

Pension Application for Gabriel Lightbody

S.28794

State of New York

County of Schenectady SS.

On this ninth day of October 1833, personally appeared in open Court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in & for said County, 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 7th 1832.

That he was born in the town of Adenapper in the County of Armagh in Ireland on the 12th day of September one thousand seven hundred and fifty-two. He has no record of his age, except that contained in his family Bible.

When called into the service of the United States in the Army of the revolution he was living in a town then called new Cornwell, in the County of Orange in said State of New York. Since the revolutionary war he has lived in the same town of New Cornwall, and he now lives and has lived for the last twenty nine years in the town of Glenville aforesaid.

In the spring of the year 1776, he the declarant enlisted & was enrolled in the company of State Troops or militia commanded by Captain John Nichols for the term of three months—

The names of his other company & Field officers whom he recollects were Lieutenant Silas Wood & Colonel Israel Thompson. At the time of his enlistment as aforesaid he lived in said town of New Cornwall. At this time no law had as yet been passed for the raising of levies or State Troops properly so called, as this Deponent was informed and verily believes to be true, and all military service was performed by the militia. He the Declarant marched with said company to Peekskill, where they were joined by two companies from the state of New Jersey.

These three companies were placed under the Command of said Colonel Israel Thompson—From Peekskill they marched to New Cornwall aforesaid and were there employed in erecting Chevaux de fries in the Hudson river to prevent the vessels of the enemy from coming up said river. And in this service and in mounting guard the term of his enlistment of three months was passed.

He the declared was afterwards enrolled in the Company of militia in his beat commanded by Captain Christopher VanDeusen his other company and field officers whom he recollects were Obadiah Smith Lieutenant & _____ Odell Colonel of the Regiment to which said company of VanDeusen was attached.

In this company the Declarant served whenever called upon on all alarms of the approached of the enemy—in the performance of fatigue duty, and in mounting guard at several posts and papers in the County where he resided and also in the state of Jersey.

He engaged in the performance of these duties for a greater or longer period every year of said war for a term in the whole exceeding six months.

By reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory this declarant cannot specify all the different terms of his services rendered as last aforesaid, more

particularly than is herein after set forth—which services were all rendered in the grade of a private soldier & while he rendered said services he was not engaged in any Civil pursuit.

As such private he performed fatigue duty at Fort Montgomery on one occasion for a term exceeding fourteen days.

He has also performed garrison duty at said fort on several occasions he believes in the year 1777, in the spring & fall of said years for a term in the whole not less than two weeks—when Fort Montgomery was taken by Sir Henry Clinton in the fall of the year last named, this declarant distinctly remembers he was marching with said company of Captain VanDusen to said fort to reinforce the same, but the number of days he was under arms on this occasion, this declarant cannot recollect.

After Fort Montgomery had been taken, this Declarant was called with a Detachment from said company to perform fatigue duty at West Point, the exact time not recollected, but knows it was shortly after Fort Montgomery had been taken.

Our country then turned their attention to the fortifying of West Point. In this last engagement the Declarant served for more than two weeks, but how much longer he cannot say. This Declarant remembers that when news arrived of the capture of Burgoyne & previously of the burning of Esopus that he was performing garrison duty in said County of Orange on Butterhill mountain and thinks he must have there under arms on this occasion not less than fifteen days.

On a certain occasion, time not recollected, when the American army made a feint to attack New York he remembers he was under arms more than two weeks under command of Governor Clinton at Fishkill.

He has also performed garrison duty in the State of New Jersey under the officers of said Regiment of Colonel Odell, at Hackinsack, Ramapoo, & Paramus, and also at the different posts along the Hudson river when attacks from the enemy were from time to time expected.

How often he served in these different tours & how long in each tour he cannot possibly specify, yet knows that every term was at least two weeks—

This deponent does not remember to have been in any battle or skirmish except which took place between the British from their vessels after they had burnt Esopus & the militia of the Regiment to which the Declarant belonged at the Butterhill mountain aforesaid on the banks of said river.

The following are the names of some of the regular officers whom he knew, or who were with the troops where he served, and such continental and militia regiments or companies with which he served, or as he can recollect, viz: General Washington, General Gates, General Schuyler, Colonel Dubois, Colonel VanSchaick, captain Moody & the companies Regiment & Brigades they commanded, General Clinton, Colonel Graham & McLaghlan. He knew many others but cannot recollect their name.

He never received any written discharge from the service.

He has no documentary evidence, and knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service.

He never received any written discharge from the service.

The following are the names of persons to whom he is known in his present neighborhood, and who can testify as to his character for veracity, and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution to wit. Isaac Butter & Barzillar Willard.

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) Gabriel Lightbody

Subscribed and sworn the day and year aforesaid. John L. Vrooman Clerk.