of the month of August in the year 1777 a draft was made from the Regiment of Colonel Morris Graham in Dutchess County; and the company of Captain John Heermance in the said regiment, to which company this applicant belonged and in which he was second Lieutenant, was required to furnish a Lieutenant and a certain number of privates for the purpose of joining the Northern Army—on this occasion, this applicant volunteered without drawing to serve for three months as first Lieutenant—He entered on this tour of service as First Lieutenant as aforesaid on the ninth day of August 1777—

They proceeded there on the 17th day of August – on the 19th they left Albany & proceeded north, and on the 21st reached VanSchaick's Island—Here they encamped for a night and then proceeded north and reached Stillwater on the 9th day of September and on the 17^t joined the Brigade of General Glover—

Thence they proceeded and joined the army of General Gates—

Here they remained until the battle & the subsequent surrender of General Burgoyne & the British army—after the battle & before the surrender, Colonel Graham's Regiment in which this applicant was which was stationed on the right of the army in General Glover's Brigade, advanced to the left of the British army, where their pickets were stationed, drove them and took possession of their brush outworks and then returned—

After the surrender of Burgoyne's army, they commenced their march south and arrived at Albany on the 19th day of October—on the 23^d they left Albany in company with Colonel Morgans' corps of Riflemen and proceeded south, on the west side of the Hudson river, through Coeymans, Coxsackie, Kansbaum (now Saugerties) to Kingston & thence to Hurley where they were discharged, as he thinks in the forepart of November, in the year 1777 and returned home, having been engaged in this service the full term of three months to the best of his recollection.

This applicant has in his possession part of a small memorandum or Journal of this tour, made by him at the time by which he is enabled to give the above dates, but it extends no farther than the 27th day of October 1777, the remainder being lost.

He has also in his possession in a special commission or warrant which he received while engaged in the last above mentioned service, after he had joined the Northern army, and while he was acting as first lieutenant as aforesaid, dated September 3^d 1777, & signed by Stephen Lush by order of his Excellency the Governor as it appears in which he is described as "Lieutenant Cornelius Elmendorf of Ulster County"—But this applicant had previously removed from Ulster County and was then a resident of Rhinebeck, in that part of the Town which is now RedHook, in the County of Dutchess—This commission or warrant is herewith transmitted.

In the year 1778 he received his regular commission as first Lieutenant of the company of militia whereof Andrew Heermance was captain in the Regiment in the Country of Dutchess, whereof Morris Graham was Colonel—at what time it was received he does not know was part of it is last, but it appears, he took the oath of allegiance and office under it on the 8th day of June 1778—

This commission is herewith transmitted—He thinks it was signed by the Governor of the State of New York—

At one period during the Revolution, but at what time he does not recollect, while Lieutenant, he was called out on an alarm and went to Claverack in which is now Columbia County, and was engaged as near as he can recollect, as much as five days.

In the month of September of the year 1779 he was called out in service and went to Fishkill in Dutchess County in a company commanded by Captain Silas Husted, this applicant first Lieutenant, in a detachment from the Regiment of Colonel Morris Graham—they being joined by detachments from the regiment of Colonel Hopkins and Colonel Hathorne and all being placed under the command of Colonel Hopkins as he thinks –

The draft upon which they went was for three months as he believes—They remained stationed at Fishkill, this applicant acting as first Lieutenant as aforesaid for about two months and a half, as near as he can recollect & were then discharged previous to the expiration of the term & returned home.

In addition to the above services he was out in service very frequently during the revolution on alarms & in arresting disaffected persons, but how often or how long, he does not now recollect.

This applicant was born in Kingston in the County of Ulster & State of New York on the tenth day of July in the year 1752 old style—The record of his age is in the family Bible now in his possession.

In the month of May in the year 1767 he removed with his father from Ulster County into Rhinebeck in that part of the Town which is now the Town of RedHook in the County of Dutchess, aforesaid, where he was living when called into service, where he has lived since the Revolutionary War and where he now lives—

The names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where this applicant served are the following.

At Chamblee—Colonel Morgan of the Virginia Rifleman—General Thomas and General Thompson who both died at that place—At Westchester County—General Peter TenBroeck of Dutchess County. Col. VanRensselaer of Alban Major Nicholas Fish of New York.

At Saratoga County—Colonel Morris Graham of Dutchess County—Major John Cantine & Quarter Master John Ross of Ulster County—General Glover—Captain James Tallmadge, Captain John Heermance.

At Fishkill—Colonel Hopkins—Captain Pierce, Captain Silas Husted.

The following persons to whom this applicant is known, in his neighborhood can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution—Andrew N. Kittle, Nathan Beckwith, Gottope Martin, Peter Lewis.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. (Signed) Cornelius J. Elmendorph

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. Robt S. Livingston. One of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of Dutchess County.