

Pension Application for John B. Westervlet

S.18274

State of New York

County of Queens

To wit—On this 18th day of February 1834 personally appeared in open court, before the court of Common Pleas, in and for the county of Queens now sitting John B. Westervelt, a resident of the Town of Flushing in the said County of Queens of the age of seventy 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 he was born in the Township of Poughkeepsie in the County of Dutchess as he has been informed by his parents and believes in the month of October 1764, and continued to reside there till the year 1781 when at the age of sixteen years he enlisted as a volunteer, in the army of the United States, in that year at the Town of Fishkill in the said County of Dutchess, for the term of six months, in a company commanded by Captain Henry Dodge, in a Regiment commanded by Colonel Weisenvelt. The Lieutenant of said Company was ___ Wickes.

The said applicant upon his oath further declares that immediately upon his enlistment as aforesaid his company was ordered down the Hudson River, crossed over to West Point and took possession of some huts created upon the mountains in the vicinity of West Point; after they had been there about ten days, the said company were ordered on board of a sloop or sloops, and proceeded up the North River to Albany, and lay in barracks near that city for about one week, when they were ordered to march to Schenectady, where they continued about one week or ten days and then marched up the Mohawk River to Johnstown (now) in Montgomery County, and after remaining there about two weeks were ordered to Saratoga and from thence to Fort Edward, and were stationed there being chiefly employed in scouting [scouting] the country to watch the motions of the British and intercepting stragglers and deserters in these scouting parties they often went as far north as Lake George—after remaining there three or four weeks the company was again ordered to Saratoga and employed in cutting timber for the construction of huts for the accommodation of the soldiers—that the planks & slabs used in these buildings were cut in the neighbourhood & sawed in the mill belonging to General Schuyler upon shoes land the huts were created. They also built a Blockhouse not far from the dwelling house of the said General Schuyler.

That applicant continued at Saratoga till about the last of November 1781, and from whence the company was again marched to Albany, where he was regularly discharged, he having served out the period or term of six months for which he enlisted.

He does not recollect to have received a written discharge, and believes it was not the practice to give them in writing to troops who were discharged by the expiration of their terms of enlistment.

Applicant recollects that while his company were at Saratoga, and in one of their scouting expeditions they shot a man, who was ascertained after his death by

papers found upon his person, to have been a spy in the employ of the British but his name applicant thins was not ascertained.

And applicant further declares that during the six months of his service performed as aforesaid, he was not employed in any civil pursuit.

That he has not at present in his power to furnish other or further proofs of his revolutionary services, than the affidavits have to annexed.

He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any agency in any state.

As to the Interrogatories who propounded to the said applicant for a pension under said [?] order of the War department; applicant states:

First: That he was born at Poughkeepsie in the County of Dutchess and State of New York in the month of October 1764.

Second: That there is a record of his birth contained in a large family Dutch Bible, which belonged to his father and which is now owned & possessed by Ruliff Westervelt, a Brother of Applicant, who lives at the said Town of Poughkeepsie.

Third: That he was living with his Father at Poughkeepsie aforesaid, at the time he entered into the service of the United States. That afterwards he resided about sixteen years at Bulls ferry a place in the State of New Jersey upon the west side of the Hudson River, about seven miles above the City of New York—whence he removed to Long Island, where after staying three or four years, he went to Rhynebeck in the county of Dutchess NY and after remaining there five years, came to Flushing on Long Island, where he has continued to reside ever since.

Fourth: That applicant enlisted in the service of the United States as a volunteer for the period of six months and served his time out.

Fifth: Applicant had but little opportunity of seeing many of the Regular officers, and only distinctly recollects Capt. Dodge—Col. Weisenvelt; Col. Brinckerhoff and Genl Schuyler.

Sixth: Applicant never received any discharge from the service in writing.

Seventh: Applicant states the names of Ezra W. Miller, Benjamin W. Strong, John Scidmore, Jeremiah VanDerbergh, Samuel Willet and Henry Roe, as persons to whom his he known in his present neighborhood, and who can testify as to his character for veracity, and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution. (Signed) John B. Westervelt.

Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open court. Samuel Sherman Clerk.