

Pension Application for David Wood

R11782

State of New York

Montgomery County SS.

I certify that on the 23d day of August 1834 personally appeared before me. David F. Sacia one of the Judges of the County Court of said County being a Court of Record David Wood of the town of Root in the County & State aforesaid and makes the following Statement or Specification as supplemental to a formal Declaration made by him, to entitle him to a pension under the Act of the 7th June 1832—That he this applicant was a Private Soldier in the service of the United States in the war of the Revolution.

That he this applicant was draughted & enrolled to perform the duty and service hereinafter particularly stated, as a Private Soldier in a Company of Militia organized & enrolled by virtue of Authority from the General Government or from the State Government of New York, for the service of the United States.

That the company of Militia hereinafter described to which this applicant belonged as hereinafter stated in said war did not merely muster, protect & work on defences which Settlers had erected for their protection, but was actually engaged at the times & places hereinafter stated in the actual service of the United States and called into the service herein after specified by virtue of Military authority and orders & by the directions of Officers commissioned to serve & command in behalf of the United States.—

That this applicant was called into actual service as such Private Soldier in the month of April in the year 1781 at a place called Fort Hunter in the County of Tryon (now Montgomery) a regularly constituted Military Post constructed for the use & benefit of the Government & for the protection of the County & People in the vicinity of said Fort by authority from the then military officers of the Government & not a mere place for refuge erected by the Settlers.

That this Applicant was at the time & place last aforesaid enrolled in a Company of Militia then commanded by our Captain Jacob Gardinier (1) an officer in the service of the United States & also commanded by one Colonel Frederick Vischer or Fisher & by one General Volkert Veeder.

That this applicant & his said company constantly performed duty & service under the said officers from the said month of April 1781 until the month of June in said year 1781 at said Fort Hunter in guarding the said Fort & the Inhabitants therein & thereabouts & their property from & against the Indians & Tories (every man in said Company in rotation performing the duty of standing sentry at the said Fort) & also in going out on Scouting parties on which occasions this applicant wherever he went generally went & returned the same day & also in being drilled & disciplined in Military Tactics under & by the said Captain Gardinier & by one Captain Garret Putman. (2)

That during the period of service last stated this applicant & his said company subsisted on provisions from & provided by the General Government or State Government of New York.

That in the month of June in the said year 1781 this applicant & his said Company were called & ordered out & did go under the command of the said Capt. Jacob Gardinier from said Fort Hunter to a place called Caughnawaga in the then County of Tryon (now Montgomery) for the purpose of repelling an expected attack on the said place called Caughnawaga & when arrived at the last mentioned place performed service & duty in

guarding a Fort at Caughnawaga aforesaid in standing sentry literal [literally] night & day, in protecting the Inhabitants therein & thereabouts & their property & in being disciplined as aforesaid, under the said Captain Gardinier, said Col. Vischer or Fisher & said Genl. Veeder.

That at this last mentioned time there was stationed at Caughnawaga aforesaid about 350 soldiers including the Company to which this applicant belonged as aforesaid, subsisted by provisions provided by the Government of the State of New York or by the General Government.

That said Col. Vischer or Fisher had the chief command of the said soldiers at this last mentioned time & place, that one Robert Yates (3) commanded a Company of the said Soldiers at Caughnawaga aforesaid & one Capt. Abraham Veeder another Company thereof. That said Caughnawaga was & is distant from said Fort Hunter about 5 miles & also distant from the then home of this Applicant about 12 miles.

That this applicant & the said Company to which he belonged as aforesaid returned under the command of the said Captain Gardinier from Caughnawaga aforesaid to said Fort Hunter. That on the above mentioned tour to Caughnawaga aforesaid this applicant & his said Company commanded as aforesaid performed service as aforesaid in going to remaining at & returning from said place called Caughnawaga for the time & period of at least 15 days.

