

Pension Application for William Conklin

W.15885 (Widow: Elizabeth)

State of New Jersey

County of Bergen SS.

On this eighth day of August 1845, personally appeared before the Judges of the Inferior Court of common Pleas [sic] holden at the Courthouse in Hackensack in and for said county, William Conklin, a resident of the township of Franklin in the said county aged near seventy 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 July 4, 1836, that he with Mary Muyred widow John Muyred now residing at Elizabeth town point in said state, Elizabeth wife of Jacob Blauvelt, residing in the town of Clarkstown in the county of Rockland and State of New York and Rachel widow of Josiah Curtis residing at Utica in the State of New York are the only surviving children of Elizabeth Conklin who was the widow of William Conklin who served as a private during the Revolutionary War, as follows, That he the said William Conklin on the last of June or first of July in the year 1776 enlisted for six months in a company commanded by Capt John Blauvelt at Tappan in the town of Orange now county of Rockland then Orange in the sate [state] of New York in a Regiment commanded by Col'n Nichols and went to New York from thence went to Brooklin [Brooklyn] and was there until after the battle [battle] there fought in the month of September following then recrossed the East River with Genl Washington's army to New York and continued retreating until part of Washington's army arived [arrived] at White Plains and was in the battle there fought then retreated to Peakskill from there returned to Tappan, and was there discharged on the first of January 1777.

That the said William Conklin then residing in the beat of Capt John Blauvelt's company in Col'n A. Hawk's Hays Regiment early in the spring of the year 1777 was called out to guard along the west shore of the Hudson River and other places, the said William Conklin did serve until late in the fall or winter guarding at diferent [different] places, and serving not less than one week in each and every four weeks and not less than two month[s] during the said year.

That on the last of March or the first of April in the year 1778, the said William Conklin enlisted at Tappan aforesaid for nine months, in a company commanded by Capt. John Bell in Col'n Grahams Regiment and was first stationed for a short time or guarding along the Hudson River then crossed the said River and was marched to White Plains where they was encamp't for some time then receiving orders, again, recrossed said river and was marched to a place called the New Bridge near Hackensack, where they were on duty until Lord Cornwallis came there with his army, when they retreated to Paramus and there continued until Lord Cornwallis had returned with his army to New York, when they returned to the New bridge and after some time stationed there was marched to Tappan and there discharged on the first of January 1779.

That early in the spring of the year 1779 he was again called upon to perform his share of guard duty and served under his said Capt as Sergeant from early in the spring until late in the fall during said year and the years 1780 and 1781 serving not less than one fourth of the time, and not less than two months in each year, guarding along the Hudson River & other places or on patrole [patrol] guard.

That the service of the said William Conklin was not always performed under the said Capt. As the officers changed sometimes one commanded the guard on duty and sometimes an other as he served under Capta. Wim Sickles, Capt. John M. Hogenkamp, Lieut Cornelius Blauvelt, as they changed their tours of duty as well as the men.

That the above set forth by this deponent has been done as correctly as his memory will permit him to do, from the recital thereof by his father to him and others in his presence, that he has often heard his father relate the services by him rendered during said war, the hardships and difficulties he experienced, that being sorounded [surrounded] by refugees and Torys and the enemy frequently

visiting that section of the country, there was no safety at his home and for safety had either to be with the guard or secreted in the woods especially at night.

That as to the proof of the first tour of duty set forth, he has not been able to find a single person living who served in the same and as to his to her services rendered, the accompanying affidavits and certificate as all that he at this late period has been enabled to obtain.

That during the short time his mother lived after the act of July 4, 1836, he nor she was ever informed of the passing of said act, and it was not until this last spring that he was informed by a letter he received from his sister Rachel at Utica—that the children was entitled to the pension his mother was entitled to if she had applied.

He further declares that his father the said William Conklin was married to his mother Elizabeth Hunt by the Rev'd Mr. Verbryck (as he was informed by his parents) in the year seventeen hundred and seventy three that his father the said William Conklin died on the nineteenth [nineteenth day of May in the year eighteen hundred and twenty five, and his mother the said Elizabeth Conklin died on the fourth day of February eighteen hundred and thirty seven as appears from the annexed family record cut out of his father's Bible now in his possession, that the same excepting the records of his parents deaths, was by him copied from an old family Bible of his father's at his request sometime previous to his death, and the records of the of deaths shortly after the events hapined [happened], and after making diligent search in the records of the Dutch Church at Tappan he cannot find any record of there [their] marriage therein there being no record of any marriages therein recorded from the year 1755 to the year 1784.

That his parents resided in the town of Orange aforesaid from the time of their marriage until the spring of the year 1797 when they removed to the present residence of this deponent at which place they resided until the time of their deaths. (Signed) William Conklin

Sworn to and subscribed in open court on the day and year first above written. John H. Berry,
Clerk

Letter in folder dated January 16, 1926, written in response to an inquiry.

I have to advise you from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim, W.15885, it appears that William Conklin was born February 20, 1751, place not stated.

While residing at Orange, New York, he enlisted and served as a private in the New York Troops, as follows—

From June or July 1776, six months in Captain John Blauvelt's Company, Colonel Nichols' Regiment, and was in the battle of White Plains.

In 1777, two months, guarding along the Hudson River, in Captain John Blauvelt's Company, Colonel A. Hawk Hay's Regiment.

From March or April 1778, nine months in Captain John Bell's Company, Colonel Graham's Regiment.

In 1779, 1780, and 1781, at various times as sergeant, in Captains William Sickels', and John M. Hogenkamp's Companies, amounting in all to about six months.

Soldier married in 1773, Elizabeth Hunt, who was born February 20, 1751. He died May 19, 1825 at Franklin Township, Bergen County, New Jersey; and she died February 4, 1837 at same place. Their children—

Margaret born December 5, 1773.

William born August 27, 1775.

Mary born January 20, 1777.

John born December 5, 1779.

Ann born January 24, 1782.

Abraham born May 8, 1784.

David born march 16, 1786.

Elizabeth born July 18, 1788.

Benjamin born June 1, 1792.

Rachel born April 2, 1794.

The following children were alive in 1849, and were allowed the pension—William, living in Franklin Township, New Jersey; Mary, widow of John Muyred, living in Elizabeth town Point, New Jersey; Elizabeth wife of Jacob Blauvelt, living in Clarkstown, New York; and Rachel, widow of Josiah Curtis, living in Utica, New York.

In 1849, Mrs. Mary Davis, living in Elizabeth, New Jersey, stated that she was one of the children.