

Pension Application for William Ross

S.43941

New York Common Pleas

In the Court of Common Pleas called the court of Common Pleas for the city and county of New York, held at the city hall of the said city in and for the said city and county of New York before the Judges of the same court of May Term in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty five.

Present the Honorable John T. Irving first judge of the said court. City of New York. Be it remembered that on the twenty sixth day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand Eight hundred and twenty five personally appeared in the court of Common Pleas called the court of Common Pleas for the city and county of New York in open court the said court being a court of record of the state of New York by the Charter of the City of New York and the Laws of the said state, possessing a seal proceeding according to the course of the Common Law with a jurisdiction unlimited in point of amount keeping a record of it proceedings and with the power of fine and imprisonment William Ross aged sixty three years and upward resident in the said city of New York who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath declare that he served in the Revolutionary war as follows viz

That he enlisted as a soldier in the Continental Army of the United States in the Revolutionary war between the United States of America and Great Brittain [Britain] some time on or about the fifteenth day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and Seventy Six for the term of three years in the company commanded by Captain Israel Smith in the fourth New York Regiment commanded by Colonel Henry B. Livingston in the Line of the State of New York on the Continental establishment that he continued to serve in the same company and same Regiment until the full period of his enlistment expired in the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety nine when he was honorably discharged from said Regiment his term of service having expired at Basking Ridge in the County of Morris in the state of New Jersey that at the time of his discharge the Regiment then was commanded by Colonel Frederick Weisenfelt or Wisenfelt but which discharge the said William hath lost.

The deponent further saith that during the time of hi service he was in two actions that is to say on the nineteenth day of September one thousand seven hundred and seventy seven and on the seventh day of October in the same year had by the Continental troops and American forces under General Gates Commander in Chief Deponent belonging to Arnolds division in general Poors Brigade two York Regiments the second and the fourth having joined Poors Brigade) with the British forces commanded by General Burgoyne after the last of which battles General Burgoyne capitulated and the British troops marched in and laid down their arms on the seventeenth day of October 1777 that the deponent was exempted from duty after his discharge by virtue of John F. Backers certificate then a surgeon in the fourth New York Regiment in consequence of a wound received in the joint of the elbow of the right arm which certificate duly authenticated by the affidavit of Sally VanVorse a daughter of the said John F. Vacher is hereunto annexed.

And that the deponent relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except the present that his name is not on the roll of any state excepting the State of New York as above stated and that he made an application for a pension as early as the sixth day of April 1838 as by the annexed documentary will appear and that the following are the reasons for not making an earlier application for a pension that is to say having made his application as above stated at the time the Honorable Richard Riker was Recorder of the City of New York he was informed that the same had been sent by him to the Department of War and afterwards he was informed they had returned when the affidavit of Lieutenant Joseph Morrill of the same Regiment with deponent was obtained on the 19th day of November 1818 and also the deposition of John Standford taken before Robert Coldase one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the County of Morris in the State of New Jersey on the 29th of December in the same year and both hereunto annexed were sent on and the application received a second time at which time also a deposition of William Hellyer made the 12th January 1819 before the Honorable Richard Riker aforesaid was also sent on.

That his deponents application was again returned at the time of the Recordership of Peter Augustus Jay Esquire when on the 16th February 1820 an affidavit of Stephen Baxter hereunto annexed was made before the said Pter A. Jay Esquire and an affidavit by deponent on the same day before the said Peter A. Jay but deponent doth now know whether the papers went on again or not.

But deponent was promised that They should be sent on and frequently called for an answer and whether any had come on from Washington and never received any answer and always supposed they had gone on to Washington until all the annexed documents with the exception of the certificate of John F. Vacher and the affidavit of Sally VanVorst were found by George Wilson esquire at the office of the Hon^{ble} Richard Riker esquire, since his last appointment within a few days part and he saith he was diverted by the Hon. Richard Riker since his last appointment to the Hon. Mr. Peter Augustus Jay and from him back to the present Recorder Mr. Riker in relation to his application nor was he able to obtain any satisfaction in regard to his papers until they were found at the office of the Hon. Richard Riker Esqr as above mentioned and deponent saith that he is old and infirm and ignorant of the forms or proceeding and disappointment succeeding to disappointment and vexation to vexation and despairing of ever being again able to collect together his testimony he felt that he could do nothing at least supposed so until his papers came back from Washington and all he thought he could do was to call at the Records office in the City of New York and enquire for an answer that he now has found has found [sic] his papers and again transmits then to Government in the hope of receiving a pension and he further saith that in the year 1818 when he made his first application he did so at as early a day as he could get prepared therefor after he discovered that Government intended to aid Revolutionary Soldiers and deponent saith he hath no evidences of his services save the documents hereunto annexed. (Signed) William Ross.

