

Pension Application for Moses Baxter

R.636

State of New York

County of Washington SS

On this 28th day of May A.D. 1833 personally appeared in open court before us the Judges of the Court of Washington County Common Pleas now sitting Moses Baxter a resident of the town of Fort Ann County of Washington and State of New York, aged Eighty one years on the 29th day of February last past who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath made the following declaration according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration 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.

That while he lived in the town of Springfield County of Hamshire and State of Massachusetts and in the month of April A.D. 1775 the inhabitants came together under the alarming circumstances of the evy of War and as there were no regular Organised Military forces and no appointing power in tritunal to call upon to obtain commissioned Authority for Officers then [???] and elected Gideon Burt for a Col. Does not recollect as there were any other Regimental officers and he volunteered into the service under his command and he Col Gideon Burt selected his officers under him and this declarant was by him Col Burt elected to the command of a Company and received a written Commission from the said Col as a Captain that Gideon Burt Lieut, was commissioned as his Lieut and Nathan Bliss was also commissioned as he Ensign.

That his non Commissioned officers were as follows: Luther Cotton his frist Sergeant, Moses Mickel 2nd, Nathan Cotton 3rd, Mathew Kup 4th. That Frederick Burt—Eleazer Burt, Hezekiah Hale & Solomon Lumier were his Corporals—his musicians were Nathan Cotton drummer & John Cooly fifer, after being thus organized he was marched through the towns of Wilburangham, Kingstown, Brookfield, Spencer, Lusten, Wooster & Farmingham Sudbury, Waltham, Watertown in the town of Roxbury where he encamped on a hill in sight of the British Army and he was imployed [employed] in diging [digging] entrenchments & raising Breastworks on Bunker hill and Breeds hill. That for the month of June he with his company & others went on to Breeds hill and was engaged in throwing up a redoubt and was discovered the next morning and the British commanded a severe cannonade upon them from the ships and floating batteries and from Capps hill which continued until the afternoon they Capps hill which continued until afternoon they however continued their work intill [until] afternoon they however continued their work until as he thinks between one & two belak [below?] the British forces appeared advancing toward them slowly under the discharge cover of cannon on their way they set first to Charlestown and burnt it they were commonaded and did reserve their fire until they came within a very short distance when they apused in upon them and they fill back they by the exertions of their officers rallied and brought up their [?] and again was driven back, with some difficulty they were again brought up the third dime to works but his or their ammuniton was nearly exhausted and their

Artillery was brought to bear on them bust [breast?] works which raked it from end to end and he was obliged to retreat not having any bayonets.

That during this battle Gen Warner who was killed in the battle and Gen Tammeray he thinks arrived with reinforcements. He retreated under the fire of the British Floating Battery and the man of War he escaped and marched with those men he had left to Watertown where he remained until he was supplied with ammunition and new recruits when he marched to Roxbury where he was stationed and was as he now believes under the command of Gen. Thomas and was employed in fortifying a hill not far from a Meeting house and remained there until in August at which time he was discharged by parole and this declarant further saith he served and did his duty faithfully four months as a captain commissioned as above by his col Gideon Burt. That he has lost his said commission years ago but he actually performed the above service for which he claims a pension.

That he remembers that in July he thinks Gen George Washington came and took the Command of the Army which lay from Roxbury to Cambridge. That he remembers and knew Col Bliss and Regiment. That there were several other Regiments and officers whom he knew but he cannot from old age and loss of memory [memory] distinctly recollect their names—that the army was not under very great discipline was however resolved to die from rather than live slaves our only object was liberty & free rights.

That while he lived in the town of Springfield aforesaid and in the month of April A.D. 1777 he volunteered for a class of six men to which class he belonged for six months in the Massachusetts State Troops under the command of Capt Elijah Burt—Lieut Solomon Loomin and Ensign Ebenezer Bliss and was marched from Long Medow to called through the towns Howland in Connecticut State Smithfield into Providence where he was stationed a few day thence he was marched to Howlands Ferry where he crossed over and on to Rhode Island and he thinks he was marched to New Fort that after he went into Rhode Island he joined a Regiment but cannot remember the names of the office commanding that he was marched back to Howlands Ferry and was crossed over and was marched up the river to where he was stationed while the British came there and burnt the mills on the falls at which time he had a skirmish and they returned two of our men were killed and eleven men were killed as was reported of the British he was employed as a Guard a short time when he was marched through the town of Providence Smithfield through the state of Massachusetts into the State of Vermont where he joined Col. Hail's Regiment does not recollect the names of the other officers.