That on returning as aforesaid from Caughnawaga aforesaid to Fort Hunter aforesaid this applicant & his said Company commanded by the said Captain Gardinier & also by the said Captain Putman & the said Col. Vischer or Fisher & said Genl. Veeder, continued to perform duty & since constantly & steadily at said Fort Hunter in guarding the Fort & the Inhabitants & their property & in going out for scouting parties & in disciplining themselves until in the month of October of said year 1781 when this Applicant & his said Company under the command of the aforesaid Captain Gardinier & the said Captain Putman were again called & ordered out to said Fort at Caughnawaga aforesaid then being another expected attack from the Indians & Tories on the said last mentioned place & when this applicant & his said company arrived on this last tour to Caughnawaga as aforesaid they again performed service & duty under the said Captain Gardinier & Putman & under said Col. Vischer or Fisher & said Genl. Veeder in guarding the Fort at the said last mentioned place, in standing literal threat in protecting the Inhabitant & their property & in disciplining themselves as aforesaid & then again returned to said Fort Hunter under the command of the said Captain Gardinier & Captain Putman.

That on this last mentioned tour to Caughnawaga aforesaid this applicant & his said Company commanded as aforesaid performed duty & service at aforesaid for the time & period of at least 10 days. That on returning as aforesaid from the last mentioned tour to Caughnawaga aforesaid this applicant & his said Company under the immediate [immediate] command of the said Captain Putman continued to perform service at said Fort Hunter in guarding the Fort & the Inhabitants therein & thereabouts & their property, in going out on scouting parties & in disciplining themselves, until in the month of November of said year 1781.

That then this applicant & his said Company left the said Fort Hunter & went into winter quarters keeping together as a Company in small block houses in the immediate vicinity of said Fort Hunter & subsisted during the winter of the year 1782 on the provisions of the General Government or of the Government of the State of New York & that in such winter quarters they were under the charge & command of the said Captain Putman. (4)

That in the month of April or May in the year 1782 this applicant & his said company were again ordered out to said Fort Hunter under the Command of the said Captains Gardinier & Putman & said Col. Fisher & Genl Veeder & did leave their said Winter Quarters & go to said Fort Hunter & did performed service & duty [?] under the command of the said last mentioned officers in guarding said Fort Hunter & the Inhabitants therein & thereabouts & their property & in going out on scouting parties & in disciplining themselves as aforesaid until the latter part of the summer of the said year 1782 when this applicant & his said Company were again called out to go and did go to Caughnawaga aforesaid for the purpose of protecting the Inhabitants & their property from the Indians & Tories.

That on this last mentioned tour this applicant & his said Company were commanded by the said Captain Gardinier who most generally took the command when this applicant & his said Company were called out to go to any particular point & who is the same Captain Gardinier mentioned in History as having fought so bravely at the battle of Oriskany. (5)

That on this last mentioned tour this applicant & his said Company were also under the command of the said Col. Vischer or Fisher & said Genl Veeder & performed service & duty at this time in guarding the said Fort at Caughnawaga aforesaid, in standing Sentry threat & in protecting the Inhabitants & their property & in disciplining themselves as aforesaid & then again returned to said Fort Hunter under the command of the said Captain Jacob Gardinier.

That this applicant & his said Company performed service & duty on this last mentioned tour to Caughnawaga aforesaid in going to remaining at & returning from the said last mentioned place for the time & period of at least 20 days.

That on returning as last aforesaid to said Fort Hunter this applicant & his said Company commanded by the said Capt. Garret Putman according to this applicants best recollection & belief at this time & also commanded by the said Col. Fisher or Vischer & said Genl. Veeder, continued to perform duty continually & steadily at said Fort Hunter in guarding the said Fort Hunter & the Inhabitants therein & thereabouts & in scouting the Country & driving off the Indians & Tories and in disciplining themselves as aforesaid until in the month of November 1782 or January of the year 1783 when the applicant & his said Company again left the said Fort Hunter to quarter in the said Block Houses in the vicinity of said Fort Hunter where they remained subsisting on the provisions of the Government until the Spring of 1782.

That in the winter of said year 1783 this applicant & his said company in their said Winter Quarters were under the charge & command of the said Captain Putman, principally.

