

Pension Application for Bradock Dickerson

S.287140

State of New York

County of St. Lawrence SS.

Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress of the 7th June 1832 Supplementary to former Declaration filed in the Pension [of] Deponent.

On this nineteenth day of December in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty three personally appeared before the Court of Common Pleas in and for the County of St. Lawrence aforesaid Bradock Dickerson a resident of the Town of Gouverneur in the County of St. Lawrence and State of New York aged seventy three years, who being first duly sworn, according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration supplementary to his former declaration, now on file in the Pension Office of the War Department, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he has formerly made his declaration in the premises before the aforesaid Court who declared their opinion that the applicant was a revolutionary soldier and served as therein stated, while Declaration is now on file at the pension office. That he has made a Supplemental declarative thereto before a Justice of the Peace, which supplement declaration is also on file in the Pension Office; and that the applicant has been informed by a letter from George Wm. Camp acting commissioner of Pensions "that the" said "supplemental declaration should be made in open court" on the ground that the grade of a part of the applicant's services was not stated in his original application.

That he first service was three months in the militia of Orange County in the State of New York from the first days in December 1776 to the first days of March 1777 in Capt. Burnes Company. Col. McCloughrey's [McLaughrey?] Regiment. Capt. Burnes he believes had only a Lieutenant's commission but acted as Captain. He served as private at this time three months at Ramapeu [Ramapoo?], Paramus [Paramus?] and English Neighborhood, at which last place he was discharged [& suffered?] to leave his company and inlisted [sic] for two months as private on the first days in March 1777 at English Neighborhood in Capt Faulkner's company in a Regiment commanded by the same Col. McCloughrey above named and served the full term in said company and Regiment at English Neighborhood at which place he was discharged in the fore part of May 1777, but received no written discharge. He went home to Orange County at the close of this service.

Soon after he went home about the 1st June 1777, the British vessels came up [the] North river and the Militia were called out to march to Fort Montgomery to reinforce Col Dubois' Regiment of Regular Troops. The applicant marched with his company under either Capt. Hunter or Capt. Burnes (which he is not positive but believes Capt. Hunter) to Fort Montgomery where he served two weeks in said company of militia, where a certain numbering of the militia (he does not recollect what proportion) were to be drafted to serve at Fort Clinton for three months. Two men by the name of Marshall hired this applicant to serve and save either of them

from being drafted. The deponent volunteered to serve for three months and was immediately appointed corporal in Capt. Faulkner's Company which was attached to Col. [Polleris?] Regiment. This was sometime in June 1777 (he cannot state the precise day of) the appointment and his company were stationed at Fort Clinton three months.

The applicant served 10 days or two weeks as corporal when he was appointed a sergeant and served the rest of the three months as sergeant [sic] when he was discharged at Fort Clinton at the expiration of his service sometime in September 1777 (he cannot remember the precise day). The applicant has been under the impression that he served the aforesaid time of two weeks at Fort Montgomery as corporal, but now believes that his two weeks of service as corporal was the first of his last mentioned three months service in which he served about 12 days as corporal and two months and 18 days as sergeant. The men had to his remembrance or belief any corporal or sergeant's warrant, but is positive that he served as corporal and sergeant as above stated. [sentence confusing] He received no written discharge at the expiration of this service—There were four companies in the said Regiment at Fort Clinton—Capt. Faulkner's—Capt. Tilford's—Capt. Hornbasck's—and Capt. Hasbrouck—

few days after he marched home after the last mentioned service sometime in the first days of October 1777, the applicant was again called out with the militia in a company under command of Lieut. Wood and marched to Fort Montgomery and the say day the applicant reached the fort the enemy attacked the fort and took the same by storm, taking the applicant prisoner. He night following he escaped from the enemy and immediately joined his company, which was ordered to guard the shore of the River, at New Windsor & Newburgh—in which service he served at least three weeks, and was dismissed with his company at Newburgh, but received no written discharge.

About the first of December 1777 the applicant removed from Orange County aforesaid, to the Town of Guilford, and from thence to New London in the State of Connecticut.

On the 15th day of November 1778 he volunteered at New London, to serve as common sailor for six months, in the Sloop of War Revenge, commanded by Capt. Post, who was commissioner as the applicant understood and believed by Gov. Turnbull. The applicant was attached to the Marines on the Quarter Deck of the vessele [sic] commanded by Capt. Baldwin. The vessel cruised on the ocean between the New England States and West Indies, six months and returned to New London where the applicant was discharged with the crew, but received no written discharge on the 15th day of May 1779.