He was marched through Bennington and through the Wood to Ticonderoga and entered the Fort. That Gen [Livingston?] commanded there not long after he arrived he saw the British come up the Lake and he then drew up there canon [cannon] up on to Mount Defense after which there were one night some arrangements made to leave the Fort thinks Gen St. Clair gave directions and the invalids and such stores as could be moved were put on board of boats or bateaux and Tens with Col Long and Regiment up to Skeenesborough now White hall and before day light he was passed over to Mount Independence orders were issued not set fire to any thing and were with profound

silence and he recollects that after he left some one had set fire to a building which had been occupied by some of our officers, thinks Gen DeFurmay or De Furmin which set the enemy in motion and they came on and fired upon the rear but not to much effort he was marched by wood to Skeensborough from thence to Bennington where he remained and was present and in the battle of Bennington that Gen Starke commanded he this declarant came up in the rear of Baum's intrenchment when the General battle commenced which commenced in the afternoon—that Brum was wounded and died of his wound and all his troops were killed and taken Prisoners with a few exceptions that after him a reinforcement came on commanded by Col Brickman before whom he retreated until—Col Warner came on with his Regiment of Continental and Militia Regiment when the battle was sustained and continued until dark and under the cover of the night he made his retreat after the battle he remained a few days and was marched to Stillwater where he was stationed and was employed in scouting but out in small parties and when Burgoyne came down and a very short time of the first battle he was marched up the north river on the east side and placed as a guard sometimes at the forting place north of Fish Creek to intercept Burgoyne's retreat to Canada was present when he surrendered, he was detached and continued in the Service after this time expired and was sent with the prisoners of Burgoyne's army as a guard to Springfield in the state of Massachusetts, that he continued in the Service until in the month of November when he was discharged and this declarant further states he served and did his duty faithfully seven months as a private Soldier for which service he claims a Pension.

This declarant further saith he remembers of seeing during this campaign Gen Stark—Gen Arnold—Gen Putnam—Gen Allen—Gen Green—Gen Gates—Col Stark—Col Warner and several other officers and militia and Continental Regiments but cannot distinctly remember their names in consequence of old age and loss of recollection by infirmity and length of time.

This declarant further states that while he lived in Springfield aforesaid and in the month of December A.D. 1779 he enlisted in the State Troops Massachusetts line for the term of one year and after entering the service he was detached to drive a team of two yoke of oxen that there were ten teams in one Company was under the command of Capt David Burt and Gen J. Jones so called was forage Master and he was employed in transporting property belonging to the United States for the use of the Army (such as provisions and Ammunition &c) from Springfield to the Hudson River at Fishkill—Red hook—Hudson and from those places to Watertown in Massachusetts and many other places and he was continued in this service until in December A.D. 1780 when he received a written discharge signed by Capt David Burt which discharge is lost and gone some years ago. That he served and did his duty faithfully 1 year as a Private soldier for which he claims a pension.

This declarant further saith that while he lived in the town of Springfield aforesaid and in the month of June A.D. 1780 he volunteered and entered the service in the State Troops Massachusetts line for four months under the command of Capt Ira Walker Lieut Aaron Bliss & Ensign Henry Stiles and was marched through Willorroughhorn Munson

Stafford, Providence to Fall river and was stationed there and was employed in Scouting up the river and in several other places and remained there until in the month of October when his time expired and he received a written discharge but does not recollect who signed it and it was by accident burnt up. That he served and did his duty four months as a private soldier for which he claims a pension, and he thinks or does not remember that there were any other troops out where he was and he further states that while he lived at Springfield and in the month of June A.D. 1776 the militia were called out in Mass in an account of an alarm occasioned by the enemy coming into the town of Wooster where there were United States stores deposited and was under the command of Capt Luther Cotton and he went on to Wooster [Town?] in [?] and some in wagon and remained there as near as he can recollect two weeks and was discharged, that he served and did his duty as a private soldier two weeks in that he does not remember and other officer at this time.

That he has no documentary evidence and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service. That there is no Clergyman residing in his neighborhood who knows him.

1. That he was born in the town of Infield County of Hartford and State of Connecticut in the year A.D. 1752.
2. That there is no record of his age in the town where he was born he has also a record in his Family bible.
3. That he lived in the town of Springfield County of Hampshire and State of Massachusetts when he was called into the service and that since the revolutionary War he has lived in Springfield aforesaid Towland in Connecticut Pittsfield in Massachusetts the Town of Kingsbury State of New York and in Fort Ann where he now lives and has lived forty years.
4. That he volunteered & enlisted into the service.
5. That he cannot remember more distinctly the names of his officers or that of Continental or Militia Regiments or the circumstances of his service than he has stated in the body of his declaration by reason of age and infirmity and loss of memory.
6. That he received two written discharges and he thinks Capt David Burt signed one the other he does not remember who did sign and that both of them is lost and destroyed.
7. That he is known in the neighborhood where he resides to John Hillburt—William A. Moore—Lemuel Bush—Henry Thorn, Nathaniel Titcher, Benjamin Copeland, Calvin Mason, and many others who can testify that he is reputed and believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a soldier of the Revolution and that they concur in that opinion.

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 any state or territory.
(Signed) Moses Baxter

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. J. S. Leigh Clk.