

Pension Application for John Williams

S.41343

State of Vermont

Windham SS

On this seventeenth day of April 1818 before me the subscriber assistant or side Judge of the Hon. County Court for said County personally appears John Williams aged sixty eight resident in Vernon in said County who being by me first duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the late act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the Land and Naval service of the United States in the revolutionary War that he the said John Williams enlisted at the City of New York in the month of March 1776 as a soldier to serve during the war in the company of Captain Bowman and in Col. Knox's Regiment of Artillery, that he served in said Corps until the evacuation of Nw York, when he was taken a prisoner by the British and confined first in the city hall, and afterwards³in a place called the college till the city took fire when he was removed to the City Hall where he remained a few days and was returned to the college. That he remained prisoner confined as aforesaid until July 1777 when taking advantage of permission given to the prisoners of cooking their own provisions and burying their dead comrades, he contrived to make his escape with one George Daniels, that he immediately repaired with said Daniels to headquarters at Cherry Valley in Pensylvania [Pennsylvania] and reported himself to an officer known by the title and name of Adjutant General John Dexter where after answering interrogatories respecting his escape and the situation of the enemy he received a pass to Boston back with orders to be in readiness and to join said regiment whenever called for that this order was given verbally by Gen. Washington to said Williams and to said Daniels, General Washington at the same time giving each of them thirteen dollars to defray their expenses.

That the said William went immediately to Thompson in Connecticut where he remained until the close of the War. That he never was called to join said Regiment which he has reason to believe was occasioned by a report that he had died at the college, and his reason for so believing is, that a Sergeant in the same Company has since the war told said Williams that he (the Sargeant [Sergeant]) had heard so.

That he was in the engagements when the British shipping attacked New York, and that he recollects firing upon the British ships Phoenix and Rose when they sailed up [the] North River and when they returned which was before the enemy landed on long [Long] Island. That while at Thompson aforesaid he volunteered in all cases of alarm and was in the Battle when genl Wooster was killed and when Danbury was burnt.

That he is in reduced circumstances and stands in need of assistance from his country for support and that he has no other evidence now in his power of his said services his said pass having been long since destroyed. (Signed) John Williams

Sworn to and declared before me the day and year aforesaid. Gilbert Denison,
Asst Judge of the County Court.