On or about the 1st of July 1779 (as near as the applicant can remember [remember] the time, it being in the summer) the applicant then residing in Middleton Connecticut, was called out with the militia to oppose the enemy also were attacking New Haven and other places in Connecticut Gen. Ward commanded the militia on the Division to which the applicant belonged. Captain Whitman commanded the

company—and he thinks Col. Meigs the Regiment. He marched to East Haven, where we had a skirmish with the enemy, who were retreating to main shipping. He served at this time two weeks—and was discharged.

About the first of January 1781 (he does not recollect the year otherwise than he knows it to be in the month of January of the hard winter). Major Ledgard also commanded the Troops at Fort Griswold and New London, ordered Capt. Howell to raise a party of volunteers to pursue and retake two deserters also had deserted from Major Ledgard with a view of going to join the enemy, having stole a boat from New London. The applicant volunteered to go with Capt. Howell on the expedition. We took a boat at New London and pursued the deserters to Plusnet? Island, where the winter set in so severely that our boat was blocked in with ice and we nether proceed or go back to New London. It was supposed that the deserters perish. They marched on therein to Oysterman Point – but could discover no traces of the deserters. The applicant was engaged in this service actively engaged all the time, three weeks when he was discharged at Plusnet Island, but was not able to leave the Island until the spring on account of the ice.

In the spring after the hard winter, he returned from Plusnet Island to New London, where soon after his return a war Schooner called “Bunker Hill” had just put in to the harbor having lost several men, in an action with the enemy to recruit and make repairs. The vessel had on week before left New London on a 2 months cruise and before she had been out one week had a severe engagement with an enemy’s vessel, in [sic] while the vessel was considerably shattered, two men killed 4 or 5 badly wounded including Capt. Smith who commanded us.

As soon as the vessel returned to New London, the applicant volunteered to serve on board of her as private sailor for the rest of the cruise which was at least one and a half months under command of Capt. Thompson. This was on the first day of May 1781 (the spring after the hard winter) we buried the dead, refitted the vessel as soon as possible and sailed again on the cruise towards New York. We joined the Brig Hancock and after cruising 2 or 3 weeks fell in with an enemy’s vessel bound to New York a ship of 36 guns, conveying stores to the British Troops in New York. Both vessels the Hancock to the inward and the Bunker Hill to the seaward attacked the enemy’s vessel, and after an action of about one hour, we took the enemy ship, carried the prize into Philadelphia and the prisoner to New London. The prisoners were afterwards carried to New York & exchanged for our prisoners. He does not remember the name of the vessel taken. The Bunker Hill returned to New London the latter part of June 1781, where the applicant was discharged having served at least one and a half months as common sailor.

In this same service we took an 18 gun brig of the enemy (the name the applicant never knew) and carried the prize into New London. There were 2 other carried vessels in company with the Bunker Hill. The enemy’s vessel gave up without firing a gun.

At the time Fort Griswold was taken by Arnold in the fall of 1781 (he thinks in September) the militia were called out to oppose the enemy. The applicant at

Middletown turned out in a company of Cavalry or Troop under Capt. Lyman and marched to Killingsworth and East Guilford, and continued in service until after Arnold left the coast where the applicant with the rest of the militia was discharged and went home. He served two weeks according to the best of his recollection which was the last service performed by the applicant.

The applicant says that he may be mistaken in relation to the precise time on which he entered upon several of the aforesaid terms, of service, but he well recollects the periods and events of the said services.

That he served as follows at least two months and eighteen days as sergeant of militia—at least twelve days as corporal—at least seven months and twenty four days as private in militia—and at least seven months and a half as common sailor.

That he believes he stated in his former Declaration that about two weeks of his service as private at Fort Montgomery as corporal—but he now recollects from circumstances which have refreshed his memory that he was not appointed corporal until after he volunteered to serve for three months as aforesaid in Capt. Faulkner's Company.

The applicant was born at the town of Southold on Long Island on the 1st day of July in the year 1759 or 1760 (which of the two years the applicant is no positive) He has no record of his age.—but knows that he was in his 18th year at the time Fort Montgomery was taken. He is allways [sic] uncertain in respect to one year of his age, and cannot state positively whether he is seventy three or seventy four years of age now. He knows however that he is at least seventy three years of age now.

He has no documentary evidence whatever of his services. He knows of no living witness whatever of his services, but has been and still is endeavoring to ascertain if any such witnesses are living—He has been informed that a Capt. Faulkner is living also served in the Revolution—and this applicant has written to the residence of the said Capt. Faulkner to ascertain if he is the Captain under above the applicant served & get his testimony—but has yet received no returns.

