

Pension Application for Nathaniel Bassett

W.15566 (Widow: Bethiah) Married September 27, 1781. He died May 6, 1846.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

County of Berkshire SS

On this twenty eight day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty tow personally appeared in open Court before me William P. Walker, Judge of the Court of Probate within & for the County of Berkshire now sitting, Nathaniel Bassett a resident of Lee in the County of Berkshire & Commonwealth of Massachusetts aged seventy four 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 7th, 1832.

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

In the winter of 1775 I resided in Sandwich in the County of Barnstable & Commonwealth of Massachusetts & in view of the situation of the Country inlisted with a company of Volunteers which was formed in Sandwich as minute men ready to march on any alarm to the defence of our Country; for the purpose of preparing ourselves to discharge the duties of soldiers we hired a man to instruct us in military discipline & tactics for three months.

We were frequently called out on alarms once to Bedford which was threatened by the British fleet & once to Falmouth the fleet lying off Homes Hale. We marched to Lexington, but the British having retreated into Boston we received orders to return. In the latter part of the Spring on the fore part of the summer of 1775, I enlisted at Sandwich into a company of State troops under Capt Grannies and served as a soldier for the defence of the Sea Coast for the term of six months. We were stationed the whole time on Nashawn Island.

In Jany 1776 I again enlisted at Sandwich into the State troops under Captain Elisha Nye for the term of one year. I was in the first place stationed on Nashawn Island. In the latter part of February or the forepart of Mach 1776 I was marched to Dorchester Heights where I assisted in building two forts, which Gen Washington inspected the morning after they were finished. I continued at Dorchester & Roxbury doing duty till the British evacuated Boston. I went in the company with Major Sprout on to Castle Island in the first boat after the enemy left it. The officers that I recollect being at Dorchester Roxbury besides those named was General Patterson & Colonel Berckiah Bassett. After two months serve at Dorchester I continued to Mashawn Island where I was stationed till the time of my enlistment expired, the whole term of which I was in actual service.

In February 1777 I enlisted on board the Continental Brig Cabbot at Boston & served two months on board of her when the Brigg was done as ad [?] on the coast of Moses Peotin by the British frigate Milford which was then cruising off our coast. We were obliged to abandon the Brig. The commandant of the brig was Captain Joseph Olney of Providence; most of his crew enlisted for a year, but I enlisted for a year but I enlisted at Boston for the Cruise only.

In the summer of 1777, I again enlisted into the service of the State under Capt. Joseph Palmer of Falmouth for the term of two months, which term I served at Providence the vicinity in the State of Rhode Island Colonel Josiah Whitney of Harvard commanded the Regiment.

On my leaving the place of my nativity in March 1780 the Select men of Sandwich gave me a "pass" containing a certificate of my services as a soldier, which paper in the handwriting of Benjamin Freesenden the town Clerk of Sandwich signed by Seth Freeman Micah Blackwell & Silvanus Nye is hereto annexed. The memorandum below their signatures is made by me at a subsequent period.

In July 1780 I enlisted as a volunteer in the town of Petersham in the County of Worcester in the commonwealth of Massachusetts for three months under Captain Ephraim Stearns the names of one of the Lieutenant was Rogers. I marched with the Company in the first place to Great Barrington in the County of Berkshire aforesaid there to await further orders.

We were thence ordered to Claverack in the County of Columbia & State of New York & thence to West Point. Whereafter a few days a detachment was made from the Regiment to which belonged of two Lieutenants & sixty men. The Lieutenants detached were Lieut Walker & Lieut Taft. I was among the men detached. A list of the men detached made out at the time by me is hereto annexed; it is in my possession as I acted as orderly Sergeant for the detachment. The names thereon which are interlined, were substitutes for those erased. This detachment were ordered to Verplanks Point where I remained in service during the time of my enlistment, three months.

I saw Gen Washington & Gen Knox with other officers land at Verplanck's Point on their way to Hartford to meet some French Officers. I assisted in drawing from the blockhouse a cannon which was fired at the British Ship, Vulture lying in the river below Verplanks Point, which caused her to haul off & thereby prevented Major Andres going above & ultimately caused his capture. I saw Gen Arnold sail down the river in his barge & being met by a barge from the Vulture, after a few moments delay he went aboard the Vulture.

I was born in Sandwich in the County of Barnstable & Commonwealth of Massachusetts on the 26th day of January 1758. I have no original record of my birth or age, the time of my birth is recorded on the town records in Sandwich. I was living in Sandwich at the time I first went into the service.

In 1780 I went to Petersham in the County of Worcester Massachusetts where I resided a few months until I enlisted as a volunteer as a above stated.

In the winter of 1781 in the County of Berkshire & resided there till April 1783 when I removed to Lee in said County of Berkshire where I have since & now reside. I always enlisted as a volunteer. I never had any written discharge Silvanus Dimmick now of Lee aforesaid served with me in 1775 at Washawn Island Cornelius Bassett now of Lee served with me at Nashawn in 1776 at Dorchester in 1777 at Providence & on board the brig Cabbot. Nathan Dillingham lately of Lee but now of Pittsfield in said County of Berkshire served with me in 1776 at Washawn Island & in 1777 at Providence. The above named persons have been acquainted with me from that time to the present

& the s'd Tillingham & Cornelius Bassett from the time of my childhood. The Rev Doct Hyde has been acquainted with me for more than forty years.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.
(Signed) Nathaniel Bassett.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid. W. P. Walker, J. Probate.