

Pension Application for John Davenport

R.2679 (Widow: Henrietta)

State of New York

City and County of New York SS.

On this twenty first day of July one thousand eight hundred and thirty seven, personally appeared before me John B. Scott one of the Judges of the Marine court of the City of New York, Henrietta Davenport a resident of the City and County of New York aged eighty seven years, who being, first duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July 4th 1836. That she is the widow of John Davenport deceased who was an express rider under General Washington in the War of the Revolution.

That he entered the service of the United States as a volunteer under General Washington as an Express rider in the year Seventeen hundred and seventy six at the City of New York.

That in the line of his duty as a express rider, he was employed in carrying dispatches from and to General Washington the commander in Chief, the QuarterMaster General, and other General officers, and several of the governors of the States from the commencement to the close of the revolutionary war, in the course of which he was entrusted not only with papers of the highest importance but large sums of money and his routes were often near the lines of the enemy and through the enemies camp; and also pressed numerous teams of the enemy into the service of the United States and was the personal attendant likewise of General Washington, and considered and called his right hand man. That at the time the war, broke out the said John Davenport removed to Aquacnacq in New Jersey and as the enemy approached, he removed his family from place to place for safety and he also removed them to Pompton in New Jersey where they suffered much for want of provisions then to Fishkill, West Point, and every where else when they had orders to move it.

That the said John Davenport nor his wife, this deponent never received any pension from government. That Majors Grant and Tucker were in the service at the time, as also Major Hesse. That the said John Davenport went by the name of old "Seventy six" and Old Continental" until the day of his death.

She further declares that she was married to the said John Davenport on the fifteenth day of April seventeen hundred and sixty nine by Dominic Derronder the minister of the old Dutch Church in Garden Street which was destroyed in the great fire in the City of New York in the year eighteen hundred and thirty five.

That her husband John Davenport died in the City of New York in the year eighteen hundred and seventeen of a bilious cholic or some other sudden complaint and that she has remained his widow ever since that period as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereunto amended. (Signed with her mark) Henrietta Davenport

Sworn and subscribed on the day and year above written before. John B. Scott.
Justice of the Marine Court.