

Pension Application for John Lawrence

S.28786

State of the four Regiments, raised in the Colony of New York, for the Continental service, and the order of their Rank.—

4th Regiment.

James Holmes, Colonel, June 30th 1775, June 30th 1775.
Philip Van Cortlandt, Lieut Coll, June 30th
Barnabas Tuthill, Major, June 30th
Job Mulford, Adjutant, August 2d
Benj'n Chapman 2d Master

1st Com.

Henry B. Livingston, Captain, June 28th
Jacob Thomas 1st Lieutenant June 28th
Isaac Paddock 2d Lieut July 19th

2d

Joseph Benedict, Captain, July 27th
Samuel Sackett 1st Lieut June 28th
Gould Bouton 2d Lieut August 3d

3d

Nathaniel Woodward Captain June 28th
Abraham Riker 1st Lieut June 28th
John Lawrence 2d Lieut August 1st

4th

Rufus Herrkick Captain, June 28th
Charles Graham 1st Lieut ditto
Jesse Thompson 2d Lieut do

5th

Ambrose Horton, Captain June 28th
Samuel T. Pell 1st Lieut July 13th
Isaac VanWert 2d Lieut August 3d.

6th

Daniel Mills Captain June 28th
Elijah Hunter 1st Lieut do
Miles Oakley 2d Lieut August 3d.

7th

Jonathan Platt Captain June 28th
David Dan 1st Lieut do
Manning Bull 2d Lieut June 28th

8th

Jacobus, Wynkoop, Captain June 28th
Anthony Welfh 1st Lieut do
Thomas Leroy 2 Lieut July 7th

9th

Jacobus Rosecrans Captain August 3d
Thomas Lee 1st Lieut do
William Balger 2d Lieut August 21st

10th

David Palmer Captain
William Crane 1st Lieut
William Matthewman 2d Lieut

Ebenezer Haviland Surgeon August 4th Mate 2d ditto

Whereas, the provincial Congress of the Colony of the New York hath resolved and ordered, as follows, that is to say, that the New York regiment, but the first or Senior Regiment of the troops raised in this Colony and take rank accordingly and unanimously approved of Alexander McDougall for Colonel, Rudolphus Ritzema for Lieutenant Colonel and Herman Ledwitz for Major of the first Regiment. That Goose VanSchaicks, Regiment be the second Regiment and take rank accordingly, and unanimously approved of Goose VanSchaick for Colonel, Peter Yates for Lieutenant Colonel, and Peter Gansevoort Junior for Major of the second regiment. That James Clinton Regiment, be the third Regiment and take rank accordingly, and unanimously approved of James Clinton for Colonel, Cornelius D. Wynkoop for Lieutenant Colonel and Henry Livingston Junior for Major of the third Regiment, that James Holmes Regiment be the fourth Regiment, and take rank accordingly and unanimously approve of James Holmes for Colonel Philip Cortlandt for Lieutenant Colonel and Barnabas Tuthill for Major of the fourth Regiment. And whereas the provincial Congress have appointed a Committee to form and determine the rank of the Captains and inferior officers in each Regiment and of the Captains and inferior officers of the several Regiment, the said Committee being therefore met to execute the powers to them delegated by the provincial Congress, unanimously elected Colonel Jacob Blackwell Chairman of the said Committee and John McKesson for their Clerk, and the said Committee have mutually and deliberately considered of the rank of the Captains and inferior officers, in each Regiment and of the rank of the Captains and inferior officers of the several Regiments Do resolve agree and order That the officers of each respective Regiment shall take rank and command in their respective Regiments in the order they stand above numbered. And that the officers of the several Regiments, when they serve together shall take rank and command according to the seniority of their Regiments and their numbers in their respective Regiments that is to say that the first or highest in rank of the first or other senior Regiment present, shall command the officers of equal or inferior rank of any other Regiment present. That a first captain in any Regiment, shall always command a second Captain in any other Regiment. That the first Lieutenant in the first company of the first or other senior Regiment then present, shall command all other Lieutenants present, and the first Lieutenant in any first company of any Regiment, shall command the first Lieutenant

in the second company of any other Regiment then present; and in the like order throughout the whole of the said Regiments.

By order of the Committee. Jacob Blackwell Chairman
Attest, John McKesson Clerk New York August 4th 1775.

State of New York
County of Queens SS

Personally appeared before me Benjamin W. Strong one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Queens in the State of New York, the within named John Lawrence whose name is subscribed to the deposition hereto annexed taken before me in the twenty first day of November last past and the said John Lawrence being by me duly sworn did depose and say:

That at the time he entered the service of the United States as stated in his declaration hereby amended, the company in which he served as Second Lieutenant was commanded by Nathaniel Woodward as Captain; and that said Woodward commanded the same until he resignation of his captain in February 1776.

That some time in August or September 1775, this deponent being then in the City of New York assisted the regiment under the command of col. McDougall, and the City Militia in removing the cannon from the battery to prevent their falling into the hands of the British.

That in the Fall of 1775 this deponent proceeded with his company by water to Albany and marched thence to Ticonderoga. That a part of the company was detached from the latter place to act with the troops under General Montgomery—this deponent remaining at Ticonderoga with the rest of the company. That some time in February 1776, the said company returned to New York having been relieved at Ticonderoga by troops from the Green Mountains (new Vermont).

That the regiment to which this deponent was attached was commanded by Col. James Holmes, who at Albany promoted this deponent to a captaincy some time in February 1776, while the deponent was on his way to New York. That the Deponent continued in New York or its neighborhood until the battle of Long Island which took place in August 1776 when they troops commanded by this deponent as captain were under the orders of Col. Col. Lewis Dubois.

That the deponent continued in the service during the retreat of the army after the last mentioned battle, and its operations along the Hudson river and its neighborhood, being part of the time under the command of Col. VanCortlandt and part under that of Col. Dubois. That he was engaged in the battle of White Plains in October 1776; wintered with the troops at Fort Montgomery; was at Peekskill where the stores were destroyed by the Americans on their retreat thence in March 1777. That he assisted in blowing up Fort Constitution after the capture by the British of Fort Mongomery [Montgomery] in the year 1777—and was nearly opposite Kingston with the American troops when that town was burnt by the enemy.

That this deponent was afterwards placed under the [?] with orders of Governor Clinton who held a commission as Brigadier General of the troops of the United

States; and so continued until the spring of 1778, when the five New York Regiments were reduced—and the deponent was one of the officers whose commissions expired by lot.

And this deponent says that by reason of old age and unfrequent loss of memory, and from the loss of his papers 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; for seven months he served as a second lieutenant; and for two years and two months he served as captain and for said service he claims a pension, and this deponent further says that the detachment from his company that proceeded to St. Johns was commanded by Lieut Abraham Riker, Captain Woodward being then Sick. That Lieut Riker was with the army in New Jersey under the command of Genl Washington and died in the service at Valley Forge when the army wintered there. (Signed) John Lawrence

Sworn to and subscribed this 16th February 1833 before me. Benj'n W. Strong
Judge of Queens County Common Pleas &c.