

Pension Application for George Ellsworth

W.19226 (Widow: Sarah)

State of New York

Saratoga County

On this 28th day of August AD 1833, personally appeared in open Court before the Court of Common Pleas now sitting George Ellsworth of the town of Clifton Park in said County of Saratoga 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 at the Commencement of the Spring Campaign Claimant entered the service of the United States in a Company of Militia of the State of New York commanded by Captain Joshua Taylor which was a part of the 12 Regt commanded by Col. Jacobus VAnSchoonoven, Joseph Cook was Adjutant, in the Company to which claimant belonged Henry Afner was Lieutenant and John Affner Ensign.

Claimant entered the service of the United States in the Militia of the State above named under the command of the above named Capt. Taylor on an alarm to apprehend Tories went on an expedition to approached one Joseph Bettes a Tory who was the same person that took and carried away Col. James Gordon our Lieutenant a prisoner to Canady the party to which claimant belonged was under the command of Sergeant Lake we went also on an expedition in that part of Halfmoon now called Clifton Park and apprehended two person by the name of DeGroat & brought them before a committee of safety in the town of Halfmoon—was absent on service eighteen days.

Claimant was again ordered out under the command of Adjutant Cook to go on an expedition to a place called Tory Hill in the north part of the County of Albany then, now Saratoga we marched against some Tories and Indians had a skirmish with them took two prisoners and returned to quarters after a tour of Duty of ten days including the time in camp the expedition was in the year afore named and about the middle of July of said year.

In the same year 1776 Claimant was again ordered out in the before named company under the Command of Col. Jacobus VanSchoonhoven we marched to a place called White Creek was there in camp for the space of seven weeks during our stay at place a company or detachment of about five hundred men was sent out on Scouting parties in different parts of the adjoining country the date of our marching on this expedition was in August.

Claimant was again ordered into service under the above named Capt. Taylor on an alarm to Saratoga Claimant remained in Camp at that place two weeks with the detachment to which he belonged was ordered to march to Dunning Street in said county to suppress an expected attack on that place from the enemy claimant remained at Dunning Street one week and was dismissed and returned home.

The date of the service Claimant is unable to state yet it was in the year 1776 or 77—Colonel McKenster commanded the troops at that post.

Claimant was again ordered into service in the company afore stated in the Militia in the year 1777 in the spring of the same year was under the immediate direction of Adjutant Cook they marched to Saratoga from there to Dunning Street where they remained a short time and returned home after a tour of service of two weeks the object of this expedition was to reinforce a small detachment ordered out to suppress deprecation there daily committed by Tories and Indians.

Claimant was again ordered out in the month of August on the first of the same to join his company as afore named when General orders were given to march to Saratoga when arriving at Schuyler's General orders were given for all the inhabitants on the North Side of the Mohawk River and within the bounds of a certain distance when the approaching army of Burgoyne would chance to pass through to remove to a place called Watervliet where the standing army of the United States were encamped.

Claimant was ordered together with a select detachment of the militia for the Section when the removal was to be made to Execute on orders and Claimant remained in the Camp at Watervliet—until the army took up their march for Saratoga when the detachment was ordered by General Gates to remove some families then in an unpleasant situation from the fear of an approaching enemy the detachment to which claimant belonged was therefore detained from accompanying the army on their march, they accomplished the object of the object of their charge took up their line of march to Saratoga where they arrived early the next morning after the battle in season to see the enemy surrender.

Claimant remained under arms at the different posts that is at Saratoga and Watervliet until the first of October the same year when they were dismissed and returned home after a tour of duty of three months. In this service and whilst engaged at Watervliet, Claimant was called to go as a pilot to conduct detachments of Regular troops as well as Scouting parties who were daily ordered out to go in different directions through the several parts of the county in pursuit of Tories and disaffected persons and the reason claimant having been called on to perform this service was that he was personally acquainted with different sections having resided there.

Claimant further states that after the capture of Colonel James Gordon of Ballston by the Tories Colonel Ezekiel Taylor ordered a detachment of his men under arms and from that body selected a guard for his safety having fears of the same, this guard consisted of about eight or nine men and divided into two divisions the one under the command of Stephen Root.

It became the duty of one company to meet at the residence of the said Col. Taylor's at night on every evening and thus took turns in Standing guard alternally [alternately?] until finally dismissed, Claimant was a member of one of those companies and continued as a guard as afore stated until dismissed which was sometime after the surrender of Burgoyne. The particular day and month not recollected. Was absent on this service about six weeks.

The guard had not only the above mentioned duty to perform as a century [sentry] around the dwelling of the Colonel but was directed to march in small squads to different part of the town by night. This claimant belonged to the squad or division commanded by Asa Root.

He hereby relinquishes his every claim to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not the pension list roll of the agency of any state.

To the interrogators propounded by the court he answers as follows.

1. He was born at a place called Oswego near Poughkeepsie Dutchess County New York in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty eight the day and month he is unable to state.
2. He has no record of his age but derived his information from his parents during their lives.
3. He lived in Dutchess County at a place called Oswego till the year 1775 when he removed to that part of the town of Halfmoon Saratoga County N.Y. now called Clifton park where he has resided ever since.
4. He was called into service under general orders and was obliged to be ready as a moments warning and invariably turned out whenever called upon.
5. The names of the militia officers under whom he severed were as follows. Colonels Jacobus VanSchoonhoven, Ezekiel Taylor, Adjutant Cook, Captain Joshua Taylor.
6. He never received a written discharge at the close of any service but was in all cases verbally dismissed. The continental officers whom he knew were General Schuyler, Col. McKinstry, Col. Lewis.
7. He would offer the names of Elder Andrew McKain and William Gleason who are known to him in his present neighborhood who can testify as to his character for truth and veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution.

(Signed with his mark) George Ellsworth

Subscribed & sworn in open court the 28th day of August 1833. A. Goodrich,
Clerk.