

Pension Application for William Rich

W.11150 (Widow: Thankful)

B.L.Wt.57785-160-55

State of New York

Genesee County

On the 16th day of October 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the court of Common Pleas in and for the said County of Genesee now sitting William Rich A Resident of the town of Bethany in the County of Genesee aged sixty eight 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, viz.

That he was born in the town of Charlton in the County of Worcester, and State of Massachusetts, on the 26th day of May 1764, as he has been informed and as appears from the family record kept by him in his Bible.

That he entered the service of the United States, under the following named Officers and served as herein stated; that in the year 1779 he enlisted at the town of Spencer under Capt Samuel Healy and Lieutenant Jonathan Rich in the Militia of the State of Massachusetts for three months, that they marched to Providence Rhode Island, from that place to Warren, thence to Bristol, and thence to the Island; at that place the party to which he was attached kept a garrison, and that they remained there until the three months for which he had enlisted has expired; that he then returned home to Spencer Mass'es.

That in June 1780 he volunteered under a Lieutenant Parker and that there was no other Commissioned Officer at that time attached to this company, that they marched to Claverack in the State of New York, at that place the party to which he belonged received orders to march to Fishkill at that place he drew provisions, from the publick stores, that after remaining at Fishkill about a week, he with the party to which he belonged, were ordered to West Point, to which place they went by water where General Arnold was in command. That after remaining at West Point a few days, he was ordered to Kings Ferry where he joined the Regiment under the command of Col. Livingston, he was now in the Company commanded by Captain Ten Eyck and Lieutenant Nestle (a German as he believes); that the officers under whom he served at this time were attached to the Continental Service.

That about this time he with others Volunteered to go to Kings Ferry as a reinforcement to the troops stationed at that place, where he remained until the latter part of November, making six months from the date of his enlistment; that while at Kings ferry he was sent to West Point after ammunition; that while on his way up the river he met General Arnold coming down, but did not know of his defection that he went to West Point, and his time expired and he was verbally dismissed.

That he has no documentary evidence of his services and knows of no person living by whom he could prove his services, and that he never received any written discharge.

Honl William Mitchel, Mills Averill live in his neighborhood are well acquainted with him and can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief in his services as a soldier of the Revolution.

That since the war he resided in Halifax Windham Co., Vt., about 6 years, in Hoosack, Rensselaer Co., N.Y. about 5 years, in New Canaan in same county about two years in Hancock, Hampshire Co., 3 years, in Neversink, Delaware Co., N. Y. about 3 years, in New Canaan again about 1 year, in Lake Pleasant, Montgomery County, N.Y. 6 or 7 years—then in Avon, Livingston County N.Y. about 8 years, then in Bethany where he now resides about 3 years.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present and declares that his name is onto on the Pension Roll of the agency of any state. (Signed) William Rich

Subscribed & sworn to the day & year aforesaid in open court. Timothy Fitch,
Clerk

Letter in folder dated November 28, 1924, written in response to an inquiry.

I had to advise you that from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim W.11150 it appears that William Rich was born May 26, 1764 in Charlton, Worcester County, Massachusetts.

While a resident of Spencer, Worcester County, Massachusetts he enlisted in 1779 and served three months as a private in Captain Samuel Healy's company, Colonel Brewer's Massachusetts Regiment.

He enlisted in June 1780 and served six months as a private in Captain TenEyck's Company, Colonel Livingston's New York Regiment.

He was allowed pension on his application executed October 16, 1832 while living in Bethany, Genesee County, New York. He died January 10, 1853, in Avon, Livingston County, New York.

Soldier married In 1781 in Colerain, Massachusetts. Thankful Bowers who was allowed pension on her application executed November 26, 1855 while a resident of Oakland County, Michigan aged ninety six years. She died December 7, 1856.

It is not stated whether they had any children.