

Pension Application for Daniel Bliss

W.10420 (Widow: Martha or Massa) Married November 1801. Daniel died February 15, 1838.

State of Pennsylvania

Westmoreland County SS.

On the twentieth day of November A.D. eighteen hundred and thirty three personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas for said county, now sitting, Daniel Bliss, a resident of Donegal Township in the County of Westmoreland and State of Pennsylvania aged sixty nine 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 7th 1832.

I entered the service of the United States as a substitute in the year 1780 or 81 in a company of militia commanded by Captain Morris, our sergeants name was Sanford we were marched from a place called Fishkill on the North river to York Island while there we had some hot skirmishing we killed some of the British soldiers, and took some of them prisoners, and the British killed a good many of our militia. We were then obliged to retreat and were marched to a place called Westpoint fort, where I was discharged after having performed a tour of six months in the militia as a substitute while at Westpoint Fort, and immediately after quitting the militia I enlisted for one year, I enlisted with Sergeant Knapp and served in a regiment commanded by Colonel Swift, which regiment belonged to General Heath's Brigade, we were marched from West Point in the direction of New York & to York Island, where we had a great deal of skirmishing, along the British lines, and Colonel Delancey's Corps gave us a terrible chase. This was while the British held possession of the City of New York, about this time we had a great deal of skirmishing with the British light horse, after I had served the year for which I had enlisted General Heath gave me a written discharge, which I left with my brother Timothy Bliss for safe keeping he then resided near New York, but I have never seen or heard of his since, and cannot tell what has become of my discharge.

After I was discharged I removed to a place called Weymouth, in Gloster County, in the State of New Jersey. In the year 1783 I volunteered my service in the Brig. Marshal commanded by Captain Noah Scovil, and served in a tour of three months, we crossed the gulf stream and cruised about the Westindia Islands, looking out for English ships trading to & from the West Indias, and the very day before peace was proclaimed we captured the Brigantine Hope on her way from Jamaica to Liverpool laden with cotton, wool, coffee, fustick & Ligumited we carried her into New London in the State of Connecticut where she was sold, together with her cargo.

After I had served my tour of three months on board the Brig Marshal. I was dismissed but received no discharge that I recollect of. I then worked whereas I could get employ and nearly three years afterwards I was paid for my services while on board the Brig.

I then returned to New Jersey where I resided about twenty years, afterwards went to the State of New York, and lived two years at a place called Peenpack, in Goshen County in Said State.

In the year 1808 I moved into the State of Pennsylvania to Doneygal Township Westmoreland County where I have resided until the present time.

During the whole of the time that I was in the New York Militia and in the Continental troops we were kept continually moving about from place to place, marching, & countermarching, and skirmishes along the British lines.

Declarant has no documentary evidence and knows of no person who could testify to his service but a certain John Barney who served with him in the army near New York, he has some time since left this state and gone to the state of Ohio, but declarant cannot tell to what part he has gone.

Declarant claims a pension for six months service, as a substitute in the New York Militia for one year as a private soldier in the Continental troops, and for three months service as a volunteer on board the Brig Marshal, Captain Noah Scovil in all twenty one months.

And I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of any agency of any state and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of any agency of any state.

To the following interrogatories propounded by the court declarant answers as follows—

1st where and in what year were you born?

Answer I was born somewhere north of New York in the year 1764.

2nd Have you any record of your age. Ans. I have none.

3d Where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you live now?

Answer I lived in the neighborhood of Westpoint fort when called into service, the remainder of this interrogatory is answered in the foregoing declaration.

4 How were you called into service?

Answer I was a substitute but cannot now recollect for whom.

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served such Continental & Militia Regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer—My memory is so far failed that I am not able to state the names of any other regular officers than those mentioned in my foregoing declaration and am also unable to state the names of any regiments of Militia or Continental troops or any other circumstances than those already stated.

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service if so by whom was it given & when is it.

Answer this interrogatory is answered in the foregoing declaration.

7th State of the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood who can testify as to your character for veracity and good behavior &c. Jacob Kint, William Thompson Esqr, Peter Gay, George Kessler, Abraham Hays. (Signed) Daniel Bliss

Sworn and subscribed the day & year aforesaid. Attest Randal McLaughlin [?]