

## Pension Application for Benjamin Bentley

W.20696 (Widow: Lydia)

General Hospital, Fort George, 5 Sept'r 1776.

I hereby certify to whom it may concern that I have this day Discharged from the service of the United States Benjamin Bentley late a soldier in Capt. Cornelius VanSantvoort's Company & Colo. Wynkoops's Regt of New York Forces being of opinion he can be of no farther service this campaign. By order of the General – Fr Doct Jon. M. Potts Director. W. W. Wemple Sen. Surgeon.

Declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress of June 7, 1832.

Form for State Troops, &c.

State of New York

County of Rensselaer SS.

On this ninth day of August 1832, personally appeared in open court before the Judge of the Troy Mayor's Court not sitting, Benjamin Bentley a resident of Berlin County of Rensselaer and State of New York aged seventy five 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 in the year 1776 he resided in the Town of Stephentown County of Rensselaer & State of New York, that in the latter part of February or the very first of March of that year he entered the service & enlisted in the State Troops of the State of New York for ten months under Captain Cornelius VanSanford in Colonel Winecoops Regiment under the command of General Gansevort.

That the Lieutenant of his company was Obediah Vangen. That he with his company lay a few days at Albany when they marched to a block house at the North end of Lake George—that he continued in the service till the fifth of September of the same year when he was discharged in consequence of a break and being otherwise much unwell in consequence of much fatigue & hard service. That from the time he was discharged till he got home occupied him about a week.

That in the year 1779 he being free from military duty he volunteered under Captain Husted or Captain Hew which had the command he does not recollect and went under the command of General Henry K. VanRensselaer to Schenectady in which service he was engaged about one month.

That he afterwards volunteered to go to the North[fold] under Captain Stephen Niles & Lieutenant [?] Bentley and got as far as what was then called half moon ferry when they were discharged & returned. That this service occupied but a few days probably a week.

That he has no documentary evidence of his services and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure except what is hereunto annexed who can testify to his services.

To the prescribed interrogatories put by the court he answers—

1. He was born in the Town of Exeter in the State of Rhode Island in the [year] 1757.
2. He thinks there is a record of his age in said Town of Exeter in the clerk's office of said Town.
3. He lived when called into the service in the Town of Stephentown in the State of New York. Has since the Revolutionary War, has resided in said town of Stephentown and now resides in the Town of Berlin County of Rensselaer & State of New York and has resided where he now lives forty one years.
4. He entered the service by voluntary enlistment and served as above stated.
5. For the answers to this interrogatory he refers to his statement given above.
6. He did receive a discharge from his first enlistment signed by William VanWemple a Surgeon in the service then stationed at Fort George at the General Hospital which discharge is hereto annexed.

7. He is known in his present neighbourhood to John Reeve P.M. & Burton Hammond Esq., who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier in the revolution.

To the Fifth Interrogatory returned answered in the negative the applicant makes the following affidavit.

Rensselaer County SS. Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace of Rensselaer County aforesaid who being duly sworn deposed and saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below in the following grades. For seven months and ten days I served as a private, and for such service I claim a pension. (Signed) Benjamin Bentley

Sworn & Subscribed before me this 25<sup>th</sup> day of May 1833. Joseph Crandal, Justice of the Peace.

Letter in folder dated October 7, 1936, written in reply to an inquiry.

Reference is made to your letter in which you request the Revolutionary War record of Benjamin Bentley, who served in Captain Niles' Company, Colonel VanRensselaer's New York Regiment; also record of a Benjamin Bentley, private under Captain Guile, Albany Militia who received pension in 1779.

You are furnished herein the record of Benjamin Bentley W.20696, the only soldier of that name or similar spelling, that is found on the Revolutionary War records of this office. The data given are obtained from the papers on file in the above noted pension claim based upon the military service of that soldier in the Revolutionary War.

Benjamin Bentley was born in 1757, in Exeter, Rhode Island. The names of his parents are not shown.

While residing at Stephentown, Rensselaer County, New York, Benjamin Bentley volunteered about March 1, 1776, served as a private in Captain Cornelius VanSantvoort's Company, Colonel Wyncoop's New York Regiment, and was discharged September 5, 1776, at the General Hospital at Fort George, on account of sickness. He volunteered sometime in 1779, and served one month in Captain Husted's or in Captain Shaw's New York Company; again volunteered and served about one week in Captain Stephen Niles' New York Company; no dates given for this service.

After the war, he resided in Stephentown, New York, and in Berlin, Rensselaer County, New York, of which latter place he was a resident when he was allowed pension on his application executed August 9, 1832. This office has no record of a pension being paid Benjamin Bentley in 1779.

He died September 28, 1833, at said Berlin, New York.

Benjamin Bentley married February 23, 1784 at Hancock, Massachusetts, Lydia Rathbun. He was then of Stephentown, New York, and she of Hancock. The date and place of birth of Lydia and the names of her parents are not given.

Soldier's widow, Lydia, was allowed pension on her application executed pension on her application executed October 30, 1838, at which time she was aged seventy-one years and resided in Berlin, New York.

Benjamin and Lydia Bentley reared a family of eight children, the only name of a child that was given was son, Ira, who, in 1843, was aged thirty-eight years and resided in Berlin, New York.

In 1839, Walter Clark Rathbun, of Pike, Allegany County, New York made affidavit that he was present at the marriage of Benjamin Bentley and Lydia Rathbun, which took place in Hancock, Massachusetts, and that they were married by Elder Clark Rogers, of said Hancock. He did not state his relationship, if any, to said Lydia Rathbun Bentley.

Letter in folder dated October 17, 1903, written in response to an inquiry for information.

In reply to your inquiry addressed to the Secretary of the Interior and referred to this Bureau, you are advised that Benjamin Bentley, aged 75 years, residing at Berlin, New York, made application for pension August 9, 1832.

He served as a private in the New York Line six months from February or March 1776, under Captain VanSantvoort and Colonel Wynkoop, one month in 1779 under Captain Husted, and seven days under Captain Stephen Niles, no date. He was born in 1757 at Exeter, Rhode Island and resided at Stephentown, New York, at date of enlistment. His claim was allowed. He married Lydia Rathbun February 23, 1784 at Hancock Massachusetts and died September 28, 1833, and she was pensioned as his widow. He did not apply for bounty land.