

Pension Application for David Graves

S.22278

State of Vermont SS.

On this 13th day of Feb A.D. 1833 personally appeared before the Probate Court of the County of Rutland David Graves a resident of the County of Rutland and State of Vermont, aged 81 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 provision made by the act of Congress, passed June 7, 1832. That he enlisted in the Army of the United States, in the year 1776 and served in Col. VanRensselaer's Regiment of the New York line under the following named officers.

Col. VanRensselaer, Capt John Williams, he does not remember the names of his other officers—he lived at the time on Rensselaer Patent, about 10 miles East of Albany, and volunteered about the 1 Oct 1776 & went to Albany, thence in a sloop to the Highlands, & served at Fort Constitution a little over two months & a half where he was discharged about the 20 Dec. 1776, but rec'd no written discharge.

In 1777, when Burgoyne invaded the country he volunteered about the 1 June & marched to Fort Edward & served in Capt Elisha Gilbert's company, Lt Guile, Col Wm Whitney's Regt—from Fort Edward he marched to Saratoga & was present when Burgoyne surrendered the 17 Oct 1777 & was dismissed the next day, having served 4 months & 18 days, but rec'd no written discharge.

He recollects Genl Washington; Gates, Schuyler, Fellows, & knew other officers whose names he has forgotten, but he does not remember so as to distinguish other troops with whom he served. He has no documentary evidence & knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services, except the accompanying affidavit of Ebenezer M. Farrington.

He was born at Canaan the 20th of October 1751, where his age was recorded, and it is also recorded in his Bible. He lived in New Lebanon, NY after the war until about 40 years ago he came to Salisbury, Vermont, where he lived about 7 years, since which he has principally lived in Brandon where he now lives. He is known to most of the people of Brandon.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity, except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any Agency in any State. (Signed with his mark) David Graves

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. R. Hopkins [Reg?]

Letter in folder dated March 10, 1937, written in response to an inquiry.

Reference is made to your letter in which you request the Revolutionary War record of your ancestor, David Graves, a pensioner of Rutland, Vermont, who died in 1837.

The data given herein were found in pension claim, S.22278, based upon service of David Graves in the Revolutionary War.

David Graves was born October 20, 1751 in Canaan the date not shown; the names of his parents were not given.

While a resident of Rensselaer Patent, about ten miles east of Albany, New York, he enlisted in September or October 1776 and served two and one half months as private in Captain John Williams' company, Colonel VanRensselaer's New York regiment, stationed at Fort Constitution. He moved the next winter to New Lebanon, New York; he enlisted about June 1, 1777 and served four months and eighteen days as private in Captain Elisha Gilbert's company, Colonel William Whiting's New York regiment, during which service he was first at Fort Edward and afterwards at Stillwater, and present when Burgoyne surrendered.

The soldier lived in New Lebanon, Columbia County, New York, until about 1793, then moved to Salisbury, Vermont, where he remained about seven years, then moved to Brandon, Rutland County, Vermont.

He was allowed pension on his application executed February 13, 1833, at which time he resided in Brandon, Vermont; he was living there in April 1837. He made no reference to wife or children at the time he applied for his pension.

In 1832, one Ebenezer Morris Farrington, of Colchester, Chittenden County, Vermont, stated in a letter to Morris F. Graves of Brandon, Vermont, that he was acquainted with David Graves, the soldier, at the time he served in the Revolutionary War; he did not state any relationship between them. In 1836, one Edward Barrington was a resident of said Colchester, Vermont; no relationship between him and these other persons was stated.