

Pension Application for Gerardus Cronkwright or Conkwright

S.15260

State of New York

City and County of New York SS.

On this eleventh day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty three personally appeared before the Justices of the Marine Court of the City of New York now sitting Gerardus Conkwright a resident of the City of New York in the State of New York aged seventy nine 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 7, 1832.

That he is seventy nine years of age that he entered into the service of the Country in the War of the Revolution as a volunteer in the year 1776 Under the command of General McDougal as Brigadier in Colonel Luddington's Regiment of Dutchess County Militia Major, Townsend, Captain, George Lanes company of which Moses Dusenberry was Lieutenant, John Dusenberry Ensign and Nathaniel Jaggar Sergeant, the whole under command of General Washington, that in this time he served five weeks but does not recollect the day or month he was called out this service was for guarding the Continental Stores at different places in Dutchess County—

On the first of January 1777 he was ordered out on the lines and marched with the same company and regiment to North Castle Westchester County where they drew arms ammuniton and provisions from the Continental Stores from thence marched to King Street from thence to White Plains from thence to Valentine Hill where we met and joined troops from other quarters to guard against the British troops that had taken fort Independence and to keep them from coming into the Country to kill plunder and destroy the inhabitants.

There was a number of Stockbridge Indians with us, they went near the fort and were attacked by the British and nearly destroyed when our troops went out and met the British and a sharp engagement took place, and a brother soldier by the name of Haddock killed by my side. In this tour I served five months.

On the 10 day of July 1777 I was again ordered out in the same company, and was marched with them to Verplancks Point and on the lines, to guard against the British troops that day opposite as well as those on ship board from coming out in the country to range and kill the inhabitants in this tour I served five weeks.

After this about the 1st September 1777 I was again ordered out in the same company to guard against the tories and cowboys in which I was in an engagement with them, they had been to Fishkill and stole five horses, we killed one horse and took the rider Elijah Nelson prisoner, and next day by following them we took one more prisoner named John Montross, we took them both to Poughkeepsie when they tried condensed and hanged by order of General Washington served on the tour of duty six weeks.

About the first of November 1777, the same company was marched to Verplancks Point as a guard against the British who lay off there and served until the shipping left there this tour was five months.

After this in the middle of April 1778 I was drafted for a three months campaign my family being sick I could not go to the westward, and hired one Eli Shaw who served the term for me, and to whom I paid the price agreed upon between us, although he served for me I always turned out with our company to meet the enemy.

After the 1st of August 1778, I was either on duty or had to be ready at a moment's warning to go and meet the enemy until the close of the war, one declarant from his recollection cannot recollect each individual tour of duty so as to swear positively but that he served in said company in active service between the two last mentioned periods as a private at least two years making the whole of his services as a private three years and two months for which services he claims a pension he being now an old man, infirm, and unable to labour, is obliged in consequence of his poverty to ask that assistance from his country which he stands in need of.—

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. (Signed with his mark) Geradus Cronkwright

Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open court. John Barberie, Clerk