

Pension Application for Morgan Lewis

S.16447

Morgan Lewis of the City and State of New York being sworn deposes and says—

That sometime in the Spring of 1775 he this deponent received from the provincial Congress of the then province of New York the appointment of first Major in a Regiment composed of two intended principally for the defence of said City and Province—

That in June 1776 he accompanied General Gates, then appointed to the command of the Northern Army (with authority to appoint such officers as he should find necessary for the good of the service, and so notify the same to Congress for their approbation?) as Deputy QuarterMaster General for said Army.

That this deponent on joining the said army entered upon and discharged the duties of said office, but was not announced in orders until the 25th day of August next thereafter, when the sentence of a Court martial cashiering his preducess [prejudice?] or in office was made known.

That the general order referred to is now among the Archives of the New York historical Society (of which this deponent is president) as appears from a copy thereof duly certified and hereunto annexed—

That such appointment, this deponent presumes was duly transmitted for the approbation of the then Congress of the United States, and met their Sanctions; as this Deponent shortly thereafter received a commission signed by John Hancock, their then President, bearing date, according to the best recollection of this deponent, the 12th day of September then next ensuing, appointing this Deponent Deputy QuarterMaster General of the Army in the Northern Department, with the rank of Colonel.

That this deponent continued to discharge the duties of said Office until the latter end of October 1780, when General Green having retired from the Office of QuarterMaster General, his successor united the Northern to the Eastern Department, and placed both under the direction of the principal in the latter—and this deponent further saith.

That all the commissions, military as well as civil, that he ever had the honour to possess, have (as he verily believes perished by fire which destroyed the Buildings in which they were deposited.

Lastly this deponent says, he is now in the seventy ninth year of his age, and further saith not. (Signed) Morgan Lewis

Sworn before me this 16th day of October 1832 Saml. R. Betts, Judge of the U.S. [Sixth?] Distr. New York.

City and County & State of New York.

Personally appeared John Trumbull a resident of this City, aged seventy six years; and being duly sworn according to Law, doth upon his oath make the following deposition.

That on the 27th day of June 1776, he was by Major General Gates appointed Deputy Adjutant General of the Northern Department, with the Rank of Colonel.

That the [sic] then understood from M. Genl Gates that he had appointed Morgan Lewis Esqr, late Governor of this State to be Deputy QuarterMaster General of the Northern Department with the Rank of Colonel.

That in the course of that Campaign he frequently saw & familiarly knew the said Colonel Morgan Lewis acting in the Capacity & doing the Duty of Deputy QuarterMaster General until the close of the Campaign in November.

And further that he has always understood & very believes that the said Colonel Morgan Lewis continued to hold the Rank of Colonel, and to do the Duty of Deputy QuaraterMaster General of the Northern Army, during the following Campaign of 1777 which terminated in the Capture of the British Army at Saratoga—at which capture he has always understood & fully believes that the said Colonel Morgan was present.

And further this deponent saith not. Jno Trumbull

Sworn before me this 28th day of September 1832. Sam R. Betts Judge of the United States for the Southern District of New York.

Letter in folder dated May 12, 1926, written in response to an inquiry.

I have to advise you from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim S.16447, it appears that Morgan Lewis, in the spring of 1775, was appointed Major of a New York Regiment, and August 25, 1776 was appointed Deputy Quartermaster General of the Northern Army, with rank of Colonel, he was at the capture of the British at Saratoga, and served until late in October 1780.

In 1832, he was President of the New York Society of the Cincinnati, and was then referred to as General Morgan Lewis. He was at one time Governor of New York.

He was allowed pension on his application executed October 16, 1832, while a resident of New York City, in his “seventy-ninth year”; and at this time, stated that his “fourth grand-son”, Robert J. Livingston, was in a few weeks of being twenty-one years old.

The name of soldier’s father does not appear in said claim. There is no further data on file as to family.

This Bureau is unable to furnish the history of a soldier of the Revolution, unless a claim for pension or bounty land has been made on account of his services, and a careful search of the records fails to show such a claim on file on account of the services of Francis Lewis, the signed of the Declaration of Independence.