

Pension Application for John A. Slaight or Slaght

R.9646

Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

State of New York

Dutchess County SS.

On this twenty fifth day of October, one thousand eight hundred and thirty three, personally appeared in open Court before the court of Oyer & Terminer of the State of New York held at Poughkeepsie in and for the County of Dutchess, now sitting, John A. Slaight, a resident of Fishkill in the County and State aforesaid, aged seventy three years, who being first duly sworn, according to law, doth, on his oath, make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the Act of Congress, passed June 7, 1832.

That he was born at Kingston Ulster County State of New York, 31st of May 1760, which record of his age is in his Family Bible, copied from that of his father's: When first called into the service, he was living at Fishkill (in that part of the town now called LaGrange), where he now resides and has resided since the Revolutionary war.

That he first enlisted in or about 1st May 1777 at Fishkill in the company of Captain Henry Wyckoff, and regiment of Colonel Ellis or Ellison that he remained at Fort Constitution till Fort Montgomery, 7 miles south, was attacked and taken, 6th October 1777; he was ordered to Fishkill, and thence crossed over the river to New Windsor; where he lay a few days till he was ordered to guard a place of cannon, a fourteen pounder, with which to fire upon the British vessels, which passed up the river; he never heard their names; he believes, they were on their way to Kingston, to burn it; under the command of Governor George Clinton and General James Clinton, who had escaped from Fort Montgomery, he was marched towards Kingston for the purpose of saving it; he halted when within two miles of it, it being in flames; thence he was ordered to Marbletown where he stayed all night and from thence to Hurley; out of his own accord and curiosity, he went to Kingston, which was still smoking; he was ordered to Newburgh, and on the way halted at Old Paltz, in consequence of a very severe rain storm, which detained him two days; when he arrived at Newburgh, he was discharged, having enlisted for and served the whole term of six months.

During this tour of duty there were with his company two Continental Regiments, one commanded by Colonel Dubois, another by Colonel Malcolm or Lamb, which of them he cannot recollect, & a company of Artillery commanded by Captain Mott from the Eastward.

While at New Windsor, a scouting party of Colonel Malcolm or Lamb's regiment took a man by the name of Taylor, who carried a letter from General Burgoyne to General Clinton requesting him to come of his assistance; Taylor was deceived by the Red Coats of the party which had been taken from the British; he saw him living at Hurley.

That on or about the 1st of May 1781, his brother Abraham Slaight enlisted at Fishkill, in the company of Captain Henry Dodge and in the regiment of Colonel Wisenvelt for six months under the understanding that he this deponent should serve one half of the time; that some time after the half of the term had expired, he joined the same company at Johnstown, near the Mohawk river in September of the same year, and served two months and ten days; he was ordered down the Mohawk and laid some time at Saratoga, and from thence proceeded to Albany where he was discharged—to the best of his recollection and believe while at Saratoga the report of Cornwallis surrender arrived.

That he was engaged during the war in many tours of Militia duty, but in consequence of age, his memory is so much impaired that he cannot furnish the dates and other particulars & he therefore doesn't bring them into account.

That his services as above related amount to eight months and ten days as a private and a volunteer and for such service he claims a pension.

That he never received a written discharge from the service.

That all his officers and fellow soldiers are to the best of his knowledge and belief, dead, except John B. Westervelt and his brother Abraham, above mentioned, who has also applied for a pension under the law of 1832.

That during one of his militia services about the time of Arnold's treachery, he was engaged in making the fort at West Point bombproof, at which time he saw General Washington.

That he has no documentary evidence; but that the Reverend Cornelius C. Cuyler and Abraham Myres citizens of his neighborhood, can testify to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution.

That he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and that his name is not on the roll of the agency of any state. (Signed) John D. Slaight

Sworn & subscribed in open Court October 25, 1833. Henry J. Traver, Clerk