

Pension Application for James Van Dresor

S.19491

State of New York

Cayuga County SS

On this 20th day of December AD 1833 personally appeared before me first Judge of the court of Common Pleas of Cayuga County, James Van Dresor now of Auburn in said County aged 83 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 under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

He in the month of January 1776 he entered the service of the United States as a volunteer (at Newtown, then in the County of Albany) in a company of militia commanded by Captain Jeremiah Vincent Lieut Joseph Pinckney, in the Regiment commanded by Col. James Schoonover and marched first to Albany & from thence to Johnstown for the purpose of taking Sir John Johnson. That Sir John Johnson was taken and again discharged on his parol of honor after which he returned home, and was in service at this time eight day.

That in the month of May following he again entered said service in case of alarm in the same company as a volunteer and marched to Fort Miller in the State of New York where he was stationed & continued to serve fourteen days—

That in the following summer he again entered said service as a volunteer in the same company and marched first to fort Miller where he was stationed a few day[s] and marched from thence to fort Edward where he was stationed until he was discharged having served three weeks as he believes that in the fall of 1776 he again entered said service as a volunteer in the same company in case of alarm, and marched first to fort Edward after remaining there a short time the said company most of them returned home, and he the applicant was retained in service to act as a guide to scouting parties which were sent out to Scout on the northern frontiers, that he was attached to no particular company but was most of the time out as a guide to different parties. That he was part of the time at fort George & part of the time at fort Edward but not at either place long at a time. That he continued in service at this time three months, that he was employed as such guide on account of his acquaintance with the surrounding country.

That in the month of May 1778 he again entered said service in the company commanded by Captain Wright as he believes, in the Regiment commanded by Major Chipman & Col. Warner as a substitute for a man whose name he does not remember, for a term of six months that said Regiment was stationed at fort George during said term. From whence Scouting parties were constantly sent out to scout through the surrounding country.

And that he was constantly employed as a guide to said Scouting parties—that a few days before the close of his term of service he was taken prisoner in company with about fifty other by the enemy, that he was taken one days journey towards

Canada as a prisoner. When he made his escape from the enemy and returned home – where he arrived a few days after his term of service expired.

That his full time of service amounts to ten months and thirteen days and for such service he claims a pension—that he performed many other short tours of service in said war but is unable to remember when such services were performed, that whilst in said service he saw & knew Gen Schuyler and was under his command when he went to Johnstown as aforesaid. Genl Gates & others, but their names he does not remember; that he was born in the County of Dutchess & State of New York in 1750 as he believes and has no record of his age.

That he removed from thence to Newtown aforesaid where he lived at the time of the war and two or three years afterwards when he removed to Columbia County, and removed from thence to Schoharie County – from thence to Montgomery County – from thence to Oneida County where he resided until about six years ago since which time he has had no fixed place of residence but has wandered from one place to another without a home or permanent location, that he has no property or connections who will render him assistance and has been for the last four or five ye rs entirely dependent upon the charities of community for support.

That he never received a written discharge form service, and has no documentary proof thereof—that he has spent all his time since last February in searching for living witnesses of his service but has not been able to procure any and knows of no person by whom he can prove the same that he has not resided in his present neighbourhood a sufficient length of time to acquire a reputation as a Revolutionary Soldier, having been there but a few days. That John C. Russ is a clergyman residing in Auburn in the County of Cayuga, Henry Donnelly a resident of Brighton Monroe Co. can testify as to their acquaintances with him and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution. That he is unable to remember the names of all the officers under whom he served but has given them above as far as he can.

He hereby relinquishes all claim to a pension except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any State or territory. (Signed with his mark)
James VanDusor

Sworn & subscribed the day & year aforesaid. J. L. Richardson, First Judge of Cayuga.