

Pension Application for William Blount or Blunt

S.10384

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

State of New York

Orange County SS.

On this 30th day of October 1832 personally appeared before me Avery Skinner one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of said Co., William Blount a resident of the said county and state who 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 Norwich Connecticut Novr 1744, remained in Co. until about 22 years of age—1764 removed from Co to Dutchess County N. York (Town of Amenia) remained there until Feb 17, 1788 from thence removed to Duaneburgh, Albany N.Y. lived there about ten years. In July 1798 removed to the town of Paris Oneida Co. and remained there until the year 1821, from thence removed to the town of Hastings Oswego Co. N.Y. my present residence being now about eighty eight (88) years of age.

At the commencement of hostilities with G. Britain, felt greatly alarmed at the prospect of the Liberties of our country being destroyed, and indeavoured by every means in my power to arouse the people in the vicinity where I lived to vigorous decision and action—in 1774 & 75 commenced improvement in military exercise by frequent military drills (once a week). In 1775 received a Lieutenant's Commission, ordered by the Provincial Congress then sitting in the City of New York signed by Nathaniel Woodhull Pres'nt and Robert Benson Sec'y and dated Oct 17, 1775 in the service that was then termed the "New York Volunteer Crops of Minute Men" and raised for the special purpose of marching to any point, or part of service that the Publick exigencies required at a minutes notice.

The regiment was consolidated under the command of Col. VanNess and was succeeded in command by Col. Cornelius Humphry. Increase Chilas being the Captain of the Company to which I belonged—My commission above alluded to is hereunto annexed.

In February following '76 was called into service at New York, the army at that time was commanded by General Lee—during our stay at New York we built a fort at [?]gate then called "Fort Minute"—was discharged sometime in May or June following was in service at that time nearly four months—After my return from New York the regiment by order of Gov. Clinton were destined to keep guard on the North River—we were ordered twice this season (the summer of '76) to stand guard above N.Y. City to prevent if possible the depredations of the enemy who landed from the British shipping and committed extensive depredations upon the surrounding country.

The next year in June 1777 the British shipping again came into the N. River which was found an extensive and general alarm which occasioned an extensive and general alarm which continued with very little cessation through the whole season. The Minute Regiment to which I belonged was constantly on duty to prevent damage being done by the enemy.

The regiment was marched this season to the Highlands at the time Fort Constitution and Fort Montgomery were taken by the enemy, but did not arrive till the day after the forts were taken—returning up the river had an engagement with the shipping at Poughkeepsie; next day the enemy burnt Esopus—The object of the British at this time was to form a Junction with Burgoine, but were prevented by his defeat—at this time the detachment was commanded by Gen. Clinton in person. Col. Rufus Herrick Comm'dt of the Regt.

The above is a general outline of the duty which I was called to perform from the year 1775 to the close of the year 1781. After the British forces were withdrawn from New York to the south previous to the surrender of Cornwallis, which was in 1781, the regiment of Minute men were not harassed as formerly by the enemy.

During the war, or until '81 another duty upon which I was called (when not in other service), was by order of the Colonial Government; which was to prevent the depredations of the Tories (or Cowboys so called) who continually infested that region of country and required the utmost exertion to prevent the universal destruction of property they contemplated—as also to arrest and bring before the existing authorities for trial, some of them as were guilty of offences against the government [??] to now person of [??] authorities directed.

From the summer of 1775 to 1781, I had no opportunity of pursuing my business as necessary avocations at home—from the opening of the campaign every spring until the close of it, we were almost unremittedly in service as above stated—I believe I was in actual service nearly three years.

I have never received any regular discharge from any service to my recollection, nor have I at any time and any remuneration for my services excepting for the duty performed at New York in '76.

I am known to most people in the Town where I reside and the Rev'd Samuel W. Leonard Clergyman of this town and William Ford can testify as to my character for truth and veracity and their belief of my services as a soldier of the Revolution.

Having written to Dutchess County to make enquiries respecting the certificate of those who were in service with me I cannot learn that any are now alive who knows of the service I rendered or that was with the Regiment to which I belonged.

I hereby relinquish every claim to a pension or annuity except the present, and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state and that I have not heretofore applied for any pension or annuity from the government of the United States. (Signed) William Blount

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year first above written before me, Avery Skinner, Judge of Orange Col. Courts.