

Pension Application for Asa Andrews

S.16031

State of Vermont

Bennington County SS.

On this 6th day of August 1832, personally appeared in open court before the Hon'n the Court of Probate for the District of Manchester in the County of Bennington, now sitting Asa Andrews a resident of Arlington in the county of Bennington aforesaid aged nearly seventy five years who being first 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 seventh 1832.

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

That he was born in the State of Connecticut in Sept. Seventeen hundred and fifty seven—commenced service in the army of the United States by enlisting about the twentieth of May 1775 at Lenox in Massachusetts in a company commanded by Colonel Patterson of Lenox for a term of either eight or nine months (will not be certain which)—Soon after he enlisted the company marched for Boston and halted near that place about the first of June—

Colo. Patterson's regiment were about one mile south of Bunker Hill at the time of the battle on the 17th June 1775 were in sight of the field of battle abut not allowed to engage with & assist the retreating army after the Bunker hill battle they remained near Boston. Col. Patterson's regiment was stationed next the city. General Washington arrived there during the warm weather that season & when the time for which they were enlisted expired entreated them to remain until a reinforcement of regular troops arrived as he was assured the army would be reduced very low—he and most of the company remained until about the first of April 1775 when they were discharged.

At the time of this first enlistment was in his eighteenth year and furnished his own equipments & clothing during the whole ten months – This regiment as this deponent always has & still does suppose belonged to the State Troops of the State of Massachusetts.

When he left the army at Boston he was obliged to leave all his own arms & equipments which he never received pay for it.

Enlisted again for six months at Stockbridge (his place of residence) under Captain Aaron Rouley in the regiment command by Colonel Smith of Pittsfield of the State Troops (as he supposed & believes).

Sometime in June 1776, (Cannot recollect the day). The company in which he was, soon took up their march for the City of New York—marched west to the Hudson river oposite [opposite] Albany thence down the river on the east side by land until they were below the narrows & then went into a vessel & arrived in New York a few days before the declaration of Independence on the 4th July 1776—on their way down the river they passed undiscovered two british [British] ships which a few days after came down & fired into the city as they passed.

Gen. Washington was at that time in New York's with his army. Col. Smith's regiment had built a fort & were stationed about 6 miles up the river.

And on the day of the Battle on Long Island were to march to the city in order to join the part of the army on the Island but did not cross the Sound—and that night were stationed on the shores of the Hudson & east rivers within conversing distance as sentinels with strict orders to stop every boat & every person of whatever description—remained in this situation during the whole night—while the army were escaping from Long Island which escape was affected before day light on the following morning—

A few days after this Gen. Washington ordered the Barracks [?] be pulled down ;and sent the baggage up to Kings Bridge several miles above where he established his head quarters—

Soon after this these came for the Brittish vessels up the Hudson and six up the East river loaded with soldiers whom they landed on the Island a little above our regiment but so as to divide our brigade—our regiment were on the bank of the Hudson & the vessells [vessels] passed without firing a gun—but the Connecticut Troops who were situated on the bank of the East River fired on the vessels as they came & were fired on by them in return—a severe engagement took place & our regiment started to assist the Connecticut troops but met them preparing to fire upon them when Gen. Putnam arrived & gave orders to march immediately to join the rest of the army months before we were cut off from this march by the Brittish who intended to surround us—this was effected & we marched up to within 6 miles of Kings Bridge to head quarters. This was an extremely hot day & we suffered much from the heat and thirst—and many soldiers killed themselves when they got at the water by drinking too much.

The following night Gen. Putnam went down to New York City & marched up the American guards who were left there—coming between the Brittish who were stationed in a [?] of Half Moon across the Island—saw the Guards in the morning among whom were fifteen or twenty of our own company—

On this morning there was an engagement commenced early a few miles below our quarters between a party of about [3000?] brittish & a scouting party from our army—Gen. Washington called us all who were willing to volunteer and go and assist our party—our company went down and arrived at the scene of action after the riflemen where we were engaged a short time until the British party retreated & left them masters of the ground. Remained at head quarters until his time expired when he was discharged.

Both these discharges spoken of this deponent thinks (but cannot tell) were give by Gen. Washington but not supposing them worth anything has not preserved them—

And this deponent further saith that after this term of service & as he thinks about the first of September 1777, he again volunteered at Stockbridge with a company of about sixty men who went under a man by the name of Cook, and went and joined Gen. Gates's army at Stillwater. They were soon after sent out as a

scouting party on the east side of the Hudson at which business they continued for more than six weeks. (This was the most laborious service which he performed during the war) were at Scaghticoke [Schaghticoke] when the battle between Gen. Gates's army and Gen. Burgoyne's army about the middle of October 1778—Here we were joined by a regiment under the command of Col. Warner with orders to go to old Saratoga & stop the enemies march down the river—marched to a the Hudson and [waded?] it & remained at this place three days until the enemy appeared, then recrossed the river & went up to Fort Miller.

The night after this Gen. Burgoyne burnt Scuyler's [Schuyler's] Mill—and this deponent saw this fire—remained at this place till Burgoyne's army surrendered & was out on this term of service as a volunteer more than two months.

And this deponent further saith that he lived in Stockbridge in Massachusetts at the commencement of the war & after the war (a few years) removed to Arlington in the County of Bennington State of Vermont where he has lived ever since (except a few years which he was absent sometime since) & where he now resides.

And this deponent further saith that he knows of no persons now living whom he can procure to certify from their knowledge of his services in the revolutionary war that he was a soldier as he has herein stated—and that he has no record of his age unless it be in Connecticut and that it would be nearly impossible to procure one from there.

And he hereby relinquishes all claim to any pension except the present and declares that his name is not on the rolls (pension rolls) of any State. (Signed) Asa Andrews

Sworn & Subscribed the day and year aforesaid. Attest. Henry Robinson Register.

Letter in folder dated August 29, 1930.

You are advised that it appears from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim, S.16031, that Asa Andrews was born in September, 1757, in the State of Connecticut. His parents, whose names are not shown, were living at the time of the Revolution.

While residing in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, he enlisted May 20, 1775, served as a private in captain Charles Dibbell's Company, Colonel Paterson's Massachusetts Regiment, and was discharged about April 1, 1776. He stated that he was in sight of the battle of Bunker Hill but did not participate in said battle.

He enlisted sometime in June, 1776, and served as a private in Captain Aaron Rowley's Company, Colonel Smith's Massachusetts Regiment, length of service six months.

He enlisted about the first of September, 1777 and served about two months in Captain Cook's Massachusetts Company.

A few years after the Revolution, he moved to Arlington, Bennington Company, Vermont.

Pension was allowed on his application executed August 6, 1832, at which time he was a resident of Arlington, Vermont.

He died February 28, 1833.

The soldier married Levina, date of marriage and maiden name of wife not given. She was aged seventy years in 1833.

There is no reference to children.