

Pension Application for Elisha Benedict

S.12183

State of New York

Yates County SS.

On this 28th day of September 1832, personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas now sitting Elisha Benedict a resident of the Town of Jerusalem in the County of Yates, and State of New York, aged 72 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 7, 1832.

That he was born in the town of Norfolk, Litchfield County, Connecticut on the fifth day of July 1760 according to a record taken from the family Bible of the father of this deponent. That this deponent resided at Ballston, Albany (now Saratoga) County, N.Y. during the most part at the time of the Revolutionary War.

In the fall of 1775 this deponent was drafted in the Militia under Capt. Collins, in Schoonover's Regiment, so called, Gen. Ten Broock commanding, and as a private proceeded in the company aforesaid to Fort Edward, and was employed in making causeways and in constructing a big breastwork for the use of the American forces under Montgomery on their route to Canada—and this deponent was thus engaged, four or five weeks when the aforesaid militia were disbanded and this deponent returned home to Ballston.

In the year 1776, this deponent served three or four weeks in the Militia who were drafted to proceed to Schoharrie to guard the inhabitants against the Indians. In the spring of 1777, this deponent volunteered in the militia, and proceeded in a company commanded by deponent's father—Elisha Benedict, Lieut. Commandant Gordon which in command on a scouting expedition to check the Tories on and about the Kiadarasa mountains and took one William Frazer and about forty others prisoners. This deponent was engaged at this time three or four weeks.

In the year 1778, this deponent was drafted in the militia aforesaid, under Capt. Van Debarrack Judge White, Lieutenant and proceeded to Fort Planck at Canajoharrie [sic], as a guard to the inhabitants, at the time Cherry Valley was destroyed by the Indians; was at Cherry Valley the day after the massacre, and guarded those that picked up the dead in the neighborhood for burial. This deponent was engaged at this time upwards of two months.

In October of the same year the resident of the father of this deponent at Ballston was destroyed by the Tories and Indians, and Lieut. Col. Gordon and the father and three brothers of this deponent were taken prisoner. This deponent escaped, with only the clothing on his back and went to sea.

In the spring of 1782, this deponent as a substitute for his cousin, Joshua Benedict, served in the Militia of Connecticut two months, at Horse Neck under Capt. Couch and Col. Canfield, of New Milford.

This deponent never had a written discharge, knows of no person living by whom he can prove his services. This deponent continued to reside at Ballston aforesaid for many years after the Revolutionary War, then removed to Reading Steuben County, NY upwards of thirty years ago, where he remained until about five years ago when he removed to Jerusalem, where he now resides.

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.

And this deponent while in court further recollects and says that during the Revolutionary War, the year he does not remember, he was drafted and served one month at Palmerstown now Saratoga County as a guard to the inhabitants, and was quartered at one Perry's. (Signed) Elisha Benedict

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. T. J. Morris Dep. Clerk.

Letter in folder dated January 14, 1937, written in response to a request for information.

Reference is made to your letter in which you request the Revolutionary War record of Captain Elisha Benedict, of Ballston, New York, who with three sons, was captured in an Indian and Tory raid in 1780, and carried to Canada.

There is no claim for pension or bounty land on file based upon the military service in the Revolutionary War of a Captain Elisha Benedict. The record has been found however, of Elisha Benedict, who was the son of Captain Elisha Benedict, of Ballston, New York. His record is furnished herein as it may be of interest to you.

The data which follow are obtained from the papers on file in the Revolutionary War pension claim, S.12183, based upon the military service in that war of Elisha Benedict, the only soldier of that name that is found on the records of this office.

Elisha Benedict was born in Norfolk, Litchfield County, Connecticut, July 5, 1760, and was the son of Elisha. The name of his mother is not shown.

While residing in Ballston, Albany (later Saratoga) County, New York, Elisha Benedict enlisted and served as a private in the New York troops, as follows: from the fall of 1776, one month in Captain Collins' Company, Colonel Schoonover's (probably meant for VanSchoonhoven) Regiment, marched to Fort Edward and was engaged in building causeways and breastworks in 1776, three weeks under three weeks under Lieutenant Brown, served at Schoharie as a guard for the inhabitants; in the spring of 1777, one month in his father's company, went on a scouting party against the Tories and took over forty prisoners: in 1778, two months in Captain "VanDebarrock's" Company, acted as a guard at Fort Planck and the day after the massacre at Cherry Valley went to that place and guarded the teams fathering up the dead for burial: in 1779, his father's residence was burned by the Tories and Indians and his father, Captain Elisha Benedict and three brothers (names not given) and Lieutenant Colonel Gordon taken prisoners. This soldier managed to escape with only the clothing which he wore after which he sent to sea. He gave no details of his sea service nor are there any further data in regard to the captivity of his father and brothers. He stated that he served another month in the New York troops as a guard in Saratoga County, but gave no dates nor names of his officers. In the spring of 1782, this soldier served two months as a substitute for his cousin, Joshua Benedict, of Connecticut, as a private in Captain Couch's Company, Colonel Canfield's Connecticut Regiment and was stationed at Horse Neck.

After the Revolution Elisha Benedict continued to reside in Ballston, New York, until about 1802, when he moved to Reading, Steuben County, New York, thence to Jerusalem, Yates County, New York.

He was allowed pension on his application executed September 28, 1832, while residing in said Jerusalem, where he had lived five years.

There is no reference to wife or children.