

Pension Application for Cornelius Francisco

W.16998 (Widow: Anna) Married December 1779, Cornelius died January 12, 1839 at Frankfort NY.

State of New York

Herkimer County SS.

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

On this Eleventh day of February 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for said County now sitting Cornelius Francisco, a resident of the Town of Frankfort in the county of Herkimer and State of New York aged seventy two years, who being 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.

That he was enrolled to serve in the company commanded by Captain Henry VanDerhoof in the Regiment of Colonel John Knickerbacker in the month of September 1775, being then a resident of Pittstown then in the County of Albany but now County of Rensselaer and State of New York.

That John Groesback was Lieutenant of said Regiment. Gerrit VanVecten was the Major, Nathaniel Ford was the First Lieutenant in the Company of Captain VanDerhoof under whom this applicant was marched from his place of residence in the month of September 1775 together with the whole Regiment of Colonel John Knickerbacker to Fort Edward 14 miles south of Lake George where they were encamped for three weeks guarding the frontiers against the tories and Indians, and were then dismissed and this applicant returned to Pittstown having served one month.

That in June 1776 he volunteered under the said Captain and Lieutenant and was marched up to Sandy Hill and they were engaged in constructing a cause way between Fort Ann and Fort Edward and this applicant was in service on this tour two months and was then dismissed.

That in the latter part of September or the first of October of the same year he volunteered to serve in the same company under the same Captain and Lieutenant and was marched to fort Edward where the soldiers were engaged in erecting a breast work.

This applicant remained there two or three weeks when a Regiment consisting of two hundred was formed of Volunteers from the different companies lying at Fort Edward to go as a scouting party in pursuit of the Indians. This applicant volunteered into said Regiment. He was placed in the company of Captain Lantman of Hoosick. Cornelius VanVachten was the Colonel. They were marched from fort Edward to Palmertown, from thence to Jessup's Patent and from thence to "five mile run" as it was then called, and five miles from Fort George from thence they returned to Fort

Edward where they remained about two weeks and were then dismissed having served on this tour two months.

That in the month of April 1777 a draft was to be made of a certain number from each company of the Regiment to which this applicant belonged and he together with others in his company volunteered and made up the number without being drafted.

Colonel John VanRensselaer had the command of the Regiment. Captain VanDerhoof commanded the company to which this applicant and Nathaniel Ford was First Lieutenant, they were marched to Stillwater to Guard the provisions, stores &c. Abraham DenEyck was the commissary. They remained there in service six weeks and were then dismissed.

That a few days after his arrival home he was again called out as a volunteer under the same officers and was marched a short distance above Saratoga and was again dismissed having been upon this tour about two weeks.

That in July of the same year he again volunteered and was marched in the Regiment of Colonel John VanRensselaer up to Fort George where they were stationed. They remained two or three weeks when Ticonderoga as surrendered and they were ordered to march on the retreat to Fort Edward. Burgoyne was pursuing, they then retreated to Snook Creek staid some days and then retreated to Fort Miller two miles from which Fort they were attacked by the Indians General Arnold and Colonel VanRensselaer had the command. They retreated next to Saratoga. They remained there a day or two and his company as then sent to Pittstown to remove and guard the inhabitants. He remained on duty until the month of October when he was dismissed having served at this time about three months.

That in the fall of 1778, he again volunteered under the same Captain and Lieutenant (but the Colonel of the Regiment this applicant cannot recollect) and was marched to Fort Edward and they were encamped on Smith's Flatts near the Fort where they remained about one month and were again dismissed.

That in the month of August 1779 he again volunteered under the same captain and Lieutenant, but the Regiment was then commanded by Colonel John Groesbach, and was marched to Palmertown about [?] miles north of Saratoga Springs and were encamped there 8? Weeks guarding the frontiers.

That in the month of June 1780 he again volunteered under the same Captain and Lieutenant in the Regiment, being commanded by Peter Yates Colonel as this applicant thinks and was marched to Fort George when lying there Governor Clinton came there and a number of men volunteered and crossed Lake George with him in Batteaux—That he was out on this tour one month.

In the fall of the same year he again volunteered in the company of Captain Cornelius Wilsey whose Ensign was Simon Vandercook.—Peter Yates was the Colonel. They were marched to Saratoga and lay upon the East side of the River. That he was out on this tour from six to eight weeks.

