

Pension Application for William DeForest or DeFreest

S.28712

State of New York

Albany Justice's Court SS

Personally appeared this 5th day of November 1833, before the Justices of the Justices Court of the City of Albany (the same being a Court of Record) William Defreest of the Town of Ira, in the County of Record) William DeFrest of the Town of Ira, in the Town of Ira, in the County of Cayuga, & State of New York an applicant for a pension under the act of Congress of June 7, 1832, who being duly sworn in open court, deposes and saith that by reason of old age, and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection, he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades;--

1st In the year 1777 I was enrolled in the company of Militia commanded by Capt Jacob DeFreest in Col. Stephen J. Schuyler's Regiment as a private—being then 16 years of age. In the month of June, I was ordered into the service and went with my company to Fort Edward—where we were stationed for about three weeks--& we were then discharged, & returned to Greenbush, where I then resided—I served on this term of duty as a private in said company, not less than three weeks.

2d. About eight or ten days after my return home I was again ordered into the service in said company – and we marched from Greenbush to Bemus's Heights—the whole of [?] Regiments were ordered out at the same time & were stationed on Bemus's Heights—we were commanded by Col. Stephen J. Schuyler & Major John J. Fonda, Jacob VanAlstyne was our Adjutant. We remained in the service on this term until after Genl Burgoyne had surrendered and were discharged one or about the 19th or 20th of October and returned home—During this time I was with my company at Stillwater & Saratoga --& I was in an action or skirmish with the British in the woods between Saratoga & Bemus Heights in the month of September—We took some of the British prisoners [blot] killed some – I helped to bury one of the dead—I recollect that sixteen were buried in one grave—I was in the service on this tour as a private in said company, not less than three months and a half.

3d In the year 1778 I was again ordered into the service in the said company commanded by Capt Jacob Defreest—Martinus Sharp was a Lieutenant, and Rynier Van Iveren was and Ensign—In the month of September we were ordered to go [to] Fort Edward—and we marched from Greenbush to Fort Edward—we remained there about three weeks and was then discharged & returned home—Col. Henry K. Van Rensselaer commanded us at this time—I served on this term as a private in said company not less than three weeks.

4th In the month of October 1779 I was again ordered into the service with a part of [the] company commanded by Lieutenant Martinus Sharp and Ensign VanIveren—we [were] ordered to go to Stone Arabia into Montgomery County [was Tryon County then] and marched from Greenbush to that place—Then Albany and Schenectady Regiments was there at the same time—Genl TenBroeck was one

commanding General. We were stationed there about a fortnight & then were discharged & returned home—I was in the service on this tour as a private in said company, not less than three weeks including going & returning.

5th In the month of May 1780 , about the 20th of that month, I was again ordered into the service in the said company, commanded by Capt Jacob DeFreest & Lieut Sharp & Ensign VanIrerren—we marched from Greenbush to Fort Hunter on the Mohawk River—We were stationed at Fort Hunter about two weeks -- & were then discharged & went home—Col. goose VanSchaick commanded us at fort Hunter—I served on this tour as a private in the said company, not less than two weeks.

6th In the month of September or October of the same year 1780 I was again ordered into the service in the same company & under the command of the same officers—we went to Fort Edward—Col. Peter Yates of Schaticoke, commanded us at Fort Edward—We remained there until we were relieved by a company of Continentals belonging to Gansevoort's Regiment -- & were then discharged—I served on this tour as a private in said company of Militia, not less than three weeks.

7th In the year 1781, I think in the month of September, I was again ordered into the service, in the same company, and under the same officers—We marched from Greenbush, under the command of Col. Henry K. VanRensselaer, to Half Moon, and from there to Schenectady, and from thence to Fort Edward – When we arrived at Schenectady Genl Gansevoort took the command of us—We were at Half Moon about a week--& about the same time at Schenectady--& were then ordered to go to Fort Edward—we were also in Saratoga some time—we were at Fort Edward & Saratoga about a fortnight—I was in the service on this tour as a private and was out any [sic] not less than one month.

8th In the month of July, but in what year I do not recollect but I remember it was before Schoharie was burnt I think in the year 1780 I was ordered into the service & went with a part of the company I belonged to, to Schoharie. We went under Lieut Sharp & relieved Capt. Jacob Defrest & a part of the company – who had been ordered there before—we were stationed at the upper fort under the command of Col. Peter Vrooman—We remained there about a month, protecting the Inhabitants & were then discharged & returned home—I served on this tour as a private in said company, not less than one month.

9th In the year 1782, I think, I was enrolled in a company of Rangers under Capt. Jacob Defreest & Lieut Philip Harvey—I was engaged in active service in said company, from that time till the end of the war. I served as a private in said company of Rangers not less than nine months.

I served in all not less than eighteen months & for such service I claim a pension. (Signed) William DeFreest

Sworn to & subscribed in open Court this 5th day of November 1833. John G. Wasson, Clk