

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Louis Godard (Gordard): R4103

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of New York

Franklin County SS

On this 11th day of October 1832 personally appeared in the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Franklin now sitting in the Town of Malone in said County Louis Gordard a resident of the Town of Fort Covington in said County aged eighty five years, who being first sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7, 1832. That he was born in the year 1747 at the City of Rouen in Normandy, France, and about the time of the commencement of the American Revolutionary war he entered on board an American Ship of War called the Providence or Boston and after a passage of about four & a half months arrived at Providence or Boston in this Country that soon after his arrival in this Country he entered the service in a regiment of light horse and served therein during the war. That he was then unacquainted with the English language & now but imperfectly understands it & is therefore unable to remember the names of his officers and of the places through which he passed. That he recollects the Generals Washington, Rochambeau & LaFayette. was in the battles of Monmouth & distinctly recollects the defection [?; see note below] of Gen. Lee - and that he was in the battle of Yorktown [Siege of Yorktown VA, 28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781]. he entered the service at or near the point where he landed in America.

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

Louis hisXmark Gordard

And the said court do hereby declare their opinion that the above named applicant Louis Goddard was a Revolutionary Soldier and served as he states - which opinion is founded on the answers to a great variety of interrogatories propounded to the applicant and answered under oath in open court - which interrogatories the court deemed it proper to put to him in consequence of the evident prostration of his mental faculties & confusion and uncertainty of his recollection proceeding from advanced age & bodily debility. the answers of the applicant were not uniform in relation to dates and places but invariably connected with the known facts. and an indirect question in relation to the battle of Monmouth (which action was not by the court designated by name) was answered in such manner as to convince the court that he was certainly present and served in that action. his recollection in relation to his age is distinct & is sustained by his appearance, his recollection in regard to many events of his service appear to be equally distinct but the names of officers and places are uncertain as stated by him, and different at different times. the first circumstance is in part attributed by the court to the general difficulty which a foreigner and Frenchman in particular experiences in adopting and recollecting English proper names, and the latter to the defect of memory already noticed.

William Hogan Fish Judge

Roswell Bates

Sam Hoard

H B [illegible] } Judges

Personally appeared before me the undersigned Justice of the Peace in and for the County of Franklin and State of New York Louis Godard who being duly sworn deposeth and saith that by reason of old age and consequent loss of memory 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 Eight months as ship Carpenter on board a vessel called he thinks the Providence and as he believes commanded by Capt Tucker or on which Capt Tucker was an officer on board which he entered in France after he came to this Country he served in a Corps of Light horse, and served therein as a private at least four years and a half, but cannot swear positively and certainly to other particulars of his service than set forth in his declaration in [illegible word] for such services I claim a pension. I have no living witness of my service, and no documentary evidence, no clergyman resides in my

neighborhood, but I refer for certificate of character, & evidence of general belief of my service
to Peter Lampier and Henry Cook or Stephen Wood[?] Lewis hisXmark Godard

NOTE: Godard may have referred to the ineptitude of Gen. Charles Lee at the Battle of
Monmouth NJ on 28 June 1778, for which Lee was dressed down on the field by Washington.