

Pension Application for David Sweezy

S.14632

State of New York

Orange County SS.

On this fourth day of September 1832, personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for said County being a Court of record and now sitting David Sweezy a resident of Goshen in the County of Orange and State of New York aged eighty six 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.

Deponent received a commission from Governor George Clinton, as a Captain in a company of Militia at Goshen in the said County of Orange in the year 1776 the day and month the deponent cannot now recollect—He was ordered to Fort Montgomery in the County of Orange aforesaid and remained there in service about three weeks. General James Clinton was there in command of Fort Clinton and George Clinton in command of Fort Montgomery, Colonel Lewis Dubois was there in command of a regiment of Continental troops this deponent then returned home.

And this deponent further saith that he was called into service in command of a company and ordered to Fort Montgomery aforesaid three other times during the years 1776 and 1777—That being old and his memory impaired, he cannot with any certainty state the precise times but he is confident he was there the number of times above named, and at each time a period of at least two weeks. He thinks Governor Clinton was there in command every time. Colonel McLaughery was there one or more times in command of a regiment of Militia. Captain Moody commanded a company of United States Artillery—Deponent was regularly dismissed each time and returned home—deponent has no memoranda to which to refer—Deponent was on his way to Fort Montgomery and a few miles off when it was taken in the month of October 1777—having received orders to march there after the fort was taken deponent was ordered with his company to New Windsor, NY, and thence up the North River to New Hurley in the County of Ulster—we arrived near Kingston when we found it on fire—We were then ordered about two miles west of Kingston and after staying there three or four days, were ordered back to New Windsor NY—where we stayed until the British shipping returned from Kingston four or five days. Deponent volunteered to command 70 or 80 men to fire at the enemy as they passed Butler Hill, where it was supposed that several of the enemy were killed—went from thence to Blaggs Clove – from thence down the river forty or fifty miles, to watch the enemy and prevent their landing, after being out on this tour at least four weeks we were ordered home. Deponent has no recollection of any United States troops being with them thinks some of them were on the east side of the North River watching the enemy. Gen. James Clinton went with us to Kingston and returned with us.

In the fall of 1777 the precise time deponent cannot recollect he was ordered to Ramapo on the border of New Jersey on the route to New York with a company stayed there about two weeks was ordered to march down the North River staid there four weeks to watch the enemies shipping from which they landed committing depredations at various places on the east side of the river deponent was there discharged and ordered home.

And this deponent further saith that he was ordered in command of a company five times to Ramapo according to the best of his recollection—That it is altogether out of his power to state the dates of the various times he was ordered to that place & the length of time with certainty that he remained there.

But deponent has no doubt that all his service at Ramapo will amount at least to eight months. There was a pass at that place through which it was necessary to go in passing from the American to the British lines by land—we were engaged a part of the time at that place in building breast works and

other defences and it was generally guarded during the greater part of the revolution and principally by the Militia—Gen. James Clinton was there frequently when deponent was there. Colonel Cooper of the New York Militia was there off and on in command—Deponent was at times also in command.

The above service was in the years 1777 & 1778 and according to deponent's recollection it was all rendered [?] to the summer of 1778.

In the year 1778 and as deponent thinks in the month of May deponent was ordered in command of a company to Peenpack on the frontier about twenty miles from Goshen, on the west side of Shawangunk Mountains to defend it against the savages. They had set fire to and burned many houses in that neighbourhood and had killed two or three of the inhabitants—deponent remained at that time in the service seven months—Col. Newkirk commanded part of the time and in his absence deponent commanded—deponent was then dismissed and returned home.

In the year 1779 and late in the spring deponent was ordered to the frontiers at Peenpack again and remained there one month in command at the end of that time finding that the enemy had gone away and no apprehension being entertained deponent dismissed his company and returned home.

After remaining at home a few days, there was a general alarm—that the savages were upon the same frontiers deponent was ordered out with his company he went there and was absent about one week.

A few days after this deponent returned he was ordered back to the frontiers and remained there in service five months—guarding the frontiers against the savages—a picket was built at this time—Deponent was in command and does not now recollect by whom he was ordered to return—but thinks that after finding that the savages had left the frontiers and he dismissed his men and returned home.

In the year 1780 and in the fall of the year, deponent thinks in September deponent was ordered by Colonel Allison of the New York Militia in command of a company at West Point that he helped in the construction of Forts at or near the Point. General Paison was there—we remained there six weeks our principal work was at Fort Putnam—Col. Odle of the New York Militia was there—Deponent was discharged and returned home—Deponent thinks General Arnold commanded at the Point. Deponent further saith that he was some time in service commanding a company at [?] Creek which he did not at first remember but now distinctly recollects cannot say precisely how long but thinks about one month—cannot say whether it was in 1775 or 1776—commanded in the plan of Capt Little then absent – his wife being sick –Deponent further saith the above comprised all the service he can now recollect except that he served on court martials several times at one he served a week at Paltz [New Paltz] in Ulster County on the trial of Col. Snider for cowardice this was in the year 1777 and after the burning of Kingston—

During all the time above deponent resided in the Town of Goshen aforesaid and where he has ever since lived.

And this deponent further saith that most of the persons of his company are now dead the only persons he now recollects now living who have any knowledge of his services in the revolutionary war, one Thomas Waters of Goshen and Thomas Knight of Walker in county of Orange aforesaid and William Wells of Minisink in said county and one Enos Carr all of whom are infirm.

And this deponent further saith that on conversing with Thomas Waters since making the above statement he recollects that he was at Tappan on the North River in Rockland County in the winter of 1776 & 77—was ordered there with his company and remained about six weeks—Col. Hatheroges, Col. Allison and Col. Woodhalls regiments were there—no United States Troops there on one occasion we all went to three Pigeons in New Jersey, understanding some of the enemy were in the neighbourhood returned by the way of Hackensack—This deponent was born in Suffolk County Long Island in the year 1747—has a record of his age at his sons, David Sweezy in town of Calhoun, Orange County aforesaid—

Lived at Goshen when called into service—He went into the service when ordered by his superior officers.

Deponent received a commission from George Clinton which is lost.

Gen James W. Wilkin, David M. Westcott and Samuel J. Wilkins inhabitants of Goshen reside in my neighbourhood who can testify to my character for truth and veracity and their belief of my services as a soldier in the revolutionary war. (Signed) David Sweezy

Sworn & subscribed the 4th day of September 1832. Asa Dunning, Clerk

Letter in file dated December 22, 1926, written in response to an inquiry.

I have to advise you that from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim S.14632, it appears that David Sweezy was born in 1747 in Suffolk County, Long Island.

While a resident of Goshen, Orange County, New York he served during the years 1775, 1776, 1777, 1778, 1779 and 1780, at various times, two years, four months and twenty-one days, as Captain of New York Militia.

He was allowed pension on his application executed September 4, 1832 while a resident of Goshen, New York.

In 1832, his son, David was living in Calhoun, Orange County, New York. Name of soldier's wife not given, and there is no further data on file as to family.