

Pension Application for Joel Benson

S.23539

Declaration. In order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

State of New York

County of Chautauqua SS.

On this twelfth day of October personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court to Common Pleas held in the Court house in the Village of Mayville in & for the County of Chautauqua now sitting Joel Benson a resident of Ripley in the County of Chautauqua and State of New York aged 51 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.

The he entered the service of the United States as a private soldier under the following named officers; and served as herein stated, to wit; that about the first of February 1776 at Albany in the State of New York, he enlisted for one year or during pleasure of Congress, under the condition that he was to perform whatever duty might be required of him either in the capacity of a soldier or artificer, & went immediately into the service as a carpenter under the command of Capt Jacob VanDoozer, Gen. Schuyler, Col. Abram VanSchaick, Major Peter Cote, then was no lieutenant or ensign attached to the company to which he belonged. At the time he entered the service he lived in Schaticoke [Schaghticoke] then in Albany County in the State of New York. Immediately after he enlisted, the company was marched to Sazratoga where he worked as a carpenter till sometime in July of the same year he was then marched to Ticonderoga, where he worked as a carpenter till the army retreated to Half Moon Point, where Ben. Gates, met them with 2 regiments.

In their retreat he lost their tools. He was then removed into the ranks, under Capt. VanOrman or Normand but does not recollect the names of his lieutenant or ensign he was under the same field officers as when he enlisted. He was engaged in various skirmishes with the enemy.

He was present at the taking of Burgoyne in October 1777 in which battle he received 3 wounds, two on the hand and one in the leg. (oon after the company to which he belonged marched to Catskill into winter quarters, where they were engaged in getting wood for the American Army then lying at West Point.

In the spring following he acted as guide to a company sent out against the Tories & Indians. He marched to [?] Settlement 19 miles south of Schoharie, when they found & captured 19n Tories & Indians. From thence they went down to the Mohawk River at Coghnewaga [Caughnawaga], at first of snow fall, when an express met them from Johnstown, which place was was [sic] infested by a party of Tories & Indians, which retreated before they arrived; they pursued them & overtook them at the mouth of Wood Creek on Oneida Lake where they had a smart battle with them – here lieutenant Butler of the British Army formerly from Johnstown, was killed.

From thence they went into winter quarters at Albany. In the spring he went with about 30 men as guide to Lake Champlain where they found the boats of a party of the enemy which they destroyed. Supposing they had gone to Johnstown, they proceeded to that place but did not find them there. From there they returned to Albany.

In the fall some of the company were discharged, but the mechanics of whom he was one, were set to making wagons & hay screws & continued so to work during one summer & one winter, but subject to do military duty whenever they should choose & put him into the ranks, and while thus employed he was discharged sometime in October by Col. Morgan Lewis. All the time he served making four years and eight month[s].

He says the company in which he served enlisted for one year or during the pleasure of Congress, under the condition that they were to perform whatever duty might be required of them, whether in the capacity of soldiers artificers, but when employed as an artificer.

He received the same and no more wages than when acting as soldier.

He says he has lost his discharge supposing it to be of no use to him & days not know where it may be found.

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.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid. (Signed) Joel Benson.

James B. Lowry, Clerk