

Pension Application for George Darrow

S.23189

George Darrow's Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress of the 7 June 1832.

State of New York

Chautauqua County SS.

On this twelfth day of October 1832 personally appeared, before the court of Common Pleas, in & for said county, George Darrow previous to the decease of his father know by the name of George Darrow Junior, a resident of the town of Chautauque in said County & state, aged seventy years in March next, 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 7, 1832. That he enlisted in the Army of the United States, in the year 1782 with Capt. Whelps (1) and served in the second regiment (as he thinks it was numbered) in the New York Line under the following officers. His regiment was commanded by either Col. Courtland (2) or Col. VanSchaick.(3) As his uncertainty as to which of these regiments he belonged has on a former occasion been unfavorably alluded to by the War Department, he feels it due to that Department & just to himself, to explain why he could not absolutely designate between the two regiments. He enlisted in the town of New Concord, Columbia County, New York, where he then resided, about the middle of march 1782 & joined the army at Pumpton Huts, where both the 1st & 2nd New York Regiments lay, the one commanded by Col. VanSchaick, the other by Col. Courtland, Col VanSchaick was then absent & Col. Courtland was the only Col. then with the troops. After a short period Capt. Whelps left the company & declarant was under the command of Lieut. Carpenter (4)for a short time, until he was sent to Smith's Cove as one of the Guard to protect the inhabitants from the incursions of the cowboys. He remained there on duty until ordered to Winter Quarters, late in the fall of 1782. While at Smith's Cove, he was under the command of different lieutenants, who were changed once in every three weeks. Among them he recollects the names of Lieuts. Wisenfelt, (5) Peterson, Johnson, & Willson. (6) Col. Courtland & Majr. Fish (7) were the regimental Field Officers present. The main army under Washington lay near Newburgh. On entering winter quarters, Sergeant Clark who had been with declarant through the summer at Smith's Cove, came to him & told him that he had got a place for him with Forage Master Evans, he accordingly went & staid with him until the 16th day of December 1782, when he procured a pass from the Huts at Snake Hill to Newburgh where Gen'l Washington (8) was encamped & went thence & had a interview with Gen'l Washington who agreed to discharge the company to which declarant belonged. On the next day the 17th December 1782 a discharge was sent to him signed "G. VanSchaick Col. Com't". Declarant's winter quarters were at the Huts on Snake Hill. His discharge by frequently opening & closing became very much worn & in time some of the pieces got lost. What remained of the original he annexed to an application intended to have been made to Congress to have his name placed upon the Pension Roll & directed T.A. Osborne to forward the same to the Hon. E. F. Norton at

that time a member of Congress from the state of New York. This was about four years past & since that time declarant has never been able to recover said discharge, or to ascertain after repeated efforts for that purpose, what disposition the said Norton made of that, or other of declarant's papers. These are the fact in relation to declarant's services, in the Regular Troops. From Courtland's being present while he was with the troops, he thought him to be his Colonel but from VanSchaick's signing his discharge as colonel commandant, Declarant did not know but he must have been in his regiment and can only again declare, that he served in "either Col. VanSchaick's or Col. Courtland's regiments." The period for which he thus enlisted was for nine months & he served his term faithfully, without losing a single tour of duty. He recollects among his companions Joseph Jessup, Cobus Vanderwarker, Peter Combs, & James Scott (9) of the troops then at Newburgh & Asa Giles of the Connecticut Line, which lay across the swamp near Newburgh & with whom declarant had been acquainted at home, he living in New Lebanon nearby but whether either of them are now living or where, or any other person who served then with him he does not know.

The said George Darrow does further now here in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas, aforesaid now sitting on his oath, declare, that he also entered the service of the United States under the following named officers & served as herein stated. That on or about the first day of April 1781, he enlisted in Col. Marinus Willett's Regiment (10) of New York Volunteers of which the following officers were in command for a portion or the whole of the time during his services—Major Throop, (11) Adjutant Bloodgood, (12) Captain Marshall & Lieutenants Cannon & Loop. (13) He resided at New Concord (now called Chatham) Columbia County, New York & enlisted on or about the said 1. day of April 1781 under Lieut Cannon & proceeded to Albany, where he passed muster, under Capt. Marshall, who was also muster master. After remaining in Albany about four weeks he marched to Johnstown under Lieut. Cannon & continue there about six weeks, then marched under the same lieutenant to Fort Plain on the Mohawk River, & continued there about four weeks; when he was sent by Col. Willett then at Fort Plain, with a letter to the commanding officer at Herkimer, whose name declarant does not now recollect, but who he believes was a French Major.(14) This was the day previous to the battle at Sharon. (15) He remained at Herkimer, according to orders & was soon joined by his company of whom three had been killed at the Sharon battle McKean, (16) Allen (17) & one other man. After continuing at Herkimer about two months, Declarant, returned with the company to Fort Plain. While at Herkimer he was, with 29 others, ordered to Fort Plain, to guard the provisions, there, & had proceeded to Fall Hill about seven miles from Herkimer, when they saw the smoke of buildings at Klock's Mills on east Canada Creek, & at once called in their front & rear guards & resolved every man to push his way to Fort Plain, through the enemy if they met him. They then proceeded on to Fort House seven miles further, upon a run, where they met Col. Willett (18) & joined him in the pursuit of the Indians & were out three days & two nights with but one cracker & a half of provisions to each man. He remained after his return to Fort Plain, about six weeks & stood on guard every other twenty four hours during that period. From

