

Pension Application for Richard Ferris

W.25574 (Widow: Catharine) Richard died October 19, 1846.

B.L.Wt.18012-160-55

State of New York

Tompkins County SS.

Richard Ferris of the Town of Spencer in the County of Tioga & State aforesaid being duly sworn doth upon his oath depose and say that he is the same identical Richard Ferris named in and who sworn to his original Declaration to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress of the 7 June 1832 & who was placed upon the Pension List Roll during the year 1832 & whose Pension on re-examination of his claim has been suspended by the Department but those original Declaration &c. remain on file in the pension office at Washington.

And further this Deponent saith that the following is as full and perfect a statement of his service during the Revolutionary War for which he claims a pension & for which he now claims to be reinstated on the Roll of Pensioners as he is able to set forth that by reason of old age and infirmity the lapse of time and the great variety & number of expectations in which he was actually engaged he is unable to state particularly the precise time & length of time he was so engaged under his several expectation in the Revolution.

That in 1778 or as early as the first of April he was enrolled as a member of Captain Ebenezer Boyd's Company in Col. Samuel Drakes Regiment of the New York State troops at Cortland in the County of Westchester, and remained in the same company during actual service as a private in said company when called upon, during the until and after the close of the Revolutionary War.

That David Ferris who was first lieutenant in said company was an elder brother of this deponent.

That in the year 1777 though before this deponent was enrolled in said company he volunteered to serve in said company under the command of his said brother Lieutenant David Ferris on scouting parties along & through the South part of Westchester County that during summer and fall of that year this deponent was in actual service with said company under Capt. Boyd as such volunteer and under his said Brother as commandant of Patrole at various times from 3 to 6 days & sometimes longer at a time in the whole a time not less than one month.

That after he was enrolled in said company the first of April 1778 as aforesaid the aforesaid company of Capt Boyd together with the other companies in said Regiment were classed so that in each company there were eight classes two of which said classes were in actual service on Patroles & standing as guards on the lines every night when not in service with the whole company or Regiment.

That this deponent from the first of April to as late as the first of Dec. following when not in other actual service with the company or Regiment actively served as such classed Militia man in said company sometimes under the Capt. & sometimes under the aforesaid Lieutenant David Ferris every fourth night.

That during the year 1778 aforesaid this deponent was in actual service with the whole of said company in cases of alarms & to repel & prevent the enemy from crossing the Croton River at the various crossing places a goodly number time and were in such service from 4 to six days each time—

That during the same period the whole regiment commanded by Col. Drake were also called out several times now 5 to 10 days with whom this deponent served under the aforesaid Capt. Boyd in guarding the lines of the enemy & marching from place to place along the croton River and other places in the County of Westchester.

That in Nov. of the same year he with said company were in our tour actually in such service for a term of at least three weeks seventeen days of which time they encamped in bush housed built for that purpose at Pines Bridge after which they marched to Veils Forge & were gone at least six days longer.

That during the period aforesaid from the 1st of April to 1st of Dec 1778 at the various time times [sic] above specified he was in actual service under arms as patrole & with said company & Regiment on Scouting expeditions & guarding the lines a period in the whole amounting to at least five months.

And this deponent on his oath aforesaid further saith that from the first of April 1778 to June or July 1783 during each season from April to Dec'r he was in actual service in the aforesaid company mostly in patrolling in Classes as aforesaid not less than every fourth night & often times were out in such service for from 5 to 15 days at a time with the entire Company & sometimes the Regiment.

That during such times deponent served as a private and on the paroles as aforesaid were generally under the direct command of Lieut. David Ferris & the aforesaid Capt Boyd.

That during the whole term aforesaid such service was on the lines in the southern part of Westchester County along the banks of the Croton & Hudson Rivers.

That said company being situated so near the lines of the enemy they were required some of them to be continually on duty in the service.