He has stated his residences since revolutionary war in his former declaration.

He never received any written discharges at the expiration of any of his services.

He knows well the clergyman of his Town, Rev. Jonathan Hovey, also with Charles Goodrich, William A. Livingston, and Lewis B. Parsons, residents of the said Town of Gouverneur, all of above will testify to his character and a belief of his services in addition to the former testimony he has produced. That the said witnesses reside 24 miles from the place of sitting of the said court and he cannot procure their personal attendance without much inconvenience.

He hereby relinquishes ever claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state. (Signed) Bradock Dickerson

Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. A. C. Low, Clk

State of New York

County of St. Lawrence SS.

Personally appeared before me the undersigned, a Justice of the Peace in and for the aforesaid County of St. Lawrence Bradock Dickerson of the Town of Gouverneur in the County of St. Lawrence aforesaid and State of New York also being by me duly sworn deposes and says in addition to the declaration taken before the Court of Common Pleas of the aforesaid County in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7, 1832, that he cannot by reason of old age and consequent loss of Memory he cannot swear positively to the precise length and periods of his services [?] to the United States in the Revolutionary War, but according to the best of his recollection he served as follows to wit.

1st In New York Militia three months as a private from the 1st of December 1776 to 1st March 1777 in a company commanded by Lieut. Burns in Col. McGlockery's Regiment in Gen. George Clinton's Division at Ramapoo—Peramus—and English Neighborhood—where he was discharged but received no written discharge.

2nd Immediately upon the close of last service at English Neighborhood he inlisted for two months and served that time from 1st March 1777 to 1st May 1777 in Capt. Forkner's or Faulkner's Company in Col. McGlockery's Regiment & as discharged at English Neighborhood but received no written discharge..

3rd About the middle of May 1777—to 1st May 1777—at Orange County he was called out in the Militia in Capt. Hunter's Company to reinforce Col. Dubois' Regiment of Regular Troops at Fort Montgomery and served until the last days in May at least one half month when he was

4th Detached to Fort Linton and a part and to be drafted to serve & the rest to return home—2 men called Marshal (brothers) hired the Deponent to volunteer so as to release them which deponent did & joined Capt. Falkner's Company in Col. Pollen's Regiment—Lieut. Col. McGlockery—This was about last days of May or June 1777. The deponent was as soon as he joined the company was made a corporal and served as corporal 2 weeks when he was promoted to be Sergeant and served in the same company and regiment as sergeant three months at least longer until about the first October 1777 when he was discharged by a written discharge which he lost soon afterwards.

5th He had not been at home in Orange County more than 1 or 2 days when called out with the militia under command of said Wood to march to Fort Montgomery & marched immediately there & the enemy the same day attacked and took the fort and the deponent a prisoner, but he escaped during the night & joined the militia to guard the north against the enemy who went up the river and burned Esopus—This was in October 1777—he served at least 3 weeks or 21 days & was dismissed

5th The deponent having removed to Connecticut—volunteered and served as Marine private six months on board of Sloop of War Revenge, commanded by Capt. Post, from middle of November 1778 to middle of May 1779. He went on board at Seabrooks & our sloop having completed her crew sailed form New London 6th December 1778 & cruised between that port and the West Indies then under arms? Taking two armed vessels of war as mentioned in his declaration – He was discharged at New London without any written discharge.

7th When the enemy landed & marched to New Haven in July 1779—he was called out with the militia as private in Capt. Whitman's Company and served at least two weeks & were engaged as stated in his declaration.

8th In the month of December 1779—we was ordered out under Capt. Howell, by order of Major Ledgrad who commanded at Fort Griswold at Groton in pursuit of some deserters from the fort—he served at this time at least three weeks under Capt. Howell.

9th About the first of May 1780—he volunteered as [a] common sailor at New London on board a war Schooner called the Bunker Hill, which had started on a cruise of 2 months – and served on board of her one and a half months at last until the latter part of June 1780, when he was discharged at New London—Capt. Thompson commanded the vessel.

10th In the fall of 1781 (he cannot remember the precise time) he entered the service in the Militia a Middletown in a company of Horse commanded by Capt. Lyman, at the time New London was attacked and Fort Groton taken & Major Ledgrad killed. He was engaged in this last service at least one half month.

In the whole he has no doubt that he served as private eight months; two weeks as corporal; three months as sergeant; and seven and a half months as sailor and marine.

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) Bradock Dickerson

Sworn to and subscribed this tenth day of June 1833 before me, Silas Baldwin
SS. Justice of the Peace.