

Pension Application for Solomon Banister

S.29602

Declaration, in order to secure the benefit of the Act of Congress, passed June 7, 1832.
Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

County of Worcester, SS.

On this twenty fourth day of August in the year of our Lord, eighteen hundred and thirty two personally appeared before Solomon Strong one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas Solomon Banister a resident of Brookfield in the County of Worcester and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, lagged ninety two years years, [sic] 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 7th 1832.

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

- 1- I was born in the town of Brookfield in the County of Worcester, on the 29th day of November A.D. O.S. [Old style] 1729 [probably should be 1739].
- 2- My name and age were registered within the records of said town of Brookfield but part of the said town Records were burnt and I do not know whether there is now any authentic record of my age.
- 3- I was living in the town of Brookfield when I was called into service;--I have lived in said Brookfield since the war all the time, and am now resident of said place.
- 4- I enlisted as a Sargeant [Sergeant] in Lieutenant's command at Brookfield aforesaid, and did the duty of a Sargeant in the Massachusetts Militia.

That in the year 1778 in March I was doing duty as a sargeant, to guard a quantity of powder that was collected and deposited in the school south of Chickopee [Chicopee] River; I remember the time because Gen. Spooner was murdered while I was on duty, and I was sent for to go to the well—A man by the name of Speakerman had the care of the stores some of the time, I used to take the powder out of the casks, carry it out and dry it and then carry it back and head it up again, as I did a little as a [?] while I kept guard, these loads of powder was sent to Norwich Landing and I went with six soldiers, and did not sleep till the powder was delivered into a haven? Or store at said Landing. I commanded the guard till all the powder was finally removed. When the powder was removed to Norwich a man came from Springfield Mass with orders to transport their stores of the powder under my care to Sturbridge, to take the powder, on a certain day, when the time arrived, the teams did not come quite as soon as they were expected, the agent set out after them, and taking one road, the teams arrived a few minutes after his departure coming the other road,--the powder was then loaded, but the agent did not return and Speakerman would not let the powder go till the same was receipted for by the advice of my friends as I was to go to guard it, I receipted for ;it & got nearly to Norwich, and when I delivered the powder I took a receipt that I had delivered a certain quantity of powder—and made the agent pay me a dollar before I would give him a receipt that the powder had been delivered.—I think I was on the guard

as much or more than two years. All the above service was done in the Massachusetts militia.

I never had any written discharge and I have not the receipt [???] the powder.

Rev. Micah Stone and Simeon Draper Esq have known me for a great number of years and will testify to my character for veracity, and their belief of my having performed the above duty as a soldier in the Revolutionary Army.

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.

I have no documentary evidence of service.

Interrogatories propounded by the Judge.

Q. 1. Where, and in what year were you born? A. I was born at Brookfield in the County of Worcester aforesaid on the 28th Nove 1739 Old Stile [style]

Q. 2nd. Have you any record of your age, and if so where is it? Ans 2nd My name and age was registered in the Records of Brookfield aforesaid, but the earlier records of the town were burned, and I know of no authentic record of my age.

Ques 3rd & 4th. Where was you living when called into service; were you drafted, did you volunteer, or where you a substitute, and if a substitute for whom? Ans 3rd & 4th. When the military stores were removed to Brookfield, I do not recollect the time, I was then a sargeant in the Militia Company, I enlisted as a sergeant, and think that I continued as sargeant until the military stores were removed, I was living in Brookfield aforesaid, and have been a resident of said town till the present time & I was doing the duty of a sergeant in said guard in the Massachusetts militia at time Levi Hathaway was wounded--, Also at the time that General Spooner was murdered, also at the time then load of powder &c were sent to Norwich, for I went to guard the stores—I think a term of two or three years, but I cannot remember certainly the length of time.

Ques. 5th. State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served, such continental and militia regiments as you can recollect, and the general circumstances of your service. Ans 5th. Capt Speakerman was commissary or agent and had care of the military stores, I was a Lieutenants guard, and different officers from time to time had the command.

Ques. 6th. Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so by whom was it given, and what has become of it? Ans 6th I never received any discharge.

Ques 7. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood, lwho can testify to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as s soldier in the revolution. Ans. 7. Rev. Micah Stone & Simeon Draper Esqr both of said Brookfield.

(Signed) Solomon Banister by Herman Stebbi;ns at his request and his permission.