

Pension Application for Henry Willis

S.11782

Declaration. In order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress of the Seventh June 1832.

State of New York

City & County of New York SS.

On this twenty second day of September AD 1832, personally appeared before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of the City and County of New York, Henry Willis a resident of the City and County of New York in the State of New York aged seventy three 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 provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That in the month of July in the year 1776 this deponent being then a resident in the Town of Fishkill in the County of Dutchess and State of New York volunteered and enlisted for a five month's service in a company volunteered and enlisted for a five months service in a company of the New York State Troops or Militia of which Stephen Duryea was the Captain, Andrew Lawrence and Jacob Horton were the Lieutenants in a regiment commanded by Colonel Swartwout.

That soon after the company was organized it marched to Kings Bridge and remained there about three months, upon the approach of a Superior force of the British it retreated to Fort Washington, thence to Fort Lee, thence through the State of New Jersey and up the river Hudson and crossed at Verplank's Point, thence marched towards White Plains, when upon the approach of the British Army, said Company again retreated to Peekskill and thence to Fort Constitution opposite West Point where it remained until about Christmas when the five months for which it had been enlisted expired. Deponent having faithfully served out the full period for which he was enlisted in said Company was dismissed with the rest of the privates, but received no written discharge.

Deponent further saith that in April or May, in the year 1777 he again enlisted as a substitute, volunteering in the place of other men who were drafted for a service of three months, in a company of which Henry Wychoff was the Captain and Abraham Lent on of the Lieutenants. Deponent served out his full three months in said Company at Fort Constitution opposite West Point, there being another Company of the Regiment stationed with them. The rest of the Regiment was at Fort Montgomery.

Soon after the expiration of his three months service, Deponent enlisted as a Volunteer in a Company of Rangers under Captain Ezekiel Cooper for one year.

Immediately after enlisting Deponent was taken Sick so as to be unable for some time to do duty but as soon as he recovered he joined the company and served out his year.

The duties and occupations of the Company consisted in Scouring the Country and performing such duties as were detailed for them from time to time. A part of the time they were at Poughkeepsie acting as Guards for Governor Clinton, while there, they were sent once or twice to Hartford Connecticut in Charge of Prisoners.

In the fall of the year 1778 Deponent was employed as a substitute in a company of which according to the best of his recollection, Henry Wynchoff was Captain, for two months and a half at West Point, in working on the Fortifications and other military duty and having served out the period for which he had engaged was regularly dismissed. Deponent further saith that he again enlisted for the last time in the New York State Troops in a Company commanded by Captain Gilbert Livingston in Colonel Albert Pawling's Regiment.

That he enlisted in said company as appears by the annexed certificate of his said Captain Gilbert Livingston about the First of May in the year 1781 for eight months and served out his time at a place called the Frontiers near Saugerties in the State of New York, and at the expiration of his term about the last of December in the same year was dismissed. Deponent further saith he never received any written discharge nor has he any documents or papers relating to his service during the Revolutionary War.

That of all the officers with whom he served Captain Livingston is the only one whom he believes to be now alive.

Deponent further saith that at the breaking out of the Revolutionary War, his mother who resided at Cornwall in the county of orange and State of New York was a widow with one daughter and three sons of whom deponent was one, and all three sons turned out in defence of their country. Deponent further saith that he hereby relinquishes any claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any agency in any state. (Signed) Henry Willis

Sworn to and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid. Abm. Asten Clerk of the Court of Com Pleas for the City & County of New York.