

Pension Application for Benjamin Westervelt

W.1679 (Widow: Jane)

State of New York

City and County of New York SS

On this fifteenth day of September personally appeared in open Court, before the Justices of the Marine Court of the City of New York, now sitting Benjamin Westervelt, a resident of the City in the County and State of New York, aged seventy 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 7 1832.

That he was born at Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County, State of New York, in the year 1754; that he has no record of his age; that when called into service, he was living with his father at Poughkeepsie; that he came to the City of New York, the next year after the peace, has lived there ever since and continued to reside therein:

That in August 1774 he entered the service of the United States; that in the town of Poughkeepsie, six men constituted a class, and were compelled to furnish one man for the army; that men of his class offered him twenty dollars, as a bounty, but that there was no drafting; went into the Company of Captain Bernardus Swartwout, and the regiment of Colonel Jacobus Swartwout; That their duty was to guard the shores of the Hudson River from Poughkeepsie, near down to the City of New York; that they built barracks on Cortlandts Hill just above Kingsbridge. That they were at Kingsbridge when the 4th captain received orders to go to the assistance of General Washington; that they immediately came to New York and went over to Brooklyn, where the entrenchments and Fort were already erected; that taking possession of them, they remained there three days and three nights, when they received orders to retreat.

That they marched down to Brooklyn in the night and in the morning went over to New York; that they marched down to Brooklyn in the night and in the morning went over to New York; That he forgets the names of all the Continental officers, with the exception of one Major Logans who appeared to have the charge of his company; In the next afternoon after their arrival at New York, his single company marched to Kingsbridge where they found those whom they had left there & taken care of the sick; that they remained at Kingsbridge a short time when they marched to Fort Constitution, about four miles above Peekskill where they laid up for winter's quarters; that there his time expired, when he went home to Poughkeepsie; that he entered for a service of five months. That his time expired in January 1777. That he recollects to have seen General Putnam near Poughkeepsie with many troops in the woods on the river.

That his brother Cornelius Westervelt was drafted for s'd service of four months, about one year afterward as he thinks and believes; that Cornelius entered the Company of one Captain Hehrman, and went to Peekskill and Kingsbridge; that he Cornelius finding the service to be too oppressive, came home, and that he Benjamin went and was received in his place to the end of the time in the same company and

under the same Captain; that their duty was to guard the shores of the Hudson river from Peekskill as far down as Spyten Devil's Creek; that their barracks were at Peekskill; that their service was all in the summer months; that he saw no standing forces in this service.

That Cornelius Westervelt, his brother and Abraham Leggett and William Dodge can testify to his services; but that he has no documentary evidence and never received written discharges; that his officers are all dead; that Reverend John Demarest and Garret Van Sandt can testify to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution.

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) Benjamin Westervelt

Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open court. John Barberie, Clerk.