Sworn in open court this 26th day of May 1825, John Woodward Clk.

And in pursuance of the act of the first of May 1820 I do solemnly swear that I was a resident citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled “an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the Land and Naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War” passed on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not, nor has any person in trust for me any property or securities, contracts or debts, due to me; nor have I any income other than what is contained In the Schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed to wit.

Real Estate	None
Personal Estate (Necessary clothing and bedding excepted)	
One Bilstead Tea Table	\$1.50
Six old chairs 37 ½ each	2.25
Two Pots (75. Do)	1.50
One Griddle (50. Do)	0.50
One Kitchen (Pine Table) 50	0.50
Six Knives and Forks (old) 37 ½	0.37 ½
Six Plates	0.37 ½
One Small looking glass	1.00
One Beaurearu (old)	4.00
One Bed Stead	1.00
	13.00

The whole value of deponents property is Thirteen dollars—Deponent has no income of any kind whatsoever—Deponent has no trade—but for some length of time has been too infirm to drive a cart (which business he at one time followed) or to perform anything like effective labor—and deponent further saith that whilst the Fourth New York Regiment to which he was attached was in Garrison at Fort Plank County of Montgomery and state of New York.

The first day of January 1779 the fortification repairing at the said Fort a carriage fun fell on his body while in the performance of his duty, by which deponent received two wounds one on joint of the right elbow, where some of the tendons and ligaments were cut which hath ever since destroyed in a great measure the motion of that joint. The other wound was on the leg on which the carriage fun fell scraped the shin bone and left it naked the consequence of which was an exfoliation, the leg therefore having always remained and been in a weakly state, land prevented him in a great measure from gaining his livelihood.

He is now however so far advanced in years and infirmities have advanced upon him also to such a degree as to prevent him from doing anything for his support—he has hitherto been assisted by a gentleman of the name of Robert Liston and without his aid he would have been obliged to have taken refuge in the public alms-house last winter and to have continued there.

The deponent has a wife resident with him now at Mr. Liston’s in the country for a few weeks her name is Phebe she is fifty years of age and ailing and weakly and competent to very little more than the house-work. Deponent further saith that he

hath but one child residing with him whose name is Rachel aged about seven years who is unable to maintain herself he has one son named Donald aged twenty three years who has no trade but is engaged in the business of cutting wood on his own account in the State of New Jersey.

He has a daughter named Isabel resident in Newark in the State of New Jersey aged about twenty years.

He has another son named Isaac who is an apprentice to a black-smith and is aged Eighteen years—another son named John aged thirteen years who is apprentice[d] to a Carpenter—another named James aged eleven years who lives with a person named James Perry his uncle who is a farmer. All these his children contribute nothing towards the maintenance or support of this deponent or his family and these are the only children he hath and only one of his said children to wit his daughter Rachel resides with him and his family therefore consists only of his wife his daughter Rachel aforesaid and himself.

Deponent saith that in addition to his incapacity to support himself in consequence of his crippled situation in consequence of his wounds he is also afflicted with Rheumatism and very much debilitated. And deponent further saith that since the eighteenth of March 1818 no changes whatsoever have been made in his property—and he further saith that he hath no other testimony nor documents to aid him in obtaining a pension than those hereunto annexed and he further saith that he is in such indigent circumstances as to be unable to support himself without the assistance of his country, that is to say that he is incapable of supporting himself without the aid of the Government except by private or public charity. (Signed) William Ross

Sworn in open court this 26th day of May 1825—John Woodward Clk

Letter in folder dated October 8, 1927, written in response to an inquiry.

I have to advise you from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim S.43941, it appears that William Ross enlisted in December 1776 and served three years as a private in Captain Israel Smith's Company, Colonel Henry B. Livingston's and Colonel Frederick Weissenfels' New York regiment, he was in both battles at Saratoga, battle of Monmouth, and while repairing Fort Plank, a carriage gun fell on him and injured his right elbow and right leg.

He was allowed pension on his application executed April 6, 1818, while a resident of New York City, aged about sixty years. The date and place of his birth are not stated.

In 1825, soldier referred to his wife, Phebe, as aged fifty years, and the following children—Donald, aged twenty-three years; Isabel, aged twenty years; Isaac, aged eighteen years; John, aged thirteen years; James aged eleven years; and Rachel aged seven years.