

Pension Application for Charles Denny

S.32213

State of New York

County of Chautauqua SS.

On this tenth day of July AD 1833, personally appeared before the Honorable Philo Orton one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the said County of Chautauqua, Charles Denny, 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 7, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following names officers, and served as herein stated.

That in the fore part of the summer in the year 1777 he went as a substitute for his Father John Denny, from the town or Armenia in Dutchess County N. York, his then place of residence to West Point in a company of Militia commanded by Capt. Noah Wheeler, Lieut. Seth Wheeler & Ensign David Truesdel. That he does not recollect the name of any of the field officers then in command at the Fort, West Point.

That the soldiers in Capt. Wheeler's Company were engaged at West Point aforesaid in digging what was then called the "Bomb Proof" for the most part of the time for the space of three months, that being the term of time for which they were drafted.

That he remained in actual service in Capt Wheeler's Company aforesaid at West Point aforesaid for the space of three months during which time he served as Cook to the mess to which he belonged. That at the end of the said three months he was discharged with the rest of his company and returned home to Armenia aforesaid, where he remained until about the month of July or August he don't' recollect which.

AD 1778. When he went as a substitute for a class of twenty five men to the "Fishkill Flats" on the Hudson River a short distance from West Point, in a company of Militia commanded by Capt. Seth Wheeler, Lieut John Darrow and Ensign David Trusdel, in the Regt commanded by Col. Roswell Hopkins, & Major Brenton Paine. That he does not recollect the names of the other field officers. That he remained on duty with Capt Seth Wheeler's company aforesaid for the space of three months. That he understood that the object of their being stationed at Fishkill Flats aforesaid, was to be in readiness to go to West Point in case of an alarm. That at the end of the said three months he received a discharge & returned home to Armenia aforesaid where he remained until the month of July or August AD 1779. When he was hired by a company of twenty five men to go as a Substitute for them to the Fishkill Flats aforesaid for the term of three months, and that he went accordingly in a company of Militia commanded by Capt. Noah Wheeler first aforesaid Lieut. Boyd he thinks, and ensign Conklin he thinks, but cannot say positively in the Regt commanded by Col. Roswell Hopkins. The rest of the Field Officers names he cannot recollect.

That he remained in actual service at Fishkill aforesaid until snow fell in the fall of 1779. That he cannot tell how long it was, but he recollects distinctly that it answered for the other three months for which he engaged to go as such substitute.

That he then received a written discharge and returned home to the town of Armenia aforesaid. That the object of this last expedition to the Fishkill Flats, was the same as the previous one. That he remained at Armenia aforesaid until in the month of July or August AD 1780 and about the time of the detection of the plot laid by General Benedict Arnold, he went to West Point as a substitute for one William Wilsey for the term of eight day in a company of Militia, the capt. over which he cannot recollect. He thinks the Lieut. was either Noah Wheeler or Seth Wheeler, he cannot tell which, he does not recollect the names of any more of the field or company officers.

That he remained at West Point six days & then returned home. That he was absent from home on this tour fourteen days, during which time he recollects of seeing three British vessels off West Point one of which he understood to be the Vulture on board of which Arnold escaped. That there was so much [hurry?] and competition during this torn, it was very difficult to ascertain what officers were in command.

That he recollects well of seeing General George Washington, General Putnam, & Benedict Arnold.

That by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot recollect the particulars of his service any more than what are above stated.

That he served full nine months and fourteen days in the manner set forth above. That he was born at Pauldingstown in Dutchess County N. York on the twenty fifth day of December AD 1759.

That he resided in Dutchess County aforesaid until after the close of the Revolutionary War when he removed to Stephentown, Rensselaer Co. N. York where he remained seven years when he returned back to Dutchess County where he remained about one year, when he removed to Coeyman's Patent, fourteen miles below Albany on the Hudson River where he remained five or six years, when he removed to Cherry Valley N. York and stayed one year when he removed to Greenville, Greene Co. N. York where he stayed five or six years when he removed to Broom County and stayed two years when her removed to what is now the town of Sheridan, in the county of Chautauqua and State of New York where he has resided for the last twenty two years and where he now resides.

That he has a record of his age in his family Bible. That he received written discharges from the three first tours above mentioned, but that he did not consider them of any further consequence than to show to his principals which he did & that is the last he recollect of seeing them.

That he is well acquainted with the Rev. Jay Handy of Pomfret Chautauqua Co., Deacon Paul Lee, Peter M. Goodrich, Nathaniel Gray Esqr., Ephraim Herrick, Having Brigham Esquire and many others in his present neighborhood who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution.

That he knows of no person living who can testify to his service and that he has no documentary evidence of his services.

That he acted as a private soldier in performing the services above mentioned.

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) Charles Denny

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid, before me. Philo Orton,
Judge.