

Pension Application for William Corl

W.22736 (Widow: Maria) Married July 8, 1787. William died March 4, 1848.

State of New York

County of Schenectady SS

On this twelfth day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty two personally appeared in open Court, before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for said County now sitting William Corl a resident of the Town of Rotterdam in said County & State, aged nearly seventy two 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 7th 1832.

He was born in the then township of Schenectady now City of Schenectady in the County of Schenectady in the State of New York in the month of November in the year 1760. He has no record of his age, but the time of his baptism (the [blank] Novr 1760) is given in the Register of Baptisms of the Ref'd Dutch Church of said City.

When he was called into the service of the United States in the army of the revolution, he was living in said township of Schenectady and since the revolutionary war he has lived in said township in that part thereof now comprised within the bounds of said city & he now lives in the said Town of Rotterdam in the aforesaid County of Schenectady.

He entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

In the spring of the year 1776, he was a substitute for a person whose name is not recollected and marched with a detachment of militia from Colonel Abraham Wemple's Regiment to the Helderbergh under Captain John B. Vrooman and at that place assisted to apprehend a party of Tories. He was out in this tour fourteen days and longer.

In the fall of the year 1776, he enlisted in said company of Jesse VanSlyck in the Regiment aforesaid and served therein until the end of the war. His other company and field officers whom he recollects were Francis Veeder Lieutenant, Myndert Wemple and Abraham Swits Majors.

In the fall of the year 1777, he was in service at Saratoga, Fort Miller, Stillwater, and Fort Edward for the term of about seven weeks. All the places to which he marched, expeditions in which he engaged and posts he served at, he cannot possibly remember and is unwilling to specify dates at random. Some of the principal expeditions in which he engaged were as near as he can recollect them as follows.

He was with a detachment of 50 or 60 men or more on one occasion to Galway (then Palmertown he believes) in pursuit of Tories of whom they took many prisoners. The Commander of this expedition was Captain John B. Vrooman. When Fort Plain was destroyed by the enemy, he was on duty at Fort Plank for at least 14 days under the command of Major Wemple's Ensign Lawrence Vrooman.

In the year 1779, he performed garrison duty at Fort Herkimer for about two weeks, and also assisted in guarding the farmers in that quarter to bring in their harvest. He remembers that Colonel Willett was there & thinks had the command. He did military duty at Fort Paris twice. On one of which occasions he thinks General TenBroeck had the command. The term of both services exceeded twenty five days.

He was at Ballston in the fall of the year 1780 when Col. Gordon was taken prisoner by the British. In this tour he [??] & was under the command [?] by the British. In this tour he was out about two weeks, & was then under the command of Major Swits.

He was engaged in several expeditions to Beaverdam & other places where Tories rendezvoused, and were enlisting men for the service of the British and as alarms were very frequent during the war, he often ranged the woods, and engaged in many scouting and reconnoitering parties.

The township of Schenectady in which he resided was constantly threatened with incursions from the Indians & Tories. The services of the members of Colonel Wemple's Regiment were therefore in constant requisition to guard the place which had a fortress & was surrounded with pickets. That part of said Regiment who were not out for the time being in distant expeditions were divided into classes who alternately guarded the place. He performed his quota of duty with the rest. During on year he counted guard for more than three months in succession.

Although no militia man of that period, was in actual duty every day, and of consequence the claimant was not, yet he is well assured, that if the different terms of his services during said war in the garrison and in the field were added together, they will exceed a period of twenty four months.

It did not fall to the lot of the claimant to engage in any battles or skirmishes with the enemy except [sentence ends here]

The following are the names of some of the regular officers whom he knew & such continental regiments as he can recollect, besides those herein before enumerated. General Gaansvoort, Colonel Willett, Colonel VanSchaick, Colonel VanDyck, Captain Wendell, General gates, General Washington.

He never received any written discharge from the service. He has no documentary evidence, and knows of no persons now living who can testify to his services more fully than those whose depositions are here—unto annexed.

The following are the names of persons in his present neighbourhood, who can testify as to his character for veracity, and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution: viz James V.S. Ryley & Bartholomew Clute.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State. (Signed) William Corl

Subscribed & Sworn the day & year first aforesaid. John S. Vrooman, Clerk