

Pension Application for Christopher Vaile

W.26613 (Widow: Molly Ann) Married November 10, 1782. He died May 27, 1845.
State of Connecticut.
New London County SS.
City of Norwich SS.

On this 14th day of July AD 1832 personally appeared in open court before the city court now in session in the city of Norwich in said county, being a court of record & having jurisdiction to any amount, Christopher Vail a resident of seventy four 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 7, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as is herein stated.

On or about the first day of July AD 1775, he then being a resident of sag Harbor, Suffolk county, State of New York, and of the age of seventeen years, & five feet nine inches high, he enlisted into the Continental Army for six months, under the command of Capt. John Hulburt, Lieut. John Davis & Lieut. William Havens, and served the whole of said six months—a part of the time he was stationed at Montague on the East end of Long Island from thence he was ordered to the North & stationed at Ticonderoga, when Chamblee & St. John were captured that his said company took charge of & guarded a number of the prisoners, to the northwest part of Connecticut where they were left. L Our time of enlistment having expired, we returned home.

Said Vail immediately about the first of March 1776, enlisted again into the Continental army in the company under Captain John Davis & Lieut. William Havens and was stationed at Montague until the British landed on Long Island. Said company then left Long Island and was ordered up the North river and stationed at Fort Constitution & Fort Montgomery. Henry B. Livingston was our Colonel. Some time this season our Captain, Lieutenant & part of the company enlisted for three years or during the war. Said Vail and some others were put into Captain Daniel Griffings Company and staid at Fort Montgomery until the expiration of thirteen months from the time of said last enlistment. He was in the service during all the time. At the end of thirteen months we were regularly discharged, being then under the command of General Clinton. I then returned the command of General Clinton. I then returned to Saghook Connecticut. This was in 1777.

In the spring of that year I entered & enlisted on board the Continental Schooner Mifflin, Capt. John Kerr and cruised in Long Island Sound. During this time I volunteered to cross to Long Island with other troops we passed over in the night. I took a company of Refugees fifty nine in number commander by Capt Jacob Smith and returned to New London. I was on board at this time three months. I then left & entered on board the Continental frigate Warren, John Hopkins commander, & was on board five months, at the expiration of which I was discharged. The whole time which I was then in the Continental Army & Navy was two years and three months.

In 1778 I was engaged in two tours of one month each in the militia and marched to the relief of Danbury when it was burnt. When I returned, Jan 1, 1779 I

entered on board and armed vessel bound on a cruise to the West Indies. We sailed Jan 6, 1779 land on cruising to windward off Barbadoes on the 11 Jany we captured a schooner bound to Halifax. I was sent on board to carry her to the United States.

On the 12th Feby I was taken by a British ship and carried into Antigua & put into close confinement where I remained eleven months & nine days a prisoner. He was then taken from prison & put on board a British man of war 74 guns, called the Suffolk. Admiral Rodney commanding the fleet. We were kept as prisoner on board, and in April we were in three separate engagements with the French fleet of 22 [sail] of the line commanded by Admiral [Gaishony?] and Lamotte Pachut. LaMotte these actions I petitioned admiral Rodney to be sent prisoner to England. He granted my request and I was put on board the man of war Action 44 guns, and on our passage to England I was put on board a transport to be returned back.

On our arrival in England we put into Falmouth where I made my escape and went on board a British ship and sailed the next day for Lisbon. When I arrived, when I had been there a few days, I got on shore and applied to the French council for advise – He kept me three days at his house & furnished me with support both Portuguese & Spanish.

I went to Cadiz in Spain where I arrived Feb 24, 1781. I applied to Richard Harrison esq, who was agency or counsel for the United States for assistance. He furnished me with a boarding house where I remained till I got a passage to the United States in and armed ship belonging to Salem (Mass.) We had an engagement off Madison with a British Cutter 16 or 18 guns, we beat her off. I arrived in Salem. From thence I traveled to New London Connecticut making upwards of two years absence. I staid at New London but two days, and May 5, 1781 I entered on board the Brig Dean of 16 guns. Capt. Scofield commander, out twenty five days and returned. June 2d I entered on board the sloop Jay, William Havens Commander of 16 guns. We took two English Privateers called the Fox & St. Patrick & seventy men & carried them into New London.