That this applicant volunteered and served under the same officers on several occasions for a short time each in the years 1781 and 1782. That he went during the

two years last mentioned to Fort Edward to Fort Miller to Saratoga to Sandy Hill, and marched for Skeensborough far as Sandy Hill he was out in there two years in actual service two months and more on the short tours above mentioned.

That he has no documentary evidence of his services and that he knows of no persons who can testify to the same excepting John Francisco and Michael Francisco, whose affidavits are hereto respectively annexed.

That he has no documentary evidence of his services and that he knows of no persons who can testify to the same excepting John Francisco, Levi Francisco and Michael Francisco, whose affidavits are hereto respectively annexed.

That he was born at Horseneck so called 12 miles from Newark in the State of New Jersey on the 4th day of December 1759.

1. That he has a record of his age at his place of residence.
2. That when he was called into service he lived at Cooksborough (now Pittstown) the Schaghticoke District and County of Albany but now county of Rensselaer and State of New York. That he remained at Pittstown aforesaid until about twenty eight years since. He then removed to Schenectady City where he lived seven years and then removed to the Town of Schuyler, County of Herkimer and State aforesaid in the year 1812 where he resided 17 years and then removed for one year into Deerfield the adjoining Town but in the County of Oneida. That at the expiration of one year he removed to Frankfort in Herkimer County aforesaid where he has since resided and now resides.
3. He at each term of service above specified entered the service as a volunteer and served as above stated.
4. General Arnold commanded on the retreat from Fort George to Saratoga before Burgoyne as above stated. That Colonel Warner's Regiment was once in garrison at Fort George. That there were Continental troops at Fort Edward but this applicant cannot state the names of the officers, excepting Colonel Warner, Captain Hicks, and General Arnold, General Schuyler was in service, Colonel John VanRensselaer, Colonel Knickerbaker, Colonel Groesback, and Colonel Yates as above stated.
5. That he never received a written discharge.

He refers the Court to Philip Knapp of Herkimer and Joseph Fish of Herkimer—who are well acquainted with this applicant and can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his having served in the Revolution.

And this claimant says that he was in fact in actual service on the march, in garrison in skirmishes &c more than eighteen months as above specified.

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 Francisco

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid in Open Court. Julius C. Nelson, Clerk.

Letter in folder dated July 8, 1925, written in response to an inquiry.

I have to advise you from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim, W.16988, it appears that Cornelius Francisco was born at Horseneck, twelve miles from Newark, New Jersey, December 4, 1759.

While a resident of Cooksborough (later Pittstown) Albany (later Rensselaer) County, New York, eh enlisted and served as private with the New York Troops as follows:

From September, 1775, one month in Captain Henry VanDerhoof's Company, Colonel John Knickerbacher's Regiment.

From June, 1776, two months in Captain Henry VanDerhoof's Company.

From late in September or early in October, 1776, two or three weeks in Captain Henry VanDerhoof's Company, was then transferred to Captain Lautman's Company, Colonel Cornelius VanVeghten's Regiment, and served two months.

From April, 1777, six weeks in Captain VanDerhoof's Company, Colonel. John Rensselaer's Regiment.

Soon afterwards he served two weeks in Captain VanDerhoof's company, Colonel John VanRensselaer's Regiment.

From July 1777 three months in Captain VanDerhoof's Company, Colonel John VanRensselaer's Regiment.

In the fall of 1778, one month in Captain VanDerhoof's Company.

From August 1779, eight weeks in Captain VanDerhoof's Company, Colonel John Groesbach's Regiment.

From June, 1780, one month in Captain VanDerhoof's Company, Colonel Peter Yates' Regiment.

From the fall of 1780, six or eight weeks in Captain Cornelius Wilsey's Company, Colonel Peter Yates's Regiment.

In 1781 and 1782 he served on short tours, amounting to two months in all, in Captain Cornelius Wilsey's Company, Colonel Peter Yates' Regiment.

He was allowed pension on his application executed February 11, 1833, at which time he was a resident of Frankfort, Herkimer County, New York. He died there January 12, 1837.

He married December 12, 1779, Anna Demoray, who was born March 18, 1759. She was allowed pension on her application executed May 29, 1837, at which time she was a resident of Frankfort, New York.

Children of Cornelius and Anna Francisco:

A daughter (name illegible) born September 14, 1780.

A son (name illegible) born May ___ 1783.

John born August 1, 1785.

David born May 1, 1782.

Sammy? (a daughter) born March 18, 1791.

Cornelius born January 17, 1795.