

Pension Application for Benjamin Coleman

W.16918 (Widow: Hannah Finch Coleman) Benjamin died August 5, 1832.

State of New York

Orange County SS.

On this eleventh day of June in the year one thousand eight hundred & thirty eight personally appeared before the undersigned a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of the county aforesaid, Hannah Coleman a resident of the Town of Hamptonburgh in the County & State aforesaid, aged seventy six years on the fifteenth day of November who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July 4, 1836.

That she is the widow of Benjamin Coleman late of said county deceased who was a Sergeant & a private soldier in the war of the Revolution and as she has been informed & verily believes served as follows.

That on or about the first of march in the year 1776 her said husband enlisted into a company of years men raised from the Counties of Orange & Ulster in the State aforesaid, of which such company John Belknap was the Captain Henry Paulding was the First & Zechariah Hasbough was the Second Lieutenant said company belonged [to] colonel James Clinton's Regiment. That said company enlisted for the term of one year, and immediately rendezvoused at New Windsor in said County & from thence were conveyed by water to Fort Montgomery on the Hudson River where said company remained until in the winter of the year 1777 when it was disbanded by reason of the men belonging to the same enlisting into the regular service. That she has been informed and believes that her said husband served in said company until the first day of January in the year 1777, when he was discharged & returned home having served ten months under an enlistment for one year. That during all the aforesaid term her said husband was a Sergeant & performed the duty of a Sergeant until he was discharged.

That in the month of October in the year 1777 immediately after Fort Montgomery had been captured by the British there was a general call for the militia of the Counties of Orange & Ulster to guard the shores of the Hudson river from the attacks of the british [sic] army as they passed up said river.

That her said husband rendezvoused at [Hindner's?] Creek on said river & followed the british army up towards Kingston & then returned again to [Hindner's?] Creek aforesaid where he was discharged that during said service which was one month her said husband was a private in Captain Swezey's Company & Colonel Allison's regiment and that she verily believes her said husband served in said company the full term of one month at the time & places last aforesaid as a private soldier.

That in the latter part of the month of July in the year 1779 immediately after the battle of Minisink with the Indians, this deponent's husband was again called into service as a Classman and went to VanEtten's Fort on the weste[n]r borders of Orange County and served as a private the term of fifteen days that during said service her said husband was under the command of Lieutenant Eluid Tryon. That by reason of old age & loss of memory she is unable to give a more definite statement of her said husband's services.

She further declares that she was married to the said Benjamin Coleman at Goshen in said county by the Rev. Nathan Carr a minister of the Presbyterian Church at said place on the nineteenth day of January in the year 1781.

That her husband the aforesaid Benjamin Coleman died on the fifth day of August in the year 1832 and that she has remained a widow ever since that period as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed.

That she has no documentary evidence of her said husband's services, and that from debility & old age she is unable to attend the setting of the Court of common Pleas of said county. (Signed with her mark) Hannah Coleman

Sworn to & subscribed on the day & year above written. Signed by making her mark because she cannot see to write. H. W. Elliott, Judge of Orange Com. Pleas.

Letter in folder dated November 14, 1924, written in response to an inquiry.

I have to advise you that from the papers in Revolutionary War pension claim, W.16918, it appears that Benjamin Coleman, while residing in Orange County, New York, served in the New York Troops as follows:

From March 1, 1776 for 10 months as Sergeant in Captain John Belknap's Company, Colonel James Clinton's Regiment.

From October 1777 for 1 month as private in Captain David Swazy's Company, Colonel Allison's Regiment.

From July 1779 for 8 days as private in Captain Swazy's Company, Colonel Tuston's Regiment.

From June 1781 for 15 days as private under Lieutenant Tryon and Colonel Newkirk.

Soldier married at Goshen, Orange County, New York, January 19, 1781, Hannah Finch who was born November 15, 1761. He died August 5, 1832, and the widow, Hannah, was allowed pension on her application executed June 11, 1838, while a resident of Hamptonburgh, Orange County, New York.

It is not stated whether they had any children.

There was a problem proving That Capt John Belknap's Company in Col. Clinton's regiment served at Fort Montgomery in the year 1776. See the following letter.

Fort Montgomery Dec'r 11. 1776.

Gentlemen,

I have but a small garrison here at present, consisting of five companies of my Regt. (except the artillery) and many of them without shoes and other necessary cloathes [sic]—they have received no pay since the first of August last, and if they had money there is no cloathing nor shoes to be purchased here—the chief of Capt. Swartwouts company insists that their times were out on the first of this instant and their officers acknowledges it to be so—five of his company went off this morning without leave almost barefooted. I have sent a party after them, but if they are taken they will be of no service here, and many more of them without shoes and some other necessaries which if they were provided with I believe they would serve a while longer contentedly—if not it is my opinion it would be better to discharge them. I wish there could be some shoes and stockings sent here for the men—the value of them should be stopped out of their wages. (Signed) James Clinton B. Genl

To the Honorable Pierre VanCortlandt Pres't of the Provincial Congress. State of New York – Fishkill. Per Capt Belknap

FROM: Vol 20, "Original Letters 1777" Page 501 Extract.