That in the month of April of the year 1783 this applicant & his said Company under the command of the said Captain Putman were again ordered out from the said Block Houses & did go to Fort Hunter aforesaid when this applicant & his said company numbering about 150 men & subsisting on the provisions of the government continued to perform duty & service under the command of said Captain Putman & said Captain Gardinier, said Col. Vischer or Fisher & said Genl Veeder from the said month of April 1783 until the month of September 1783 in guarding the said Fort Hunter in standing sentry literal in protecting the Inhabitants & their property & in disciplining themselves as aforesaid & in going out on scouting parties, that in the said month of September 1783 this applicant & his said Company were discharged & disbanded.

That said Fort Hunter was & is a Point situate on the Mohawk River in said County of Montgomery (then Tryon) a County very badly infested during said war with Indians, &

Tories & where it was absolutely indispensable during said war for the safety & protection of the Inhabitants to have a regular standing force, that said Fort Hunter was distant from the Home of this applicant during said war Seven miles—That the company to which this applicant belonged in said war as above stated usually & generally numbered 150 men. That all the service above stated as having been performed by this applicant was performed by him as a Private Soldier.

That during all & every period of service above set forth as having been performed by this applicant & his said Company, this Applicant & his said Company were subsisted by the General Government or the State Government of New York.

That this applicant performed service during the said years 1781, 1782 & 1783 as aforesaid at Fort Hunter aforesaid, at Caughnawaga aforesaid & at Fort Plank a place mentioned & described in the former Declaration of this Applicant for the time & period of two years & more.

That said Fort Plank was a regular Military Post & that the Company to which this Applicant belonged at said Fort Plank as stated in this applicants former declaration was a company of Militia regularly draughted & enrolled by virtue of Military authority & orders & was subsisted by the General Government or the State Government of New York.

That said Fort Plank was & is at a distance of 25 miles from what was the home of this applicant in the said war. That the number of the Company to which this applicant belonged at Fort Plank aforesaid was about 100 men.

That during the said year 1781, 1782 & 1783 & when the said service & duty above specified was performed as before stated, one Colonel Harper (6) also commanded the Company to which this applicant belonged as above stated, that the said Col. Harper resided near the said Fort Hunter at the time & times above mentioned, but that the said Harper was not so active as officer as the said Col. Vischer or Fisher & did not take the command as frequently as the said Col. Vischer or Fisher.

That during the said years 1781, 1782 & 1783 & at the time & times of the different tours before specified & also during the aforesaid period, of service rendered as aforesaid at the said Fort Hunter this applicant & his said Company were commanded by one Lieutenant Abraham Quackenboss (7) & paid by & with the funds of the General Government or State Government, and this applicant states as before stated in his former declaration that he this applicant has no written or record evidence whatever of his said services & further says not. (Signed with his mark) David Wood.

Subscribed & Sworn to the day & year first above written before me. D.F. Sacia
Judge of Montgomery County Courts.

Schoharie Co.
State of New York SS.

On this fifth day of September A.D. 1853 personally appeared before the County Judge and Surrogate of the county of Schoharie in the State of New York, Elizabeth Wood, now a resident of Carlisle in said County of Schoharie aged seventy seven years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July 7th 1838. "Entitled an act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows." That she is the widow of David Wood who was a soldier in the Revolutionary War.

She further states that she was married to the said David Wood on the Tenth day of August A.D. (1793) one thousand seven hundred and ninety three and that her husband the aforesaid David Wood died on the third day of March A.D. (1843) one thousand eight hundred and forty three that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service but the marriage took place previous to the first of January 1794 to wit at the time above stated. She further swears that she is now a widow and that she has never before made any application for a pension. (Signed with her mark) Elizabeth Wood.

Signed in presence of Demosthenes Lawyer Subscribed and sworn to before me the 5th day of September A.D 1853 and I further certify that I have no interest in the case nor concerned in its prosecution. I further certify that the said Elizabeth Wood testified under oath that she never learned to write and therefore subscribed by a mark. Demosthenes Lawyer, County Judge of Schoharie County

State of New York

Montgomery County SS. I do certify that on the sixth day of April 1839 personally appeared before me David F. Sacia one of the Judges of the County Courts of said County being a court of Record, David Wood of the Town of Root in the County & State aforesaid & makes the following declaration to entitle him to a pension under the act of the 7th of June 1832. That he was seventy five years of age in March last.

