

**Pension Application for William Robinson**

S.11320 (Listed as Colored Man)

State of New York

WestChester County SS.

On this fifteenth day of June 1833 appeared before me Ezra Lockwood Esqr one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of the County of WestChester, the same being a Court of Record William Robinson, a man of Colour, a resident of the Town of North Salem in the County of WestChester, State of New York aged about ninety 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 act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That he entered the service under the following named officers and served as herein stated that he enlisted in a company of Militia under the command of Colonel Thomas Thomas, sometime in the early part of the year 1779 that he enlisted for six months, according to his best recollection and belief and that he joined the said company; the company marched to Bedford & from thence served as low as White Plains In West Chester County that he continued attached to the said company and in actual service until the expiration of six months when he was verbally discharged and returned home to North Salem where he then resided.

He was constantly kept on duty during the whole period of six months above mentioned the Company was marched from one place to another in detachments of the said company and stated at various places, in the County below North Salem as Guard, land patrols that he was generally kept on this kind of duty.

That in the year 1782 but at what time he cannot recollect he again enlisted in the company of militia aforesaid commanded by Captain Thomas Hunt in the Regiment of Colonel Frederick Weisenfelt or Wiesenfels for the term of nine months that he continued In service in the said Company for nine months and was verbally discharged at Bedford in the town of North Castle and White Plains in said County was stationed on the lines and remained attached to the said company and in actual service for the whole term of nine months aforesaid.

He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is onto on the pension roll of the agency of any state that he has no documentary evidence and that he knows of no person except Samuel Young Esqr who can testify to his service that the Affidavit of the said Samuel Young is hereunto annexed. And this declarant further states that during the time in which his service was performed as aforesaid he was not employed in any civil pursuit.

(Signed with his mark) William Robinson

Sworn & subscribed the day and year aforesaid before me. Ezra Lockwood, one of the Judges In & for said County

The following interrogatories were prepounded by the said Judge to the said William Robinson to wit.

1<sup>st</sup> When and in what year was you born? Answer: He was born at Stonington In the State of Connecticut in what year he does not know but he believes that he is now about ninety years of age.

2d. Have you any record of your and if so where is it? Answer: he has no record of his age.

3d Where were you living when called into service where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live? Answer: He lived in what was now called North Salem WestChester County & State of New York when first called into service; part of the time since the Revolutionary War he has lived several years in Danbury & Bethel in Connecticut. He now lives at North Salem aforesaid.

4<sup>th</sup> How was you called into service were you drafted did you volunteer or were you a substitute and if a substitute for whom? Answer: he first enlisted into the service in Capt Hunt's Company in Colonel Thomas Thomas Regiment as set forth in his Declaration. He was never drafted or served as a substitute but he always enlisted into the service and performed his duty faithfully until discharge. He again enlisted in the same Company in the Regiment of Colonel Weisenfeld as set forth in his Declaration.

5<sup>th</sup> State the names of some of the Regular officers who were with the troops when you served such Continental and Militia Regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service. Answer: He has no recollection of any of the Regular officers, who were with the troops where he served. He recollects the following Militia Officers who were with the troops that is to say Lieutenant Colonel Thaddeus Crane, Major John Irondale, Capt. Thomas Hunt, he also recollects Colonel Thomas Thomas; he did not know any Continental Regiment nor any Regiment of Militia except the Regiments of Colonel Thomas and Colonel Crane, and Colonel Weisenfeld's [?] which he lost Regiment he served; he has no distinct recollection of any other general circumstances of his service except those declarants in his Declaration which is hereto annexed.

6<sup>th</sup> did you ever receive a discharge from the service & if so by whom was it given and what has become of it? Answer: He did receive a discharge from the service from the Regiments of Colonel Wisenfelt & Colonel Thomas, he has no distinct recollection whether he was at any time discharged in writing but believes that he was discharged verbally.

7<sup>th</sup> State the names of person to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a Soldier of the Revolution: Answer. I name Timothy VanSroy and Epenetus Wallace of the Town of North Salem in the county of West Chester and State of New York.

We Timothy VanLcoy a Clergyman of the Baptist Church in North Salem and Epenetus Wallace residing in the Town of North Salem in in the County of WestChester and State of New York do hereby certify that we are well acquainted with William Robinson who has subscribed and sworn to the above Declaration that we believe him to be ninety years of age that he is reputed in the neighbourhood where he

resides to have been a soldier of the Revolution and that we concur in that opinion. And we also believe him to be a man of truth and veracity. (Signed) Timothy VanSroy, E. Wallace.

Sworn & subscribed the day & year aforesaid before me. Ezra Lockwood one of the Judges in & for said County.

And I the said Ezra Lockwood one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of the County of WestChester Do hereby declare my opinion after the investigation of the matter and after putting the interrogatories prescribed by the War department that the above named Applicant was a Revolutionary Soldier and served as he states.

And I do further certify that it appears to me that Timothy VanSrey & Epinetus Wallace—who have signed the foregoing certificate are residents of the Town of North Salem in the County of WestChester & are credible persons and that their statement is entitled to credit. And I do further certify that the said William Robinson cannot from bodily infirmity attend the court to make his declaration. Ezra Lockwood

Nathaniel Bayles Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the county of WestChester.

Letter in folder dated January 10, 1933, written in response to an inquiry.

The data furnished herein are obtained from the papers on file in Revolutionary War pension claim S.11320, based upon the military service of William Robinson in that war.

William Robinson, a man of color, was born in Stonington, Connecticut, date not given.

While residing in North Salem, Westchester County, New York, he enlisted early in the year 1779 and served six months as a private in Captain Thomas Hunt's Company, Colonel Thomas Thomas' New York Regiment; and again enlisted sometime in 1782 and served nine months in Captain Thomas Hunt's Company, Colonel Frederick Weissenfels' New York Regiment.

A part of the time during the Revolutionary War, he resided in Danbury, Connecticut.

He was allowed pension on his application executed June 15, 1833, at which he was aged about ninety years and resided in North Salem, New York.

There are no data as to his family.