

Pension Application for Samuel Hitchcock

S.43684

[The following document is unlike one I have seen before. It simply paraphrases his service, it is on lined paper. The document is not dated or signed but it appears to be an early response to a request for information. There is a request for information in the folder which is dated from the year '90 & '91. From the handwritten notes on the document, perhaps it is a rough draft for a formal letter and it appears as if many of the documents for this man are not in the file. The document gives a good overview of the man's service. ajberry]

Samuel Hitchcock

He was residing, March 1818, in Watervliet, now West Tryon, (where is an U.S. Arsenal,) Albany County, N.Y. when he applied for pension in [blank]

His age was stated, in August 1820, as 60 years and that his wife was living, aged 60 years. He died October 4, 1829.

He entered the service in March 1776, and when the new organization of the Continental regiments took place on and after January 1, 1777, he was mustered under Capt Jacob Wright in the 2d N.Y. regiment commanded by Colo Philip VanCortlandt.

His service prior to 1777 was not under Capt. Wright as he was not as captain until November 21, 1776, but he may have been in Colo VanCortland's Command.

Colo VanCortlant is often latterly written without the "Van" plain "Cortlandt"—There are no records on file for 1776.

He continued in Capt Wright's Company to 1782, when the Captain was mustered out service, and in the 2d regiment, and was discharged in June 1783—Colo Ph. V.Cortland certified that he was "a good and faithful soldier in the 2d regiment of New York, under my command, until the end of the war, when he was discharged".

He omitted to give the date and place of his birth, and enlistment, or any residence except as above, he marched to any battles that he was in, and other incidents connected with his service—

The above is all the information he gave, but there are records on file from which the following statement is furnished.

Some of the "military rolls" are missing and others have no place where dated.

His regiment was present opposing the advance of Genl. Burgoyne, (for his company rolls are dated at Loudon's Ferry near Stillwater NY) and in the very severe battles at Stillwater of Sept 19th & Oct 7, 1777, which preceded the surrender October 17, 1777, of Genl Burgoyne and his entire army—

After these memorable events he joined the army near Philadelphia, under Genl Washington, which place had been occupied by the British Sept 26, 1777.

Hi company went into winter quarters 1777-8, at Valley Forge, Chester County Penn, where the soldiers suffered so much from the want of food and clothing.

The British evacuated Philadelphia June 18, 1778, and General Washington left Valley Forge to intercept them, overtaking the enemy at Monmouth N.Y. where a battle took place June 28, 1777 on excessive[ly] hot day, in which Hitchcock must

have participated, from thence pursued the British to New Brunswick N.J. where they embarked on board of their war Vessels for New York City and the Americans turned off to, and crossed the Hudson river to encamp at White Plains, N.Y. where his company, remained, and also, at Peekskill N.Y. until the fall of 1778, then ordered to Mohawk Valley—in central part of the state. The Indians had committed depredations, massacred the settlers in Wyoming Valley July 3, 1778, at Cherry Valley in Otsego County NY. Nov 10, 1778, carried away captives &c.

Genl Sullivan was sent in July 1779 to chastise them & was joined by a large force of N.Y. troops—Colo Cortland continued there in 1779 & 1780 but the rolls are missing so that it is not certainly known, if he was in the expedition, but he was at Fort Herkimer in 1781.

Colo Cortland was at the siege of Yorktown Va. in Oct 1781 which is reported in history as in command of N.Y. Militia, as there was none from the Northern States there & the above mentioned certificate to Hitchcock indicates he was in command of the 2d regiment to the end of the war.