That this applicant was called into the service of the United States in the Revolutionary War as a private soldier in the spring of the year 1781. That he served at that time in a Company of Militia in the then County of Tryon now Montgomery, commanded by Captain Garret Putman or by Capt. Jacob Gardinier or by both at different times, this applicant believes from his best recollection at this time that both said Putman & Gardinier commanded the Company to which this applicant belonged at different times, as Captains, and that one Harper whose Christian name the applicant does not now recollect was Colonel of the Company to which this applicant belonged as aforesaid.

That this applicant was called out into actual service at the place & time aforesaid under the said Captain Garret Putman or Jacob Gardinier or both at different times & under the said Colonel Harper & that this applicant & his said company to which he belonged were ordered out to a place called Fort Hunter in the then County of Tryon now Montgomery where this applicant & this company to which he belonged as aforesaid guarded the Fort & protected the Inhabitants & their property from the Indians & Tories.

That during the said service the said Garret Putman or Jacob Gardinier or both of them at different times commanded the company to which this applicant belonged as Captains, & the said Harper as Colonel.

That this applicant does not now recollect who commanded the said company as General at the time & place aforesaid. That this applicant served as aforesaid with his said Company in guarding the Fort at the place aforesaid & doing the other duty above mentioned for the period of two years & more & up to the close of the war when peace was declared.

And this applicant further says that in the fall before the spring of the year 1781 & before he was called into actual service as aforesaid he was taken prisoner by a company of Indians and Tories Commanded by Major Ross & Col. Butler (8) & that this applicant escaped from them in a short time thereafter.

And that he was so taken from near Fort Hunter aforesaid. And this applicant also says that about the year 1778 he served & done duty as a Substitute for one Abram Quackenboss at a place called Fort Plank in the then County of Tryon now Montgomery, under the said Capt. Garret Putman, & that one Cox (9) whose Christian name this applicant does not now recollect was their Colonel & one Herkimer (10) whose Christian name this applicant does not now recollect was their General as this applicant believes, and that he served as such substitute at Fort Plank aforesaid in guarding the Fort & protecting the Inhabitants & their property from the Indians & Tories for about the period of ten days.

And this applicant further says that he has never been on any Pension list of the United States whatever, and he further says that he has no documentary evidence of said services whatever and that this applicant also relies upon the Affidavits hereto annexed as evidence of his said services in said Revolutionary War. (Signed with his mark) David Wood

Subscribed & sworn the day & year first above written before me. D.F. Sacia, Judge of Montgomery County Courts.

End Notes—R.11782—David Wood

1. Jacob Gardinier of the First Company in the Third Regiment of Tryon County Militia under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Volkert Veeder in 1781. Colonel Frederick Visscher had been tomahawked and scalped on May 22, 1780 and his home burned to the ground. He was taken to Schenectady and he recovered from his wounds. He did not return until after the war was over. Volkert did not become a brigadier general until after the war replacing Visscher who had been appointed brigadier general of the Montgomery County Militia on October 2, 1786.
2. Garret Putman served as a captain in 1781 in Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant Marinus Willett's Regiment of New York State Levies.
3. Captain Robert A. Yates of the Third Company and Captain Abraham Veeder of the Second Company in Visscher's Regiment.
4. Captain Putman did not serve after 1781 as his company was discharged on December 31, 1781 and he was not re-appointed again in Willett's Regiment.
5. Captain Gardinier was severely wounded at the Battle of Oriskany on August 6, 1777 but he recovered and returned to service.
6. John Harper was the Colonel of the Fifth Regiment of Tryon County Militia. On May 11, 1780 Harper was appointed lieutenant colonel Commandant of a regiment of New York State Levies, Putman was also appointed captain in this regiment.
7. Abraham Quackenboss was the First Lieutenant in Captain Gardinier's Company.
8. Major John Ross and Captain Walter Butler attacked several settlements on October 24 and 25, 1781. Several prisoners were taken at that time.
9. Colonel Ebenezer Cox of the First Regiment of Tryon County Militia. Colonel Cox was killed at the Battle of Oriskany on August 6, 1777.
10. Nicholas Herkimer was the Brigadier General of the Tryon County Militia Brigade. He was severely wounded in the Battle of Oriskany. Herkimer's leg was amputated and he died on August 17, 1777. David could not have served under these officers. He gives his age in 1839 as 75 years which means he was born circa 1764. This would mean he wasn't legally eligible to serve until 1780 when he turned 16. David's pension application was denied for lack of proof of service. His name has not been found on any company muster roll, pay roll or certificate roll for Visscher's, Harper's

