

Pension Application for Asa Cowles

S.12516

State of New York

Columbia County SS.

On this eighth day of August one thousand eight hundred and thirty two personally appeared before me Walter Patterson, a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Columbia & State of New York Asa Cowles a resident of the town of New Lebanon in the county and State aforesaid aged eighty 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 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers as herein stated viz.

In the winter of the year 1775 he volunteered and enrolled himself as a minute man under the command of Captain John Cole, whose Lieutenant was [blank] Wooster & his ensign [blank] Warner & the Colonel of the Regiment was [blank] Woodbridge – immediately after the battle at Lexington & in these two or three days after the information was received in the latter part of April his company and regiment marched for Cambridge near Boston where he enlisted in the Massachusetts troops under the above named officers for the term of eight months and was the third sergeant of the company and did duty as such—he enlisted immediately on his arrival at Cambridge & in the month of April – He served with his regiment in the vicinity of Boston during the full term of eight months & was discharged with the rest of the regiment in the latter part of December 1775 but did not receive a written discharge.

During the battle of Bunker Hill he had charge of the Laboratory & military stores part of the time. After he was relieved was directed by the Captain to Cook & carry provisions to his company who were stationed at the foot of Prospect Hill.

His company was in the battle & Lieutenant Warner was wounded through the lower part of the body & went home.

Recollects that General Putnam Colonel or General Pomeroy & Colonel Prescott were there & General Washington joined the army in July. At the expiration of his term of his service he returned to Belchertown in the County of Hampshire and State of Massachusetts where he resided at the time he entered the service.

The regiment to which he was attached was raised by the State of Massachusetts.

He has no documentary evidence of his service except a certificate signed by his Captain John Cowls – of which the following is a copy viz:

“Belchertown June 22, of 1779. This may certify that Asa Cowls was a sergeant with me in the yr 1775 in Coln Woobridg Regiment. John Cowls Capt.

The original of which is hereto annexed.

That he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service unless it may be Amos King who says he knew the said applicant or rather saw him during the period of his service at Cambridge.

That in the forepart of September 1777 he volunteered as a private in a Regiment raised in Belchertown aforesaid where he then resided, commanded by Colonel Porter, the captain of the company to which he was attached was Jonathan Bardwell whose Lieutenant was [blank].

The Regiment was raised to cooperate with the Northern Army in front of & below Burgoine on the Hudson. His regiment marched to Deerfield where they met Col. Wells Regiment which marched with them, across Hoosick Mountain & through Pomal & Bennington and from thence to a place called Tolls Mills about nine or ten miles from & on the east side of the Hudson river—where they remained until they received orders from General Gates that the two regiments should hold themselves in readiness as a sort of flying camp ready to enter upon any duty which might from time to time be required from them. They did not join the army—was ordered to go to Bodinkins Mills where they encamped. They crossed the Hudson at Schuylers Mills recrossed it after two days by fording it--& encamped about a mile from the river—were ordered to Fort Edward which they found in ashes—stayed there until ordered to cross the Hudson & close upon the army of Burgoine then at Saratoga.

They accordingly marched down the river some distance and crossed north of the enemy—Gen. Stark took command of the two regiments before mentioned & which lay north of the enemy when the last battle was fought and Burgoine capitulated.

On the next day after the summer which was about the middle of October or a little after it—he went home—he received no discharge—was dismissed—eh was engaged in the service during the last mentioned term six wseeks.

That in the fall of the year 1780 and about the tenth day of October he volunteered as a private under the command of Captain Elisha Gilbert whose lieutenants were Samuel Jones and [blank] Raseford—Captain Gilbert having the command of a part of two companies which were consolidated—Colonel Whiting commanded the regiment -- to which the company was attached—they proceeded to Albany when they were joined by Colonel VanAlstyne's Regiment of Kinderhook and a regiment from Albany and marched from thence for Schenectady & up the south side of the river Mohawk—encamped at Warrensbush—while there or about that time—some buildings at Stone Arabia were burnt—the garrison in the fort at that place were allured from it by a party of British & Indians & drawn into an ambush—Major or Colonel Brown from Pittsfield Massachusetts who commanded the fort was killed—

They proceeded up the river as far as Fort Herkimer—from there they proceeded—after halting at the Fort—in a south westerly direction into the wilderness in pursuit of the enemy who had retreated in that direction—were gone two or three days & returned home in the latter part of November—he was engaged in their last expedition six weeks or thereabout.

When he entered the service for the last mentioned expedition he resided in New Lebanon in the County of Columbia and State of New York.

He never received a discharge. Has no documentary evidence of his service except the certificate above mentioned.

He has named such of the officers and mentioned such circumstances as he can recollect, which might tend to throw light upon the investigation of his claim.

He knows of no person except Adonijah Cowles whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services above mentioned unless it may be Samuel Jones who saw him in the expedition last mentioned & was a lieutenant in his company.

He further states that he was born in Belchertown County of Hampshire & State of Massachusetts in the year 1747. He has no record of his age except one copied into his bible from a record made by his father the original was burnt.

He has resided in the town of New Lebanon since the Revolutionary War—and still resides there as above mentioned.

He is known to Mr. Reverend Silas Churchil, Elam Tilden & John King who can testify to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution.—

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. (Signed) Asa Cowles.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid. W. Patterson.