

Pension Application for William Wilsey

R.11651

State of N. Jersey
Morris County SS

Be it known that on this 6th day of May 1833, before the subscriber one of the Justices of Peace in & for the county of Morris, personally came William Wilsey of said County aged 83 years, a man of fair character & good standing for veracity & being first duly sworn according to law, saith, that he is the same William Wilsey, who on the 31st day of July last 1832 made & subscribed before the Judges of the Inferior Court of Common Pleas of said County, the within Declaration, to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress of June 7th 1832.

That when said Declaration was made he did not know himself that it was necessary to specify particularly & minutely, the several tours of militia service which he performed in the Revolutionary war, stating the duration of each tour & the various officers who commanded him on each occasion.

That when he attended the Court for that purpose, the court soon was through & business transacted in too great haste to allow time for recollection. That he answered such questions touching his services as the Court & his Lawyer propounded to him & signed the Declaration which might have been made more specific, had time been allowed, & the necessary questions been put to him. He now desires, that the Secretary of War & the Commissioner of Pensions will receive this as his amendatory Declaration, explaining more fully the original already referred to.

His first tour of service was in the year 1777, in August or September, is not certain which months—most of probably a part of each month. He was commanded by Capt. B. Swartwout, stationed at Fishkill Dutchess County, New York—served 2 weeks was dismissed & went home. He was again called out on the last day of December following in Capt. Van Kleck's company, Col. Freys Regiment—was stationed at King Bridge upon guard duty for a term of six weeks was then dismissed.

In a few weeks thereafter, an alarm was made & he was again called out under the same officers & was stationed at Peekskill on the Hudson river, performing guard duty. He was kept out on this tour two weeks—was then dismissed & went home.

In the following summer (1778) was again ordered on Militia duty under Capt. Swartwout was stationed at West Point & the adjoining shores, upon guard duty. He does not recollect the month, but it was whilst he was upon this tour, that Genl Washington crossed the Hudson at Kingsbridge. He was out 6 weeks on this tour.

In the same summer, he was again called out and a Capt Van Klick was stationed for two weeks at Fishkill, performing guard duty along the river border. Early in the following distance he was stationed one month, at Poughkeepsie, keeping guard at the ship yards, and a command of Capt Van Kleck again. In the same fall, he was again stationed at the same place & under the same officers to strengthen the body guard of Governor Clinton, for the period of two weeks.

In November & December following, he was again ordered into service and in the same company officers & was out for a month, stationed upon & line of the [?] as a

scouting party, watching the movement of the enemy & of the Refugees & Tories, & occasionally pursuing the plundering parties.

His s'd tour of duty, which in his original Declaration, is stated to be in February, he now recollects began on the last of the s'd year & that the New York holidays were spent on this tour, which expired in February, having been out six weeks. Residing on the Hudson river, which was in the power of the enemy for several years he was enrolled in a corps of the militia, commonly called "minute men", whose duty it was to be in readiness at a minutes warning, to march wherever their services might be demanded to repel parties of the enemy & of Tories, who constantly annoyed the inhabitants residing upon & near the river before these occasions, he & his company would be absent for various periods—sometimes for two weeks—for three weeks, or for one week. These called came so frequent, it is impossible for him ever to specify each one.

They continued for a period of four years from his first entering the service in 1777, & beside his tours of duty already specified, it was a part of his militia duty assigned him by his officers, to mount guard upon the river line for twenty four hours in each week, in regular rotation with others, to guard the inhabitants from being surprised by sudden incursion of the enemy. This duty he faithfully & constantly performed at all seasons of the year, born August 1777, until in the fall of 781, excepting when summoned to perform the tours which he has before stated.

These services were performed often in the night, patrolling the lines along the Counties or the Eastern side of the Hudson & often times is most stormy & inclement weather. He was generally when on this patrol duty under command of Capt. Swartwout, Capt Van Kleck, or some of that subaltern officers of the companies under their command. Twenty four hours in each week, was the best portion of time allotted this deponent when no alarm was made. But alarms came very frequent & often times he was out a week on patrol duty in continuous service & sometimes every other day for a week or two.

In this kind of service exclusive of tours above stated & sincerely believe I served more than 18 months of active duty, within the period of four years, or which, as well as for the 7 months before stated, he claims a pension from the United States. In the original declaration, the words "four four weeks", when they last [?] should read for four years & not weeks. (Signed with his mark) William Wilsey

Sworn & subscribed before me at Morristown the date first above written.
(Signed) Silas Lindsly J.P.