

Pension Application for Richard Lawrence

S.8814

State of Maryland

City of Baltimore to wit

On the twenty third day of March in the year of our Lord Eighteen hundred and thirty three, before the subscriber a Judge of the Orphans Court of Baltimore County—personally appeared Richard Lawrence a resident of the City of Baltimore aged seventy seven years or thereabouts who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832.

That Early in the year Seventeen hundred and Seventy five, being then about nineteen years old he joined a Volunteer Company of Infantry (in the City of New York where he then resided) called the Fusiliers commanded by Captain Richmough and served in said Company at the time the British armed ship the Asia fired into the City of New York, was also serving in said company at the time Generals Washington and Lea passed through New York on their way to or near Boston, that he marched in and with said company to Kings bridge and remained there some time as a Guard to protect the Cannon and other munitions of war which had been removed from New York to that place for safety at the time of the firing into the City as before mentioned—that in the year 1777 he had occasion to go to Charleston South Carolina and while there volunteered to and did assist in guarding that City by night to prevent the Tories and Negroes from burning the place and at one time was the first to give the alarm when a Negroi [sic] was detected in the act of setting fire to a house who was afterwards afterwards [sic] burnt for the Crime, that some time afterwards he returned to the State of New York and Joined as Volunteer some regulars under the Command of Captains Drake and Lawrence, and while with them had a smart engagement at Hoboken with a Sloop belonging to the British.

That in the year 1780 he obtained a Lieutenants Commission in the State Levies of New York in which capacity he served Nine Months and during all the time was in active employment, during a part of it he was stationed with the American Army near the Hights above Dobses Ferry about twenty miles from New York, and was there exposed to the fire of a British armed vessel while the Americans were building a Block House at that place, and while there he was several times dispatched with others to reconnoiter the British at Kings B ridge for the purpose of giving information to the American Commander at West Point and once returning from thence his party was discovered by the British and fired on by two armed vessels.

That some time afterwards Captain Jona Lawrence and himself were ordered to proceed to and join a Regiment at Albany, Captain Lawrence started and left him (deponent) to collect an additional number of men which he did in a few days and then proceeded with them to Albany and there joined a Regiment of Infantry Commanded by Colonels Malkolm and Dubois, to which regiment he remained attached until his term of service expired, and was sent to several places on duty during the time—that afterwards he went to Philadelphia an in the year 1782 settled in the City of Baltimore

where he now resides, deponent further further [sic] saith that at his request the annexed Certificates signed by Lawrence and Saml VerVerlin, were written, and that the Commission hereto annexed, is the Identical Commission herein before mentioned, he also says he is personally known to the Rev'd Mr. Williams, Mr. Isaac Causten, Generals Sam'l Smith and Wm McDonald the Hon'ble Henry Payson John Purviance Esqr and many other respectable Citizens of Baltimore.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatsoever to a pension or an annuity except the present, and he declares that in his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any State, Territory or District, this deponent upon his oath aforesaid further saith, that by reason of old age and the Consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the presice [precise] length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below, and in the following grades, to wit.

For nine months as a Private in the company under Captain Richmough, he served one month under Drake L. Lawrence and he served as a Lieutenant under and by Virtue of the annexed commission nine months and for such service he claims a pension. (Signed) Rich Lawrence.

Sworn and Subscribed to the day and year aforesaid.

Interrogatories propounded by the said Judge to Richard Lawrence and his answers.

Question 1st. Where and in what year were you born.

Answer—I was born in the City of New York in the year 1756.

Question 2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where it is.

Answer—I have not any record of my age.

Question 3. Where were you living when called into the service where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live.

Answer—I lived in the City of New York at the time I entered into the service, and shortly after the war settled in the City of Baltimore where I have resided ever since.

Question 4—How ere you called into service, were you drafted, did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if a substitute for whom.

Answer—I volunteered and served as a private in Capt. Richmoughs Company I was also a Volunteer in the service under Captains Drake and Dubois, afterwards I served as Lieutenant in the State levies of the State of New York in a company commanded by Capt. Jonathan Lawrence, and was a part of the time of my service attached to a Regiment Commanded by Colonels Malkolm and Dubois at Albany.

Question 5—State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and Militia Regiments as you can recollect and the General Circumstances of your service.

Answer—Captain Richmough was the first officers I served under, he was a state officer. I afterwards served under Captains Lawrence & Drake, who were as well as I can recollect Continental officers, when I afterwards obtained a Lieutenants Commission I served under Captain Jonathan Lawrence, a state officer, the company

was a part of the time attached to a regiment Commanded by Col'n Malkolm and Dubois, who sere I believe also state officers.

Question 6th. Did you ever receive a discharge from the service and if so by whom was it given and what has become of it, did you ever receive a commission and if so by whom was it signed and what has become of it.

Answer—When I first entered into the service in a Militia Company I served as long as the services of the Company were required and was then dismissed, subject to be called out again, when watned, my service under Lawrence and Drake was very short it being a very temporary engagement, to reconnoiter the Enemy I as soon dismissed. I received the annexed Commission, signed by George Clinton, then Governor of the State of New York.

Question 7th. State the names of person to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood, and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the revolution.

Answer—I am acquainted with most of the old inhabitants of Baltimore among them are General S. Smith, General Wm McDonald, the Honb'l Henry Payson the Rev'd Mr. Williams, Isaac Caustin and John Perviance Esquires, any of whom can I verily believe testify as to my character for veracity and their belief of my services as a soldier of the revolution. (Signed) Rich Lawrence.

. . . the above named applicant cannot from bodily infirmity attend the court.

Henry Payson a Judge of the Orphans Court of B.C'y