thence he went again to Johnstown & remained about three weeks, when he was sent with a letter to an officer whose name he thinks was Col. McKinstry (19) at Saratoga, where by permission of Col. Willett, he remained with his father's (Capt. George Darrow's) company until he was discharged, by Col. McKinstry on the first day of January 1782. This discharge he has lost, probably in some of his removals. That such documentary evidence as he has, of the last mentioned service, he believes is on file in the War Department & consists of his former declarations & sundry affidavits. As the fact that in his first declaration he stated that he served in Willett's Regiment, but after he found a pension would not be granted him for such service, he made a new declaration in which he declares that he served in either Col. VanSchaick's or Col. Courtland's regiment has likewise been unfavorably alluded to by the War Department he will on this occasion explain that circumstance. When he made his first declaration in 1818, he resided at Sandy Creek, Jefferson County N. York & employed Judge Dunlap of that county to do the necessary writing for him. He stated to Judge Dunlap his services as above narrated both in the years 1781 & 1782. Judge Dunlap stated that nine months service was sufficient & no more need be set forth. Declarant's father Capt. George Darrow was then living & his services in Willett's regiment could be easily proved by him & consequently that period was selected by Judge Dunlap. On this application the Department decided that state volunteers could not draw pensions. Soon after his removal into the county of Chautauque, he applied to an attorney of that county to assist him. His pecuniary circumstances were low & he found himself embarrassed in procuring aid. He knew of none of his Revolutionary associates in the Regular service living. He continued, however, using such endeavors as he was capable of to trace out some of his companions in that service, sometimes hoping & sometimes despairing until at length he found the persons & obtain the depositions annexed to his last declaration. That declaration set forth the nine months service under Willett in 1781 & the nine months in the Regular Troops in 1782. Of such declaration or of the affidavits annexed, he retained no copies. He begs to refer to them in support of his present declaration. That of his brother John Darrow, (20) he thinks stated that he enlisted under Captain Cannon in Willett's Regiment. If so it is so far incorrect, as this, that Cannon was at that time a lieutenant, although subsequently a captain. He thinks too that Col. Willett signed declarant's discharge, but declarant is confident that it was Col. McKinstry. This witness is yet living, but resides in Bridgewater, Pennsylvania & the expense of obtaining a new deposition, would, by declarant be severely felt. Benjamin Delamater whose depositions likewise annexed to that declaration is since dead & he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify positively to his services, or with more certainty that what he supposes & believes those did in their several deposition annexed to his two prior declarations. 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. In answer to the particular interrogatories propounded by the court now here, he says.

1. I was born in Preston, Connecticut March 31, 1763.

2. I have no record of my age in my possession, but have heard that it was recorded by the then Rev'd Mr. Hart in the Preston Parish Register where I believe it may be found.
3. I was living at what was then called New Concord, Now Chatham, Columbia County N. York when called into service. After the Revolutionary War I removed to what was then called Warren's Bush, now Florida , Montgomery County N. York & lived there about three years, then moved to Cherry Valley, Otsego County & lived about ten years, then moved to Unadilly in the same county & lived sixteen years; then returned to Cherry Valley & lived about two years; then removed to Sandy Creek, Jefferson County & lived about nine years & from thence removed to Chautauque my present residence, where I have lived about ten years.
4. I voluntarily enlisted in the service & served for myself & not another.
5. There were no regular troops lying near Willett's Regiment, but some companies were relieved by us & among them I recollect Capt. Moody's (21)Artillery Company at Fort Herkimer. No Militia regiment was near us, Col. Willett had the whole command of the Mohawk River. The circumstances of my services are above set forth in my declaration.
6. I received two discharges, one signed by Col. McKinstry which I recollect seeing at Sandy Creek, some time during my residence there, but never recollect to have since seen it & have no doubt it is now lost. The other was signed G. VanSchaick Col. commandant & the most of which including my name, its date & signature, I annexed to an application intended to be made by me to congress & left with T.A. Osborne to forward to the Hon. E. F. Norton then a member about four years since. I have never since seen it & although I have caused several letters of enquiry to be written to said Norton on the subject, have never heard what became of it & have no doubt it is likewise lost.
7. I am known to the Rev'd Rufus Murray, William Peacock, Jesse Brooks, T.A. Osborne & others in my present neighborhood, who I presume can testify as to my character for veracity & their belief of my services as a soldier of the Revolution (Signed) George Darrow

Sworn to & Subscribed the day & year aforesaid. B. Wolworth, Judge Chou
Com Pleas

January 28, 1924 letter replying to an inquiry.

