

Pension Application for James Dubois

R. 3099 (Jane)
State of New York
Orange County SS.

On this 21st day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty seven personally appeared before the subscriber, a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the County of Orange it being a Court of Record, Jane Dubois aged eighty six 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 James Dubois deceased, who was Lieutenant in a company which belonged to a regiment commanded by Colonel John Nicholson, deponent cannot now recollect the names of the other officers of the said company. The said James Dubois volunteered to serve two terms in the Revolutionary War as follows viz. In the year one thousand seven hundred seventy five, he enlisted in a company of volunteers commanded by Captain John Nicholson (1) of the Regiment commanded by Colonel James Clinton, all of the County of Orange aforesaid and served therein as sergeant to the end of said term. Said regiment left Orange County for the Northern frontier, either in the spring or early part of the summer of the year last aforesaid, and were in Canada when their term of service expired after the termination of the said term of five months, the said James Clinton Colonel (2) as aforesaid was promoted to be Brigadier General, and the said John Nicholson was appointed Colonel of the said Regiment, in place of the said Clinton as deponent was at that time informed and believes to be true. The said James Dubois was promoted to the Lieutenantcy of said company, but who was the Captain thereof or Ensign, Deponent cannot by reason of old age, though she has often heard now remembers after the termination of the said five months service, and the promotions aforesaid the said Colonel John Nicholson and the said James Dubois returned home to recruit. He recruited a company and again returned to the Northern frontier, and served in the Regiment of the said Colonel John Nicholson, as deponent was informed and verily believes to be true. The said James was absent on this tour upwards of two years before he returned home, and he returned at the same time the said Colonel John Nicholson did deponent cannot now recollect precisely how long he (the said James) was absent in the service on this last tour, but she believes, the term for which he volunteered was three years, and that he served either to the end thereof or until the said company was disbanded—

Deponent does not recollect the precise time when she was married, but certain she is that she was married by the Reverend John Close, then the officiating Clergyman in the Parish of New Windsor and County aforesaid and her maiden name was Jane Watts, her father lived on Long Island at a place called Rockaway—After her marriage deponent lived with her husband at his fathers, in the said Town of New Windsor, until he left Orange County frontier as aforesaid, after the British fleet had passed up the North River to Kingston, Deponent went to her father on Long Island, and staid there upwards of two years, when her father in law came down for her under the protection of a pass, which he had obtained for the purpose of Bansomier, one of his sons, who had been taken prisoner at the Battle of Fort Montgomery and was there in confinement at or near New York. When deponent returned to Orange County the said James Dubois was still in the service of this country, and remained in the service some time afterwards—There is a difference of three years and six months between the time of the births of deponents two eldest children from which circumstances she has no doubt that her husband was absent in the service of his country on his last tour, upwards of two years in all. Deponent has often seen the said James's Commission of Lieutenant & heard it read the said James brought home with his epaulet, sword, and regimentals, when he returned from the war. (3) His commission is lost or destroyed and deponent has no documentary evidence of his rank or service. Deponent well recollects that after the war the said James was ordered to train with the militia, but declined on account of his having held the commission of Lieutenant in the Continental army, and was censured on that account. Deponent also saith that her said husband died on the tenth day of August in the year 1802—and that she has remained a widow ever since that period, as will more fully appear on reference to her proof hereto annexed and deponent also saith, that by reason of bodily infirmity she is wholly unable to attend court. (Signed with her mark) Jane Dubois.

Sworn to and subscribed on the day and year above written before me. Robert Denniston, Judge of Orange Com. Pleas.

Reply to letter of inquiry dated February 23, 1932.

Reference is made to your letter relative to James DuBois, a soldier of the Revolutionary War from New York.

You are furnished herewith the history of the only soldier named James Dubois (all spellings of the surname searched), that is found on file in the Revolutionary War records of this office.

The data contained herein are obtained from the papers on file in pension claim, R.3099, based upon the Revolutionary War service of James Dubois.

He married June 12, 1776, Jane Watts. They were married by the Reverend John Close, a clergyman of New Windsor Parish, Orange County, New York.

At the time of their marriage, his father lived at New Windsor, New York and her father lived at Rockaway, Long Island, their names are not stated.

James Dubois died August 10, 1802.

His widow, Jane, applied for pension, September 21, 1837, then a resident of New Windsor, New York, aged eighty-six years, and alleged that her husband, James Dubois, served in 1775, five months as sergeant in Captain John Nicholson's company in Colonel James Clinton's New York, regiment, and was in the expedition to Canada, that he was made a lieutenant and served about two years in Colonel John Nicholson's regiment.

The claim was not allowed as she did not prove that her husband rendered the alleged service.

The widow stated that her eldest two children were born three years and six months apart, a son David was born in 1781. The names of her other children are not given.

End Notes—R.3099—James Dubois

1. On examining Captain John Nicholson's Company muster roll in Colonel James Clinton's Third New York Continental Regiment for 1775, James Dubois' name was not found on it in any capacity. On checking the muster rolls for the other companies a Jacobus (Dutch for James) Debois was found as a private in Captain Elias Hasbrouck's Company in Colonel Clinton's Regiment in 1775. Jacobus enlisted on July 20 but he was listed as desc'd on September 14. There was a David DuBois appointed first lieutenant in Captain Nicholson's Company on June 28, 1775. By November, Nicholson left the company and David was promoted to captain on November 15, 1775 and was still before Quebec on February 14, 1776. David was appointed captain on June 26, 1776 in Colonel Lewis DuBois' Continental Regiment, which was unnumbered. He served in the regiment until November of 1776 when the Continental regiments were re-organized. James DuBois did not show up on Captain DuBois' muster roll which was dated February 14, 1776. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 69, folder 38, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
2. Jane is wrong on the 1776 timeline. James Clinton was appointed colonel of the Second New York Continental Regiment on March 8, 1776 and was not appointed Brigadier General until August 9, 1776. John Nicholson was appointed Colonel on March 8, 1776 of an Additional Continental Regiment which was un-numbered. Again James DuBois' name does not appear on the list of officers for Colonel Nicholson's Regiment.
3. James was appointed second lieutenant on November 21, 1776 in Captain Cornelius T. Jansen's Third Company in Colonel Peter Gansevoort's Third New York Continental Regiment. He was discharged in February of 1777.