

Pension Application for Melancthon Lloyd Woolsey

W.18379 (Widow: Alida) Melancthon Died June 29, 1819.

B.L.Wt.2326-200Lieut. Issued Mar 6, 1792. Recorded as of Mass. Troops. No papers.
State of New York

County of Clinton SS

On this twenty sixth day of June 1818 before me this subscriber; one of the Justices of the Supreme Court of Indicature of the State of New York, personally appears Melancthon Lloyd Woolsey aged sixty years, resident in the town of Plattsburgh in the County of Clinton in the said State, 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 Melancthon Lloyd Woolsey being driven from his residence on Long Island in consequence of the occupation by the Enemy, was appointed an Ensign in (he believes) the 4th New-York Regiment, which was commanded by Colonel Henry L. Livingston—that declining this appointment, he afterwards, in November 1776 joined Genl Lee's division of the Army at Peekskill, and attached himself to Colonel Glover's (afterwards Gen Glover) regiment as a volunteer.

That having been previously acquainted with Colonel Palfrey, the then paymaster general, he was invited by that gentleman to be at home in his quarters, & to assist him in the duties of his office as he at that time was without a clerk, with him I remained, & when military or other project was a foot, joined my regiment.

After the Capture of General Lee, having shared the provisions, & subsequent the orders of Genl Sullivan & shortly joined the remnant of the army under the commander in Chief t Newtown in Pennsylvania, in December—that the attack upon Trenton on the 26th he carried his musket.

That on the first day of January 1777 he was appointed Col. William S. Smith Lt Colo and [blank] Swazy Major. The Paymaster Genl being absent in Philadelphia, he was ordered to [?] town with the military Chest after the Army had taken the position there—that during the winter he was often engaged with military detachments, in straightening the enemys quarters, interrupting their forages &c in one of which, wherever a large number of waggons, horses & provisions were captured, he recd a wound in the leg, which at this day is an open & he believes, an incurable Ulcer.

That from March to June of that year he resided with his widowed mother at Danbury in Connecticut. That he was acting as Aid-de-camp to Genl Wooster & was by his side when he fell ;the day after the burning of Danbury—that shortly after he continued the same character to Genl Parsons at the conflagration of Norwalk & fought as a volunteer at the burning of Fairfield.

In June he rec'd orders to repair to Boston & engage in the recruiting service—that he obeyed & remained there till December following, when he marched with a detachment to be moved, taking an amt of fixed ammuniton for Carlisle, but stopped

at Lancaster, where his men were inoculated (such as had not had it) for the small pox; after which the Regt was ordered to Valley forge and were immediately detailed in advance to the Gulf mills, whose possessions continually harassed until Sir Henry Clinton evacuated Philadelphia.

At the Battle of Monmouth the regiment was distinguished for the steadiness.

After the army had reached the Hudson—he with his corps & many others were detached to the siege of the Newport on Rhode Island under the orders of Genl Sullivan & his accomplished lieutenants Greene & LaFayette. When the unfortunate space of this siege [siege] (in consequence of this disaster of the French fleet) was confirmation the enemy followed, in [????????]

The army at Providence & their regiment at Pawtuxet, this deponent was called to Providence by Genl Sullivan to act as Judge Advocate of the division and the first of Jan'y 1779 was furloughed to visit his mother's family. The following spring a new arrangement of the army took place.

The Regiments were but skeletons & the three Regiments of the 16 additional raised in Massachusetts were consolidated in one—the command of which, Lee & Henley having resigned, remained with Colo Henry Jacksons – Lt Col Smith—Capt David Vanhorne, Lt M. L. Woolsey & Ensign John Smith the only officers, natives of N. York were deranged. This deponent served in this regiment all 1777 & 1778 & till May 1779 when he and nother [another] of the new arrangement two years five months—in 79 he was attached to Governor Clintons person when ever the militia of the State was called out—in 1780 in this pressing instance of Gov'r Clinton he accepted a majority in one of these Regiments raised by the State to reinforce the Army of the United States & served from April to November—fought at Schorie [Schoharie] & on the Mohawk, bring ordered to the frontier in Sept from the main army near Dobb's Ferry—after which he returned from military life—having lost his patrimony by deprecation of public papers & the necessary expenses of his station;--his father fell under and the gallant Howe in the years 1758 in the service of his country (leaving him only 5 months old)—in command of a Regiment as Colonel.

His commission as Lieut signed by John Hancock President, is mislaid, but his name will doubtless be found on the records of the day, in the war office.

His Major's Commission is attached hereto & the [?] under which he acted on the [?]

That he is now in reduced circumstances and stands in need of the assistance of his country for support & that he [has] no other evidence in his power of his said services.

Sworn to and declared before me the day and year aforesaid. WW. Van Ness
one of the Justices Sup. Court State NY. (Signed) Mel D. Woolsey