

Pension Application for Ebenezer Benjamin

S.12151

State of New York
Oneida County SS.

On this seventh day of August 1832 personally appeared before the subscriber Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of said County, Ebenezer Benjamin, a resident of said County and State, Aged Sixty six 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 entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated: That he was born at Preston Con. April 4th 1766—That there is no record of his age to his knowledge. That he lived at Canaan Col Co. NY when called into service—Since war a company called the Silver Greys and served about four months at & about FishKill. That in April 1781 he enlisted in Canaan in Capt. Silas Gray's in a regiment under the command of as he thinks Col. John McKinstry--at the time of enlistment but afterwards he thinks Col. Willet had command for nine months—and was stationed at Saratoga & about there. On the 6th day of April 1782 this deponent again enlisted at Canaan for nine months in Capt. Joseph Harrison's Co, Col. Willett's Regiment—and went to Schoharie—and from thence the deponent went to Catskill & stationed abt two months & then to Schoharie—and the dept was taken sick as stated in written affidavit. This deponent rec'd a written discharge first Service but not the second—and the same has been kept. This deponent is now blind—and he refers to the annexed affidavits said papers as proof of his service and veracity.

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. (Signed with his mark) Ebenezer Benjamin.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. J. Hathaway, Judge of Oneida comm. Pleas.

And the said Judge do hereby declare his opinion, after the investigation of matter, and after putting the interrogatories prescribed by the War Department, that the above named applicant was a Revolutionary Soldier and served as he states: And the Judge further certifies, that it appears to him that Benjamin P. Johnston who has signed the last certificate is a resident in Rome and is a Commissioner and is a credible person, and that his statement is entitled to credit. And that the said Ebenezer Benjamin from bodily infirmity is not in a situation to attend court being entirely blind. J. Hathaway, The Judge of Oneida Comm Pleas.

State of New York
Oneida County SS.

On this 18th day of Nov 1832 before me a Judge of Oneida Com. Pleas personally appeared Ebenezer Benjamin, within named, and makes the following additional declaration or affidavits That as to his service—

In 1779, (he can't state the day of the month or the month) he volunteered in the Militia in a company called the Silver Greys, Commanded by Moses Jones (1) Lt. commandant acting as Captain and Lieutenant Jaques (2), these officers resided in what was called New Lebanon now Columbia Co. NY—This deponent acted as a waiter (3) to Lieut. [J]Jaques—marched from New Concord in said Col. Co. and marched through Claverack, Livingston Manor, Rhinebeck, Red Hook, Poughkeepsie, to FishKill and was stationed on the hill about half a mile from the Yellow Church in Fishkill, and served about Four Months—This deponent cannot by reason of his age & loss of memory swear positively as to the precise length of his service but according to his best recollection he served not less than four months—that he recollects was the time for which the company was called out.

That in April 1781, he enlisted in Canaan Columbia County NY for nine months in Capt. Silas Grey's (4) company in a regiment commanded as he thinks by Col. John McKinstry (5) when he enlisted but afterwards he thinks Col. Willett had command. Lieut. Fonda (6) belonged to the company—Sergeant Seth Rowley (7) whose affidavit is annexed, marched several of the soldiers of which deponent was one from Canaan through Kinderhook Schodack and Greenbush to Albany – and remained there at the barracks two or three weeks under the command of Lieut Fonda and from there marched under him up the river to Saratoga—and there were placed under the command of Capt. Silas Grey and remained at Saratoga until cold weather and until the term of service of service had expired being about the commencement of the year 1782. When the company were discharged—this deponent received a written discharge—He served his tour his full term of nine months. Recollects Col. VanSchaack(8)—who was at Saratoga part of the time we were there.—The discharge which deponent received was signed as he believes by a Capt. Darrow (9) who was with the troops—but the same has long been lost—or else signed by Col. McKinstry and he's not certain which.

On the 6th day of April 1782 again enlisted at Canaan Col. Co. for nine months, in Capt. Joseph Harrison's (10) Company Col. Marinus Willet's Regiment and marched to Albany and were there mustered by Col. Willet from there marched to Schoharie Middle Fort and Capt. Harrison had command at the Fort—and remained there at the fort about five months. The deponent went with a Lieutenants grade com'd, by Lieut Loop (11) from Schoharie & Catskill Greene Co. NY on the North River and remained there about two months when we were sent for and

returned again to Schoharie Middle Fort—where this deponent continued to serve until a short time before this deponents time expired (in November as he thinks) when he was taken sick and given over by the surgeon and was taken home by deponents father—in the fall or beginning of winter—The time this deponent served before he was taken sick was seven months certainly and perhaps more—and during rest of term of enlistment this deponent was so sick as to be unable to do duty as a soldier. There was no other company in the fort, but the one to which this deponent belonged.

This deponent refers to the annexed affidavits as to his character and reputation-- he also would state that the last paper annexed, directed to whom it may concern was sent with the other papers not as positive proof, but to show what was the opinion of his neighbors in New Canaan where he lived formerly as to his reputation as an old soldier—It could not be regularly authenticated as many of the Signed have already gone to the grave—the affidavits of "Benj. Benjmain, Seth Rowley and Isaac Richardson" prove this deponents services they are all regularly sworn. (Signed with his mark) Ebenezer Benjamin

Sworn before me. J. Hathaway, Judge &c.

End Notes—S.12151—Ebenezer Benjamin (Benjamius)

1. Moses Jones was the Second Lieutenant in Captain Thadeus Noble's Company of Associated Exempts of Albany County Militia. (King's District)
2. So far a Lieutenant Jaques (Jacques, etc.) has not been located in the militia.
3. As Ebenezer was only 13 in 1779 his service as a waiter would not count as military service.
4. Silas Gray was appointed Captain on April 27, 1781 in Lieutenant Colonel Commandant Marinus Willett's Regiment of New York State Levies.
5. John McKinstry was appointed Major on April 27, 1781 in Lieutenant-Colonel Willett's Regiment. McKinstry was appointed on April 28, 1781 as Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant but because he never completed his regiment with 2 or 3 years men he may never have been commissioned as Lieutenant-Colonel. He is listed as a Major on Willett's Regimental Pay Roll until December 31, 1781.
6. Lieutenant Abraham Fonda was in Captain Gray's Company. Fonda was later appointed Captain to command the former Captain Holtham Dunham's Company in Willett's Regiment.
7. Sergeant Seth Rowley served in Willett's Regiment but not in the same company.
8. Goose VanSchaick was the Colonel of the First New York Continental Regiment.
9. George Darrow was appointed Captain on April 28, 1781 in Colonel McKinstry's Regiment but the company did not complete its enlistment quota.
10. Joseph Harrison served as a Captain in Lieutenant-Colonel Willett's Regiment from 1781 to the end of 1783.
11. Peter Loop served in Willett's Regiment in 1781 and 1782.