or Willett's Regiments. A David Wood was baptized in 1758, a son of Uriah and Magdalena Quackenboss Wood. FROM: Book of Baptisms of the Dutch Church of Caughnawaga, page 1. But it is possible that this David had died and in 1764 when another male having been born he was named David. David had a brother John born circa 1762 and a sister Abigail born circa 1761. John applied for a pension which was granted Number W.4104 and Abigail widow of Nicholas VanSlyck received her husband's pension Number W.18199. Nicholas did serve under Captain Gardinier. In the Wills of Montgomery County Book 57, page 163, the will of Magdalena Wood dated January 12, 1802 and probated September 25, 1816 lists the following sons: John & David, daughters Marey (wife of John Barlet, Abigail (wife of Nicholas VanSlyke) and Magdalin (Wife of John H. Quackenboss) granddaughter Magdalen (of David). Executors Nicholas Quackenboss and Nicholas VanSlyke. On September 22, 1853, James H. Lighthall a resident of the Town of Minden states the following; he has the old church records as kept by the Reverend D.C.A. Pick formerly the Pastor of the "German Calvinistic Church at Fort Plain" and relates the following; David Wood was married to Elizabeth Vanderkin on the eleventh day of August AD one thousand and seven hundred and ninety three. According to the VanDerken-VanDewerker Family, compiler Paul W. Prindle, Baronet Litho Co., Johnstown, N.Y. 1966, p. 57 David and Elizabeth had the following children: Sarah born 26, January 1799, bap. 15 January 1800. Cornelia bap. 28 December 1801. David born 2 March 1804 bap. 1 April 1804. Elizabeth born 28 August 1806, bap. 15 September 1806. Isaac born 27 September 1808 bap. 23 October 1808. Abraham born 18 January 1811 bap. 24 February 1811. Elizabeth born 27 April 1815 bap. 28 May 1815. Margareta born 29 August 1820 bap. 10 October 1820. Elizabeth was the daughter of Roelof and Cornelia VanAlstine VanDerWerker and was born on September 23, 1776 and bap. On October 26, 1776. FROM: Church Records of the Reformed Dutch Church of Stone Arabia page 170. David's brother John married Margaret VanDerWerker the sister of Elizabeth. Captain Jacob Gardinier had married Dirkje, or Dorothy, VanDerWerker. Dirkje was the sister of Roelof. They were the children of Martines and Margaretha Owens VanDerWerker. David having been tied the VanDerWerker-Gardinier Family had some knowledge of Captain Gardinier's Company service from Nicholas VanSlyck, his brother-in-law or from Gardinier himself. By the militia law when David was 16 years of age he was to enroll in the militia company where he lived referred to as the "Company beat". Add in the fact if he lived in the beat of Captain Gardinier whose loyalty was never questioned would have enrolled David nor does it appear that the Wood family's loyalty to have been questioned. In John's pension application he claimed to have served in Captain Rynier VanEvera's Company in Colonel Visscher's Regiment. Captain VanEvera served in Colonel Samuel Campbell's First Regiment of Tryon County Militia not in Visscher's Regiment. There also is no record of him serving either but his pension application was allowed mainly from testimony of various people.