

Pension Application for Oliver Lawrence

S.23757

Pennsylvania, Crawford County SS.

Statement of Oliver Lawrence on his application for a pension under the act of Congress of 7th June 1832—made in open Court of Common Pleas of Crawford County Pennsy'a this 6th October 1832.

I was born on Long Island in the State of New York in October 1759—I am now in my 73d year—my age was recorded at home in Long Island & I have no record of it here—

My father's name was William Lawrence—He died when I was about 11 years old and I lived from the time of his death till I was about 30 years old near Fishkill on the North River in what was called the Clove – in Dutchess County—at an early period of the war, & I think in 1775 or 1776, I was listed as a minute man and served as such in the militia for Three months under Capt'n Cornelius VanWyck in the City of New York—our Colonel's name was Benjamin Bircham—I forget the name of the lieutenant or ensign—After the service was over, I was discharged but received no written discharge. During this time there was no battle or fight or remarkable event—we were principally engaged in drawing fachines & cannon to the battery & was called fatigue service.

The following spring as near as I can remember I enlisted a second time under Capt'n Cornelius VanWyck—for five months—we marched for the White Plains & Kingsbridge—Our Col. was as before viz Benj'n Bircham—our lieutenants were Harry Bailey & one Smith whose Christian name I forget—I was not in the battle of White Plains as our regiment lay on the left wing, & our company & some others were not called into the action—I saw the first fire—after which the smoke prevented our seeing any thing distinctly—a short time before this battle we had a skirmish with the enemy—we were out on a scouting party & came across a picket guard—and in the skirmish our captain was killed dead—after his death, the command of our company was given to Henry Mott who was a lieutenant in one of the other companies I served out the five months and was discharged but received no written discharge—and never received any pay for this service. I served out the five months, but was discharged but received no written discharge—and never received any pay for this service.

The following spring as I think it was—but of this I am not sure—it was after the military stores had been removed from Boston to Dutchess County—I enlisted under Captain Joshua Champlain for nine months—lieutenants Nicholas Koontz and T. Bentley – We were stationed at Col. Vanderbury's—and were employed in guarding the military stores in Dutchess County—I served out my time—but received no written discharge – for this service I received no pay from that time to this.

After that I served in the militia one month under Captain Jeremiah Rundles at Peanpack & for this never received pay.

For my first tour of three months I received no pay—but for neither of the others.

After these tours I was never enlisted for any definite period—but was frequently called out on guard after the cowboys—and in patrolling the roads -- & other such service—There was considerable of a regular guard kept to preserve the country against the depredations of the tories—I was very often called out—But I cannot estimate with safety how much the whole amounted to—

After the close of the war I continued at the Clove till I was about 30 years old-- & then moved to Rensselaerville in the State of New York—about 18 miles from Albany—I remained there till about 15 years ago this October when I removed to where I now live in now Summerhill township, Crawford County, Pennsylvania.

I do not know of any person now alive who can testify as to my services as aforesaid – some of my fellow soldiers may be alive; but if they be, I know not who or where they are—I have been long acquainted with Stephen Fish who is now here & can testify to my character & the tradition of my revolutionary services—My son Joseph Lawrence about 40 years old, who is here can testify – any of the persons in my present neighbourhood, can do the same—but none are in the village that I know of but the above. There is no regular or settled minister in our settlement. (Signed) Oliver Lawrence

Sworn & subscribed in open court 6 Oct 1832 Edw. A. Reynolds, Prothy

Letter in folder dated October 8, 1931, written in response to an inquiry.

Reference is made to your letter relative to Oliver Lawrence, a soldier of the Revolutionary War.

The data which follow are obtained from the papers on file in pension claim, S.23757, based upon his military service in that war.

Oliver Lawrence as born in October, 1759, on Long Island, New York. He was the son of William Lawrence who died when soldier was eleven years old.

He enlisted in 1775 or 1776, served three months as a private in Captain Cornelius VanWyck's company, Colonel Benjamin Birdsall's New York regiment. The following spring he enlisted, served five months as private in the same company and regiment, and just before the battle of White Plains they were in a skirmish in which Captain VanWyck was killed; the company was then commanded by Henry Mott. The following spring he enlisted and served nine months as private in Captain Joshua Champlin's company, and also one month in Captain Jeremiah Rundle's Company of New York Militia. After this service he never reenlisted but was frequently called out on guard duty against the depredations of the enemy.

After the death of soldier's father, he lived at the Clove, near Fishkill on the North River, Dutchess County, New York, until about thirty years of age, when he moved to Rensselaerville (about eighteen miles from Albany) New York, where he remained until about 1817, at which time he moved to Summerhill Township, Crawford County, Pennsylvania.

He was allowed pension on his application executed October 6, 1832, while living in Summerhill Township, Pennsylvania.

He died March 25, 1848.

In 1832, soldier's son Joseph was residing in Summerhill Township, Pennsylvania, aged between forty-eight and fifty years.

There are no further family data.