That often they were sat down to eat a meal of victuals at their own houses they were called upon & actually left the table each one shouldering his musket & starting again on duty.

That during the year 1778 he served a turn as above stated.

That in 1779 he was actually engaged in such service under arms at different times sometimes from 3 to 5 days & at other times two weeks at a time for a period in the whole amounting to at least six months—

That during the year 1779 aforesaid a portion of the British lay within the bounds of said Col. Drakes Regiment at Verplantks & Stoney Point under command of Genl Henry Clinton then at New York.

That during the year 1780 from April to Decr he continued same service engaged on scouting Parties with his class aforesaid & with the aforesaid company & regiment in guarding the lines & fording places actually employed as often as every fourth night & sometimes for server days at t time at many different times a period in the whole amounting to at least five months.

That in 1781 from April to about the middle of Nov'r this deponent remained in the same service as such private in the aforesaid company and regiment actually employed & under arms doing duty as such classed militia man & in the company under said Capt. Boyd aforesaid in patrolling; scouting & guarding the lines in the County of Westchester aforesaid at different periods and every fourth night when not otherwise engaged with said company a period in the whole amounting to at least five months continued service.

That in 1782 from April to Dec'r & in 1783 from April to June or July he continued actually to serve in the same company & Reg't & in the same manner as in 1780 & '81 and in & near the County of Westchester aforesaid every fourth night when not otherwise employed as a patrol at different times in the manner above specified a period in the whole of at least six months –

That in the year 1781 he was engaged with the aforesaid Regiment under Col. Drake for a period of at least three weeks at one time in marching through the countries of Westchester & Putnam for the purpose of [?] the fat cattle & hogs out of the reach of the enemy, which he thinks was in the month of November – for which last mentioned service he received certificates for pay for our months service.

That during the fall of 1782 this deponent with the aforesaid Regt under Col. Drake was actually engaged in foraging & transporting hay & b oats & other provisions from White Plains, Rye, Mamarouck to Cortland & to the Continental Village for the use of Genl Heaths Brigade and other portions of the American Army then quartering in that vicinity.

And that in the whole he was actually engaged in the service of the Revolutionary War from 1777 to 1783 as private in the above mentioned Regiment at the different periods above stated a period in the whole amounting to not less than two years and four months continued service.

And further this deponent saith not. (Signed) Richard Ferris

Subscribed and sworn before me this 8th day of February 1837 Caleb B. Drake
J.P.

Letter in folder dated November 30, 1931, written in response to an inquiry.

Reference is made to your letter of November 12, 1931, requesting information in regard to Richard Ferris, a soldier of the Revolution.

The data contained herein were obtained from papers on file in pension claim, W. 25574, based upon the Revolutionary War service of Richard Ferris.

He was born April 11, 1762, at Scarsdale, Westchester County, New York, and lived there until 1810 when he moved to Tioga County, New York.

He served every year from sometime in 1777 until November, 1783, in short tours, amounting to about two years and four months in all, as private with the New York troops under Lieutenant David Ferris (who was his only brother) and Captain Ebenezer Boyd and Colonel Samuel Drake.

He was allowed pension on his application executed September 4, 1832, at which time he was living in Spencer, Tioga County, New York.

He died October 19, 1846, in Tioga County, New York.

The soldier married in Cortland, Westchester County, New York soon after the proclamation of peace, Catharine Lent of Cortland.

He was allowed pension on her application executed January 15, 1846, at which time she was eighty-five years of age and was living in Tioga County, New York.

Richard and Catharine Ferris had the following children:

John born July 26, 1784, died April 28, 1805.

James born December 10, 1785, died February 28, 1805.

Stephen born August 25, 1787.

Mary born March 19, 1789.

Susanah born January 11, 1792, died April 1, 1803.

Elizabeth born December 7, 1794.

Daniel born April 1, 1796.

Hester born April 30, 1798.

Henry born June 20, 1800.

“GilBard” born September 7, 1804.