I have to advise you that from the papers in pension claim S.23189 it appears that George Darrow was born at Preston, Connecticut, March 31, 1763. While living at New Concord, Columbia County, New York, he enlisted April 1, 1781, and served nine months as a private in Captain Marshall's company, Colonel Marinus Willett's New York Regiment, and Captain George Darrow's (his father's) Company, Colonel McKinstry's New York Regiment.

He enlisted about the middle of March 1782 and served as a private in Captain Whelp's company, Colonel G. VanSchaick's New York Regiment until discharged December 16, 1782.

He was allowed pension on his application executed October 19, 1829, while living at Chautauque, Chautauque County, New York. In 1831 he referred to his wife, aged 60 years, name not stated. She died in 1841.

In 1839 soldier was living in Knox County, Ohio, with a son-in-law, Truman or Freeman Porter, name of wife not stated.

In 1843 he was living in New York with a son, name not stated.

There is no further data on file as to his family.

End Notes—S.23189—George Darrow

1. Anthony Whelp was appointed captain on April 10, 1782 in Colonel Marinus Willett's Regiment of New York State Levies. Several officers including Captain Whelp were discharged by July of 1782 as they were found to be "supernumerary" which basically means there were not enough enlisted men in their respective companies to keep them in the service. The men that had enlisted were put in other companies or to serve their time out in the Continental service.
2. Philip VanCortlandt was the Colonel of the Second New York Continental Regiment. On a "Roll and Muster of a Company of Levies attached to the 2d N York Regiment to the 1st Sept'r 82". George Darrow enlisted for 9 months and listed as "Command Smiths Clove Block House Aug 20 by Col Cortlandt Order." FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, M-246, Roll 69, folder 37, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
3. Goose VanSchaick was the Colonel of the First New York Continental Regiment.
4. Ensign Nehemiah Carpenter of Captain Jacob Wright's Second Company in Colonel VanCortlandt's Regiment.
5. First Lieutenant Charles F. Weisenfels, Ensign William Peters, and Lieutenant James Johnson of Colonel VanCortlandt's Regiment.
6. Ensign Robert Wilson of Colonel VanSchaick's Regiment.
7. Nicholas Fish was the major of Colonel VanCortlandt's Regiment.
8. Commander-in-Chief General George Washington.
9. Sergeant John Clark, Peter Combs and Fifer James Scott were in the Second New York. Joseph Jessup and Cobus Vanderwarker could not be found in the Second New York.
10. George enlisted in Captain Elihu Marshall's Company in Lieutenant Colonel Commandant Marinus Willett's New York State Levies in 1781. He was owed £12. . 3 . . 6 which was received by Frederick Young. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 78, folder 173, National Archives Washington, D.C.
11. Josiah Throop was appointed major on April 28, 1781 in Willett's Regiment.
12. William Bloodgood was appointed lieutenant on April 27, 1781 in Willett's Regiment. On May 21, 1781, Bloodgood was assigned to Captain Peter Elsworth's Company. On the same date Jellis A. Fonda of Captain Stephen

White's Company was appointed adjutant for Willett's Regiment. Company assignments and adjutant appointments was taken from: Colonel Marinus Willett's Letter and Orderly Book Fort Rensselaer 1781, Document no. 15705, Special Collections and Manuscripts, New York State Library, Albany, N.Y.

13. Peter Loop and James Cannon were assigned as lieutenants on May 21, 1781, in Captain Marshall's Company.
14. Engineer Major Jean Villefranche.
15. The Battle of New Dorlach was fought on July 10, 1781. New Dorlach is the present day Village of Sharon Springs and the Town of Sharon, Schoharie County, N.Y.
16. Captain Robert McKean died of his wounds on the return march to Fort Rensselaer. His son Samuel McKean was severely wounded and was a private in Captain Marshall's Company.
17. Possibly Private Henry Allen. According to Captain Marshall's receipt roll, Henry was owed £ 2. . 19. . 9 in pay and it was never claimed by Allen or anyone else. That amount of pay is for a month of service. The other private possibly killed was Matthew Patrick who was owed £6. . 2. . 8 which was also never claimed by anyone. Patrick's amount of pay suggests about 2 and a half month's pay. The source is the same as end note 10.
18. George may be referring to when a raiding party had attacked Fort Timmerman in late August of 1781.
19. John McKinstry was appointed major in Willett's on April 27, 1781. On April 28, 1781 McKinstry was appointed lieutenant colonel commandant and George Darrow as a captain of a regiment of New York State Levies. This has made it difficult at times to figure out what or who was where or to what regiment. McKinstry was part of Willett's while trying to raise a regiment of levies but McKinstry's Regiment never fulfilled its quota and several of its officers became part of Willett's in 1782 such as Simeon Newell and Pliney Moor.
20. John Darrow P. A. no. W25511 Claims to have served in Marshall's and Whelp's Companies in Willett's and VanCortlandt's in 1782 but his name does not appear in Willett's and VanCortlandt's. It is possible he lied about his service for 1781 and 1782. He knew enough from his brother George to fabricate service for those time periods.
21. Andrew Moody served as captain in Colonel John Lamb's Second Continental Regiment of Artillery.