On the 6th of Sept the British burnet New London and a part of our vessel was destroyed. On the 8th of Sept. I entered again on board the dean. Capt. Scofield and after cruising some time we were captured by two British Frigates and carried into New York and put on board the Jersey Prison ship—we staid there 30 days, lost 64 men by the fever, & I was exchanged I returned to New London very sick with the fever. On my recovery I entered again on board the sloop Randolph, Capt. Fosdick commander, on the 14th March 1782. We took several prizes & carried them into New London & returned in July. I then went on board the Galley John, Johnathen Alden commander, we took our prize & went to New London & in August following I left the service.

My first enlistment In 1775 was under the following circumstances. Paul Paine had enlisted and being unable to go, I enlisted & took his place. I always answered to my own name, but there Pains name was on the roll or mind, I do not know.

The dates of my service at sea, I take from a journal which I kept at the time & know it to be correct.

I have no papers or documents relating to my service in the army and there is no person living within my knowledge who knows of my service. Giles L. Hommenien lived in sag Harbour when I enlisted & knows that I went into the army, but he was then a small boy. I never had any papers relating to my discharge to my recollection. I name the following gentlemen to whom I am known in my present neighborhood & to whom I refer for my character. Hon James Lamman formerly Senator in congress. Hon. Colim Goddard formerly member of Congress & since a Judge of the Supreme Court of the state. George Hill Esq an alderman of the City of Norwich, Hon Jabez W. Huntington, Hon. Noyer Barber, members of the present Congress—Jabez Huntington Esq President of the Norwich Bank, Rev. Seth B. Paddoche, Rector of Christs Church Norwich.

He resided at Sag Harbor at the time he entered the army after the war, He lived in SagBrook one year then came to New London & lived a short time, then came to Norwich where I have lived ever since—except fourteen years, during which I was in Richmond Virginia from which place I came June 1823 to Norwich where I have ever since lived.

He hereby relinquishes all 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. (Signed Christopher Vaill

Sworn to & subscribed in open court on the day & year put down within. Attest
Alex Lathrop Clerk.

Letter in folder dated May 4, 1909, written in response to an inquiry.

In reply to your letter dated and received the 22nd ultimo, you are advised that in the claim of Christopher Vail pensioned Vaile, Wid. File No. 26,613 Revolutionary War, it appears that he was born at Southold, Long Island, May 7, 1758, and while residing at Sag Harbor, Suffolk County, New York, enlisted July 1, 1775 and served six months as Private under Captain John Hulbert and Colonel James Clinton.

Enlisted March 1, 1776 and served thirteen months under Captains John Davis and Daniel Griffings, and Colonel Henry B. Livingston.

Served two months when Danbury was burned, officers not stated.

Spring of 1777 three months under Captain John Kerr on Continental Schooner Miflin.

Five months under Captain John Hopkins on Continental frigate Warren.

January 1, 1779, entered on board an armed vessel (name not stated) bound for the West Indians and January 11th captured a schooner. He was sent on board to carry her to the United States and on February 12th eha was captured by a British ship, carried to Antigua and imprisoned eleven months and nine days, then put on; board the Suffolk, a British Man of War, and was In three engagements with the French Fleet in April, year not stated. He was then sent a prisoner to England, made his escape at Falmouth and sailed for Lisbon on another British ship, then went to Cadiz, Sprain, arriving there February 24, 1781, then sailed for the United States on an armed ship belonging to Salem, Massachusetts.

May 5, 1781 he entered on board the Brig Dean and served twenty five days, June 2, entered on board the sloop Joy, William Havens Commander; took the English privateers, Fox and Saint Patrick. Entered again on board the Dean, was captured by two British frigates, carried to New York and put on the Jersey prison ship; after thirty days was exchanged.

March 14, 1782 entered on board the sloop Randolph under Captain Fosdick, took several prizes and returned in July, then went on the galley John or Jehu, took one prize and in August following left the service.

He was allowed pension on an application executed July 24, 1832 while a resident of Norwich, Ne London County, Connecticut.

He married at Norwich, Connecticut, November 10, 1782 Molly Ann Everit and died at said place May 27, 1845. His widow was allowed pension on an application executed September 4, 1845, while living at Norwich Connecticut, aged seventy nine years. A child Hannah W. was the wife of Samuel Tyler. There is no further family data.