

Pension Application for John Avery

W.5208 (Widow: Beulah) October 27, 1826, Beulah Briggs married John Avery who died on the 29 September 1840.

B.L.Wt.12579-160-55

State of Massachusetts

County of Franklin SS

On this first day of January in the year of our Lord 1833 personally appeared before the Hon. Richard E. Newcomb Judge of Probate for the County aforesaid in open Court now sitting within & for the County aforesaid.

John Avery a resident of Conway in the County of Franklin and State of Massachusetts aged [either 74 or 75] 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 provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

That eh entered the service of the United States in the Massachusetts militia the 19th of April 1776 and was led to the battle of Lexington by Col. Graton of Roxbury; and Capt Draper Leiuts Lewis and Fuller and En. Avery were the company officers after serving a few days till troops arrived from a distance he returned home, but was again called into the Militia to join the troops at Roseburg and was there both before and after the British troops evacuated Boston—that the whole time he was in the service at Roseburg after his return from Lexington was according to his best recollection one month or more.

Also that in the fall of 1776 he enlisted in the militia of Massachusetts in the service of the United States under the command of Capt Gould of Dedham Mass and the regt commanded by Col. Macintosh of Piedham Mass for the term of two months—that his company joined Gen. Washington's army near the White Plains New York but that owing to a sever fit of sickness he was unable to proceed farther than Fairfield conn where he was at the expiration of his term and continued some time longer for the recovery of his health;

Also that he enlisted in the regular army of the United States 1779 for nine months service but does not recollect the names of the officers of the Company or Regt to which he belonged—that he received a regular discharge from the service for nine months at the expiration of 8 months from time of enlistment in consequence of a mistake muster roll.

Also that July 5th 1780 he again enlisted in the army of the United States for six months and by liberty from the Legislation of Mass served in Capt Stephens Comp. Of Artillery, land Col. Lambs Regt, New York and was regularly discharged at the close of said term of 6 months.

That at each time of enlistment he resided in the town of Dedham and then County of Suffolk Mass.

That after the first enlistment as a regular soldier he joined the army some time in August 1779 at West Point [the] North river—that he was in a detachment consisting of five companies under the command of col Thompson stationed at Youngs house and that while there the british from New York with a superior force surprised the party and

killed and took a large part that engaged—but that as he was on a picquet guard at the time and was not called in till after the battle he escaped. This occurred in the winter after he enlisted. After this he returned to West Point and continued there till he received his discharge.

That on his second enlistment as a regular soldier he joined the army July 27, 1780 at a place on North river called Nelson's Point whence marched to Peekskill and thence to various places in the vicinity from time to time that he was present the 2nd October when Major Andre was executed and that he was discharged while at winter quarters near New Windsor.

That at each enlistment he entered voluntarily in the service and that he was not a substitute & that he has no documentary evidence of his militia service.

The period he served during his seven terms of enlistment was seventeen months.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. He received several written discharges but has lost them. Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

And he further states that he was born at Dedham Massachusetts near Boston (the place where he enlisted) Sept 9th 1758 & that there was in that town a record of his birth & that soon after the close of the revolutionary war he removed to Conway aforesaid where he has resided ever since William Billings Esq, Asa Howland Esq, John Williams Esq., Christopher Arms Esq Post Master, Jabez Newhall Jr., Rev'd Calvin Deyes & John Arms Esq, who were residing in my neighborhood and can testify as to my character for veracity and their belief of my services as a soldier of the revolution. (Signed) John Avery

Subscribed and sworn to on the day & year aforesaid. H. E. Newcomb. Judge of Probate.