

Pension Application for William Oldfeld or Oldfield

S.5128

[This deposition is very rugged, there are few periods and a lot of unusual spellings, most of which I simply didn't acknowledge.]

The State of Ohio

Richland County SS.

On this third day of July in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred & twenty three personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable David Higgins President Judge and Isaac Osborn, William Riddle, and Benjamin Jackson Esqr associate Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of the said County of Richland now setting William Oldfeld a resident of Jefferson Township in the County of Richland and State of Ohio aforesaid aged eighty three 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 act of congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated that is to say Capt. William Clark was his captain, Lieut Benjamin [blank] Knox was his Lieutenant, the names of the field officers or any other company officers cannot be called to mind.

He entered the service in the month of February in the year seventeen hundred & seventy seven the day of the month cannot be recalled in this company the declarant served three months and was discharged.

From this tour some time in the latter part of May in the same year the day cannot be recollected the Declarant at the time of this engagement resided in duchess [Dutchess] County in the State of New York the name of the Township is not recollected the place was called the Little Nine Partners he volunteered into the service the declarant was first marched to the City of New York, where we were employed in destroying the British fort at that place and preparing to build another fort and removing ordnances &c.

This declarant remained in New York during this tour of service and was then discharged was not in any battle and knew no regular officers whatever according to his present recollection he has no documentary evidence and knows of know [no] person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service.

That afterward in the month of June in the year seventeen hundred and seventy seven the day of the month not recollected this declarant again volunteered under Capt. Roncrants Lieut Lee his Lieutenant whose Christian names are not recollected if ever known to declarant at the same place when he first volunteered when his regular residence still remained thence he marched through Fishkill and down the North river to West Point where he continued Nine months in said Company under the command of said Roncrants joined to some rigiment [regiment] or brigade, this declarant thinks under the command of George Clinton but declarant cannot be certain and if it was not said Clinton declarant does not know to whom the command did devolve.

Declarant was not engaged in any battle and has wholly forgotten if he ever knew the names of any regular officers attached to the corps in which he served he

recollects no other field or company officers besides [besides] said Roscrants and Lee unless his impression are correct as to the command devolving on said Clinton he was engaged at West Point in repairing and improving the fort in erecting barracks for the soldiers &c.

Declarant does not believe any of the crops at that place at the time of his service were regulars this declarant was discharged from this term of service were regulars this declarant was discharged from this term of service at said West Point early in March AD 1778.

He has no documentary evidence of this term of Service and knows of no person to whom he could apply for evidence of his service in this tour declarant thinks that Captain Little in the company served at West Point with the same corps and recollects that one captain Holly had a company there and did then during declarant service declarant immediately after his discharge removed from Dutchess County to Orange County in the Township of Minnisink when he again volunteered (but declarant cannot recollect the year or month but it was sometime in the spring of the year) in the company of one Capt Dewit, Christian name he cannot recollect William Stewart was his Lieutenant thence he marched to Peenpack, and thence went into a fort or block house with palisades at the foot of a hill there a band of Indians with some Tories came to the top of the hill and shot down into the fort and the men in the fort shot up at the Indians there were no persons killed in the fort and declarant. Cannot say whether any of the enemy were killed or not Lieutenant Stewart was killed by the Indians at the house of one Swartout and said Swartout and two of his sons were killed at the same time one of his sons escaped and got into the fort and another of them otherwise escaped by sinking himself into the river as declarant was advised.

The company to which declarant belonged served alone in the fort declarant cannot name any other officer besides those above named in this tour of service declarant served a tour of six months in said company in this fort or blockhouse when he was discharged, he has no documentary evidence of this service nor does he know of any living witness by whom he could prove it after this but at what time declarant cannot recollect.

Declarant was drafted into the service at said Minisink and was sent to a place called New Windsor and put under the command of one Captain Richard Goldsmith as he thinks Lieuts name not recollected is not certain that Goldsmith was captain there was a corps of militia to which declarant was attached General L Fayette was superintending the building a fort opposite of a Chivaux defrize in the north river declarant was employed in removing rubbish and making a foundation for the fort the building of which declarant thinks was abandoned and never completed declarant served four months in this tour and was discharged at said last mentioned place cannot name any officers connected with him or at that place except as above stated there was no battles [?] by him in this tour he has no documentary evidence of this service nor does he know of any person by whom he can prove this service.

(Questions propounded to declarant by the court and answered by Declarant)

1st Where and in what year were you born?

Ans. I was born in the Town of Goshen Orange County New York State on the twenty first day of February AD Seventeen hundred and fifty old style.

2d Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Ans. I have a record of my age at home in my bible.

3d Where were you living when called into service where have you lived since the revolutionary war and where do you now live.

Ans. I lived in Duches [sic] County New York when called into the first two tours of service and in Orange County in the same State when called into the subsequent tours as appears from anterior [sic] statements I continued to live in Orange County New York until sometime about the year 1800 or 1801 or 2 when I removed to Pickaway Township in [Rolz?] now Pickaway County in the State of Ohio where I continued to live for nine years where I continued to live for nine years whence I removed to Jefferson Township Richland County in the State of Ohio where I still live and have ever since lived.

4th How were you called into service were you drafted, did you volunteer or were you as substitute? And if a substitute for whom.

Ans I volunteered into the three first terms of service and was drafted into the last.

5th 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.

And I cannot state anything more in relation to anything contained in these Persona requisitions than is already contained in the above declaration.

6th Did you ever receive discharges from the service and if so by whom were they given and what has become of them.

Ans I Rec'd a written discharge from Captain Rosecrants, from the tour I served under him which is lost or destroyed. I do not know how or where I do not recollect whether I ever received any other written discharge or not if I did I have none of them now and know not what has become of them I served twenty two months in the whole and always as a private.

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood [sic] and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your service as a soldier of the revolution.

Ans. George Aungst, Robert Bell, Robert Bele Jr., John Colins Esq., Tenus Collins, Thomas McClure and Samuel McClure will testify as above required.

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

Sworn to and subscribed on the day and year aforesaid. B. Jackson Associate Judge. (Signed) William Oldfeld

Letter in folder dated August 13, 1937, written in response to an inquiry.

Reference is made to your request for information in regard to William Oldfield, who served as a private with the New York troops, and was pensioned in 1833, while living in Ohio.

The data which follow were obtained from papers on file in pension claim, S.5128, based upon the service of William "Oldfeld" In the War of the Revolution.

William Oldfeld (as his signature is shown) was born February 21, 1750 (old style) at Goshen, Orange County, New York. The names of his parents were not given.

While residing at Little Nine Partners, Dutchess County, New York, William Oldfeld enlisted sometime in February 1777 and served three months as private in Captain William Clark's New York company. He enlisted in the month of June, 1777 and served nine months in Captain Rosecrans company, Colonel George Clinton's New York regiment. He moved to the Township of Minisink, Orange County, New York, and enlisted in the spring, year not given, served six months in Captain Dewitt's New York company, and four months in Captain Richard Goldsmith's company.

William Oldfeld continued to live in Orange County, New York, until about the year 1802, then moved to Pickaway Township, Ross County, Ohio, where he lived nine years, and then moved to Jefferson Township, Richland County, Ohio.

The soldier, William Oldfeld, was allowed pension on his application executed July 3, 1833, then living in Jefferson Township, Ohio. He was pensioned as William Oldfield.

The papers on file in this claim contain no reference to wife or children.

The application for headstone for William "Oldfield" is returned herewith. There was no correspondence enclose.