

Pension Application for Gerrit H. Van Wagenen

S.9499

State of New York

County of Chenango

On this tenth day of November 1837, personally appeared in open Court before his Honor Robert Monell, vice Chancellor of the 6th Circuit of the State of New York at a Court of Chancery held at the residence of the Vice Chancellor in the town of Greene, in the County of Chenango and State of New York, at a Court of Chancery held at the residence of the Vice Chancellor, in the town of Greene, in the County of Chenango and State of New York, now sitting, Gerrit H. Van Wagenen a resident of Oxford, in the County of Chenango and State of New York, aged seventy ninety 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 herein stated.

1775, 1776 1777, 1778, Lieutenant. At least one year in active service. At least one year and nine months a Prisoner. In all at least 2 years 9 months.

That he in the year 1775 volunteered and was appointed a Lieutenant (2d Lieutenant) in eighth Company commanded by Captain John Quackenbos in Colonel McDougals, Lieutenant Colonel Ritsma, and Major [Tedwits?] Regiment, being the 1st Regiment in the New York state troops, that after he was appointed a Lieutenant a part of Colonel McDougals Regiment, with which he embarked, left New York in August or September 1775, their destination being against Canada, from New York they went to Albany and from thence he with the troops marched to the south end of Lake George from whence they proceeded in bateaux to Lake George to Ticonderoga, from whence again they proceeded in bateaux on Lake Champlain to St. Johns and they joined the besieging part of the army there, where he continued until the reduction of St Johns, after which he was ordered with part of the troops to La Prairie and from thence to Montreal, and after being at Montreal several days, he was ordered with the troops to proceed on board of a vessel on the St. Lawrence, to join the army then besieging Quebec, and that he was in the storming of Quebec in the column of General Montgomery, who in the attack was killed, together with his Aid d' Camp McPherson and Captain Chesman, after which a retreat was ordered, as he understood, by Colonel Donald Campbell, and after again getting into quarters, it was by General agreement that Arnold should take the command and the siege of Quebec being continued, he was there until the month of May 1776 when he was ordered down the country with a number of men whose term of service had expired, from before Quebec he proceeded up the River St. Lawrence to the river Sorell and up that river to Chamblee, from thence to St. Johns and from thence on Lake Champlain to Ticonderoga, and from thence to Lake George and to the south end thereof, where was given him in charge some prisoners taken in Canada in order to carry them to New York, and when he arrived there at New York, he was ordered to proceed with them to Philadelphia, where he delivered up the prisoners and from thence he returned to New

York and arrived at New York on the 24th August 1776, although in consequence of weakness of memory arriving from old age, the day on which he entered service he does not recollect which day when he entered service is testified by Leonard Bleecker whose affidavit is annexed to have been on the 20th June 1775, yet he was in service at least one year, acting as Lieutenant, previous to the 24th August 1776 when he returned to New York as aforesaid, that soon after his return from Philadelphia to New York, he being a Supernumerary went to Long Island and offered his services to General Sullivan, who requested him and four other officers; namely: Robert Tromp, Edard Dunscomb, William Guilderland and Jeromus Hoogladn to go and reconnoiter the enemy who where [were?] observed to be in motion, and in the various advances on the enemy, they fell in with a body of horse and infantry by whom he and his little party were made prisoners on the 37th August 1776l, and he continued a prisoner for about twenty two (22) months most of the time [?] on Long Island and boarded in one Stilwells family, and he was exchanged in the year 1778 the day and month he has forget, but he was a Prisoner of the British, at least one year and nine months, that he was a Lieutenant in active service aforesaid at least one year and whilst a Lieutenant he was a prisoner at least one year and nine months, and in all he was a prisoner and in active service aforesaid, whilst Lieutenant two years and nine months. 1779, 1180, 1781, 1782, 1783, in Commissary of Prisoners Department with rations & pass of a Major, at least 2 years & 6 months.

That directly or shortly after he was exchanged in 1778 he went from New York to Fishkill and remained at and in the neighborhood of Fishkill and after he was exchanged as aforesaid he was appointed to a Captancy, but owing to some whom he had commanded being placed above him he did not accept and whilst at Fishkill in 1779 he received an appointment in the Commissary of prisoners department, under Colonel John Beatty, Commissary General of Prisoners and to the best of his knowledge and belief with the pay and rations of a Major.

That in the winter of 1779-80, he was ordered to New York with a number of prisoners and effected their exchange for a like number of our own men who were then prisoners with the enemy at which time general Hearsh commanded sometime after he was ordered to take Colonel Campbell and his servant into Verpinks Point (Colonel Campbell and servant were of the British Army) which he effected with some difficulty—the enemy having been out the night before, as he understood, had burned Crum Pons' Church, which circumstance had so exasperated those who were out in pursuit of the invaders, they were not willing that he (this deponent) should proceed [proceeded] with the prisoners, their lives being threatened and he accordingly returned back some distance with those who had been in the pursuit but finally considering his orders where imperative, he enquired a [?] road, and by that road he carried prisoners safely through to Verplanks point, and he continued in the Department aforesaid, about three years stationed most of the time at Fishkill and West Point the precise time of his service will more fully appear by reference to his accounts as settled he thinks in the Registers office, as he received a final settlement certificate (which certificate he sold for the balance then due to him from the United

States, signed by Joseph Nourse Register, the he left the said Commissary of prisoners department in the year 1782 or 1783, and although from loss memory arising from old age, he does not recollect the precise time when he entered and when he left the Commissary of prisoners department, yet he does know that he was in active service in said department (as he believes with the pay and rations of a Major) not less than two years and six months.

That he has no documentary evidence and that he knows of no person whose testimony had can procure who can testify to his service except Leonard Bleeker of Westchester County, Isaac Nichols, a Justice of the Peace in Brooklyn and Abraham Furman of Queens County and State of New York, whose affidavits are hereunto annexed, and that he knows the said Leonard Bleeker, Isaac Nicholas, and Abraham Furman to be credible persons and respectable men.

To the First Interrogatory prescribed by the War Department he answers, that he was born in the City of New York on the 21st of January 1753.

To the Second answers, that he has a record of his age in his family memorandum book now with him in Court.

To the Third, answers, that he lived in the City of New York, when called into service that after the Revolution he lived in the said City until 1821 he moved to Oxford in Chenango County and State of New York, where he has since lived and now lives.

To the Fourth answers that he always volunteered his services and was appointed to a Commission.

To the Fifth answers that Generals Montgomery & Arnold were Regular officers with the troops where he served, that he recollects no Continental or Malitia [Militia] Regiments, and that the general circumstances of his service are above realted.

To the Sixth answers that he received a Lieutenants commission signed as he thinks by John Hancock, the last words of which commission were as follows, "to continue in force until revoked by this or a future Congress" which commission he has lost or mislaid, that when he was in the Commissary of prisoners department, he received no written commission merely the appointment, as he believes with the rations and pay of a Major.

To the Seventy answers, that he is known in his present neighborhood to the Rev'd Leverett Bush, Uri Tracy and John Tracy, Post Master, who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution.

That he could not produce in Court without too much inconvenience and expense, tow respectable persons who reside in his present vicinity but that he caused the affidavits of the Rev'd Leverett Bush and the Honl Uri Tracey to be taken before a Justice of the Peace and that they reside about fourteen miles from this Court.

He 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. (Signed) Gerrit H. Van Waggonen

Sworn and subscribed to the day and yea aforesaid. Robt Morrell, Vice Chancellor