

Pension Application for John Lent

S.23762

Declaration for the purpose of obtaining the benefit of the act of Congress of the seventh of June A.D. 1832, granting pensions to soldiers of the Revolution.

State of Pennsylvania

County of Bradford SS.

On this Tenth day of September A.D. one thousand eight hundred and thirty two personally appeared before the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Bradford John Lent a resident in the Township of Wysox in the said County of Bradford and Stat[e] of Pennsylvania aged sixty seven 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 provisions made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he enlisted for the term of one year in the army of the United States about the 10th of April as near as he can recollect in the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty at Peekskill Westchester County in the State of New York.

That he was enlisted by a recruiting officer or agent, by the name of Thomas VanPelett into the company commanded by Cap Bond who shortly afterwards left the command of the company which was in his stead placed under the command of Capt Jonathan Knapp who continued during the year.

This company was attached to the Regiment under the command of Col Hews or Hughes, Major Kears commanded in the same regiment John Accoman was his Lieutenant in his company.

Shortly after this enlistment this declarant was ordered into service on board of the boats at Kings Ferry so called at Hony and Verplanks points on Hudson River, called "the continental boats" and the service was that of transporting of the troops cavalry and Infantry and public property of various kinds, such as cattle provisions and military stores &c. and he continued in this service during the year for which he was enlisted and at the end of the year received a written discharge.

But from whom, whom, this declarant does not know or cannot recollect. It was handed him by his Capt. Knapp, but not being able to read writing he never read it. At this time there was a considerable portion of his pay in arrears & due for his services, and so with the other soldiers and there were some persons who purchased from the soldiers these arrearages of pay of such there was a man of the name of John Rand or Rony a [?] to whom this declarant sold his arrearage pay and at the same time transferred to him his written discharge enable him to get the pay and he has never seen it since.

Immediately after his discharge he again enlisted in April 1781 for the term of another year in the company commanded by Capt. Dennis McGuire still in the same Regiment under command of Col. Highs and the same Major. Kears and same Lieutenant Accoman, Capt. Knapp having retired from the service (whether the names of the officers is or is not rightly spelled, this declarant is unable to determine) [?] this last enlistment this declarant is certain that the articles of enlistment were read to him as being for the Continental service and he always supposed and understood that

his first enlistment was the same but of this he has no means of positively ascertaining. He continued in service under this last enlistment on the "Continental Boats: to the end of the year, as before, and at the close of the year in April 1782, he was discharged but did not receive his written discharge, having again sold his arrearage pay to the aforesaid John Rony he gave him said Roney an order for his written discharge and pay and he never saw the discharge.

The service rendered by this declarant and others attached to and manning the "Continental Boats" was exceedingly arduous and fatiguing. He was subject to be called into service, and often times great exertion, at any and all times night and day when the weather was clement or inclement. He was required not only to transport persons and property expresses and hoops across the River at the ferry but also provisions and stores up and down the river to any distance necessary.

It was during his first year (as he verily believes from his best recollection) that he saw Gen. Benedict Arnold pass in his Barge down the River by where he was then stationed on VanPlanks Point to a vessel lying a distance of about three miles below and he saw the said vessel hoist sail and move off down the River.

He was also present and saw Maj'r Andre land at Honey Point, on his way from West Point to the place of his execution.

His recollects is that this last event took place in the month of October.

In the second year of his service and he things sometime in the month of June this declarant was with about half of his company under command of Lieut Accoman, ordered by Col Hughs (as was said) to go down the river about sixteen to eighteen miles to Dobbs Ferry to perform service there in crossing troops expresses &c., and after remaining there about ten days he with his Lieutenant and company was ordered hastily to return up to Kings ferry where he assisted in crossing the American troops under Gen. Washington and the French army under Gen. Rochamleau.

The latter Genl and also the Marquis LaFayette he well recollects serving on that occasion that Genl LaFayette was particularly active in superintending the crossing the French Troops and giving orders at that time.

When he first enlisted this declarant was but fifteen years of age. The year proceeding his first enlistment and when he was bur fourteen years old (Though a large boy of his years, he was frequently out with the New York Militia in scouting parties to counteract the measurer of the Tories and to cut off the communications of the British.

On one occasion in the fall in the fall of the year 1779 he was out with a party in the night to cut off a party of tories under Cap. John Ham who we had heard was going to the British with a number of horses and we met with them at a place called hogs land about six miles from Peekskill and there attacked and defeated the tories killed Cap Harman, the ground and wounded some others and took twenty horses from them. This declarant was barefoot at that time and he took the shoes From Hams feet after he was killed put them on his own feet and wore them out.

This declarant further states that the wages he drew for both terms of the enlistment was a dollar per day and to the best of his recollection, it was so mentioned

in the articles of enlistment for the second year. But rec'd his pay or all he did receive in Continental Bills except that Bony paid him in some of his articles of barter at a rate of about five percent on the sum due him, this declarant.

This declarant hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state. (Signed) John Lent.

Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open court. E. Herrick,
Pres. Judge

Letter in folder dated January 5, 1939, written in response to an inquiry.

Reference is made to your request for information relative to a Revolutionary War soldier, John Lent, who served in the Third Regiment of the Westchester County Militia.

The data which follow were obtained from papers on file in the pension claim, S.23762, based on the military service of the only John Lent that is found in the Revolutionary War records of this office.

The date and place of his birth and the names of parents are not shown.

John Lent enlisted at Peekskill, Westchester County, New York, about April 10, 1780, and served one year as private in Captains Bond's and Jonathan Knapp's companies in Colonel Hughs' New York regiment, was engaged in manning the continental boats on the Hudson River, transporting troops, provisions, etc., for the army. He enlisted in April, 1781, served one year as private in Captain Dennis McGuire's Company in Colonel Hughs' New York regiment and was engaged in the same service as previous enlistment.

He was allowed pension on his application executed September 10, 1832, at which time he was living in Wysox, Bradford County, Pennsylvania, and was sixty-seven years of age. He was living in Wysox in 1834. In 1835 his post office address was Towanda, Bradford County, Pennsylvania.

The papers in this claim contain no data relative to soldier's family.