

Pension Application for David French

S.13086

State of New York

Washington County SS.

On this twenty eighth day of August 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Honorable John Willard First Judge and the Hon. John Moss, Benjamin F. Skinner and Charles F. Ingals, Judges of the County Courts of the said County of Washington now sitting David French a resident of the town of Salem in said County of Washington State of New York aged seventy nine years and seven months 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.

He first enlisted as a volunteer under one Capt. Wells of Cambridge in the said County of Washington. He does not remember that the company was attached to any Regiment. He volunteered at Cambridge aforesaid where he then resided in the spring of 1775.

The object of the expedition as he understood was the taking of Canada. Colonels Benedict Arnold & Ethan Allen were with the Continental troops between whom a dispute arose in relation to their rank after having arrived at the Isle Aux Noux in Lake Champlain he was informed that the officers had determined they had not sufficient forces to effect the object of the expedition and the militia volunteers were discharged he returned home; he was absent upon this expedition three weeks.

Afterward in the spring of 1776 he enlisted under one Capt. McCrackin of Salem aforesaid in Col. VanVechten's Regiment of Albany (if he does not mistake the name) for six months.

The object of the expedition was the taking of Canada—General Montgomery was the commander while he was out near to St. Johns & while that place was besieged he was in one engagement one afternoon under Colonel Warner of Vermont. The next day St. Johns surrendered to the Americans soon after he with the other troops moved on as far as Montreal where he remained until the cold weather commenced when he was discharged & returned to his family in Cambridge five months after his enlistment.

He does not know why the company were discharged before this term of service had expired unless it was because the person was so far advanced.

Afterward the inhabitants of Cambridge from fear moved off their families to Williamstown in Massachusetts. The men generally returned to see to their farms and were classed. It having become his turn to do a tour of duty he hired a substitute. (whose name he has now forgotten) furnished him with a gun equipage blanket & paid him a bounty (but does not now recollect how much) this substitute was then taken prisoner after about two months service, he knows not what afterwards became of him.

That he the said David took his turn of duty with the rest of the inhabitants that he was frequently called out on alarms for short periods & he might properly say he was all the time under arms from the time he was discharged at Montreal until the surrender of Burguoine [Burgoyne] & until the country became settled.

He was born in the town of Dunstable one of the New England States on the 23d day of January 1753. His father removed with his family to the State of New Hampshire & from thence when he the said David was thirteen years of age to the aforesaid town of Cambridge who he the said David continued to reside until the war commenced.

He has no other record of his age than one he has made in his own family bible which he believes to be correct because when he was a boy he was bout out to the farming business & from his indenture he learned his age.

He was residing in the said town of Cambridge when he first entered the service & has ever since lived in the same County of Washington and now lives in the town of Salem in said County.

He was called into the service by draft by volunteering & by being classed.

He never received a written discharge the several companies to which he belong were always discharged in orders.

He gives the names of the [?] Dr. Alexander Bradfit of the town of Salem in the said County of Washington and of to whom he is known in his present neighborhood & who can testify to his character for veracity & their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution.

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) David French

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid. J. S. Leigh Clk.

Letter in folder dated September 16, 1930, written in response to an inquiry.

You are advised that it appears from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim, S. 13086, that David French was born at Dunstable, in "one of the New England States", January 23, 1753.

While a resident of Cambridge, Washington County, New York, he enlisted in the spring of 1775, and served three weeks as a private in Captain Wells' New York company. He enlisted in 1775, and served five months as a private in Captain McCracken's company, Colonel VanVeghten's New York regiment, and was at the siege of St. John's.

He was allowed pension on his application executed August 28, 1832, while a resident of Salem, Washington County, New York.

He died November 6, 1836, leaving a widow, name not stated. There are no further data as to family.