

Pension Application for Luke Degraw

S.23191

State of New York
Orange County SS.

On this third day of September 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas—now sitting Luke Degraw, a resident of the town of Vernon in Sussex County in the State of New Jersey aged seventy-three 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 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated. That he was born at Tappan (now county of Rockland) in the said State of New York August 13th 1757. That he is not in possession of any record of his birth, but that he has often seen and read it in his father's family record. When called into said service deponent saith he was living about three miles from Haverstraw landing in said County of Rockland.

In the year 1775 saith that he, deponent, volunteered as a private soldier in the service of the United States, under Captain Jacob Deronda, for the term of five months, and served under him during the full term; that he belonged to Colonel Nicoll's Regiment; was rendezvoused at Haverstraw, marched from thence to Fort Montgomery, and afterwards to Peekskill, and was at the building of the Fort on the east side the Hudson river at the red Hills, so called. Saith that his first Lieutenant was Isaac DeCoe, that his second lieutenant was John DeCoe. Recollects Captain Abram Underdunk's company being with and attached to, the same regiment. At the end of said five months was dismissed—believes that none of these volunteers received written discharges.

Deponent further saith that in the following year viz, 1776. He volunteered in the same service as a private under Captain Gardner, near Haverstraw as aforesaid for the term of three months. That he was stationed most of that time at Haverstraw Landing and was at that place at the time Fort Montgomery was taken by the British. That he received the ordinary pay of Militia and was dismissed or orally discharged at the expiration of said three months.

Deponent further saith, that from the period of his discharge by Captain Gardner up to the end of the war with Great Britain, he was a private soldier in the company of militia commanded by Captain Jacob Underdunk of Takiat in said Rockland county and to Colonel Isaac Sherwood's Regiment, in which John Smith was Major; that deponent was employed in common with most of the militia troops in that region, in guarding the shores of the Hudson and repelling the foreign and domestic enemy by which that vicinity of country was greatly annoyed and peculiarly distinguishes. That he was engaged, excepting occasioned disputes alternately checking the predatory assaults of the refugees who found shelter in the contagious mountains, and within the enemies lines and the skirmishing parties of the army stationed near his neighborhood. Was often with his company harassing and driving back parties of the enemy at the English Neighborhood in New Jersey, Schrodenburgh,

Tappan, Bull's Ferry, Nyack, and other places skirting the Hudson River. Was in no battles other than with small parties of the enemies troops & bands of tories.

That he deponent continued in the service as above described, if not up to the period of peace with Great Britain, until the common enemy withdrew from the country and that he was engaged in these services as a private soldier more than eighteen months beside his five months under Captain Deronda, and his three months under Captain Gardner as volunteer. Deponent has no recollection of his receiving or any one of his company a written discharge.

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) Luke Degraw

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. Asa Dunning, Clerk