

Pension Application for William Lee

W.20454 (Widow: Sarah) William died 24 Nov'r 1836.

State of New York

County of Columbia SS.

This day of October 1932 personally appeared before the Honorable Medad Butler one of the Judges of the Court of common Pleas in and for the said County of Columbia, William Lee a Resident of the Town of Canaan County and State aforesaid, aged sixty eight years, who first being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

In the fore part of October 1779 he went as a substitute for his father Cyrus Lee, was recruited for three months as New York militia, under Capt. Roger Linne, Lieut Moses Jones Ensign ----Jakeway, Orderly Sergeant Lyman Jackson 2 Sergeant George Anderson, belonged to Colo. Platt's Regiment was organized at Fishkills, other Regiments present, Lieut Colo. Ason Waterman's, Colo. Heathorn's, Colo. John Graham's Colo Lewis Debois, Colo. Roswell Hopkins did duty as a private on guard, was out on various scouts and was on Governor Clinton's guard for one week during his attendance at that place, and served the time out.

On the first of July 1780 volunteered for three months under Capt. Elijah Bostwick Lieut John Calendar, Orderly Sergeant, Samuel Brown, was organized at Fishkill in Colo John Graham's Regiment, Lieut Colo. Livingston, Major Woolsey, Adjutant Fundey, Quarter Master Sergeant William Truesdale.

Went from Fishkills to West Point saw a man hung at this place as a spy, as he was informed; he this applicant was on duty at this place every day with others for about three weeks in carrying cannon shot and cannon and other munitions of war from the fort down to the water side &c, as was said for the Grand Army at the south; from thence wesnt to Stoney Point form thence to Haverstraw, from thence to Danbs's ferry, whilst at Danbs's ferry an armed Brig belonging to the enemy ran an abar or aground in Tappen Bay after some exchange of shots she succeeded in getting off there were ordered back to West Point did not stay more than two hours.

Then went to Fishkill landing, went aboard of the boats and sailed to Albany the Regiments now as by companies sent different ways, from this place went to Fort Edward thence to the bock house Garrison so called , built by Stillwater and Ballston militia; he after the expiration of the term recruited for, did volunteer with many others to stay one month longer till they were relieved by other militia companies making 4 months service in this campaign.

On the last of September or first of October 1781 volunteered under Capt. John Davis, Orderly Sergeant Stephen Morse organize at New Concord so called and joined Colo Asa Waterman's Regiment at Stillwater, Adjutant Jonathan Warner went to Sarratoga [Saratoga] in consequence of the news that the enemy had crossed over

from Canada, served in going and coming and reckoning the time spent there in all one month.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity, except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency of any state.

Answered to Interrogatories

1. He was born in the town of Lyme County of New London and now State of Connecticut on the 24th of October in the year 1764.
2. He has had an attested copy of his age from the town Register of the town of Lyme, but it is mislaid or lost.
3. He lived when called into service in 1779 in Kings district County of Albany and Colony of New York and in the two following campaigns he lived about 4 miles distance from the place where he lived in the first campaign and where he has for the most part of the time resided since the revolutionary war and where he now resides.
4. He was a substitute in 1779 for his father Cyrus Lee in 1780 volunteered and in 1781 also volunteered.
5. He saw General Benedict Arnold and General Poor at West Point General Glover, General Patterson & Colo Hamilton.
6. He does not recollect that he ever received a written discharge but was told that they were ready but did not take the trouble to get them, in the last campaign he thinks they were dismissed. (Signed) William Lee

Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid before me. Medad Butler

Letter in folder dated October 26, 1931 written in response to an inquiry.

Reference is made to your letter relative to William Lee, who served in the New York troops in the War of the Revolution.

You are furnished herewith the record of the only soldier named William Lee who served with the New York troops, that is found in the Revolutionary War records of this office.

The data furnished herein are obtained from the papers on file in the pension claim, W.20454 based upon the military service of William Lee in the War of the Revolution.

William Lee, the son of Cyrus Lee, was born October 24, 1764 at Lyme, New London County, Connecticut.

He enlisted early in October 1779, while residing in Kings District, Albany County, New York, and served as a substitute for his father, three months as private in Captain Roger Kinne's company in Colonel Platt's New York regiment.

He moved to Canaan, Columbia County, New York, and enlisted July 1, 1780, and served four months as private in Captain Elijah Bostwick's company in Colonel John Graham's New York regiment, and was in a skirmish at Dobbs Ferry. He enlisted in the fall of 1781 and served one month in Captain John Davis' company in Colonel Asa Waterman's New York regiment.

He was allowed pension on his application executed, October 13, 1832, then a resident of Canaan, New York.

He died November 24, 1836.

He married, October 10, 1788 at Norfolk, Connecticut, Sarah Comstock.

She was allowed pension on her application executed, May 8, 1840, then a resident of Canaan, New York, and was aged seventy-four years.

Their daughter, Lydia, was born January 15, 1789, and in 1840 was living in Canaan, with her mother. She stated that she was their "oldest and only child".