

Pension Application for John Elsworth

S.8407

Declaration in order to obtain the Benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7, 1832
State of New York
Chenango County SS.

On this 17th day of October 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Judge of the Circuit of the Sixth Circuit of said State of New York, and now holden at the Court house in Norwich in & for said County of Chenango John Elsworth a resident of Bainbridge in said County 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 7th 1832.

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

That in April or May 1775 in the City of New Your he entered as a volunteer in Captain William W. Gilberts Company of Light Infantry volunteers in Colonel John Lasher's Regiment, Andrew Stockholm was 1st Lieutenant. That he continued as a private soldier in said company in said city for one year doing his duty as a faithful soldier—

He was daily under arms, was employed constantly mounting guard & on fatigue duty & on scouting parties, we were called minute men, and were always ready at a moment's call to go on any required service. That he was on guard on the night that British Frigate or Ship Asia [?] the City & that he was often on parties scouting the disaffected.

That he faithfully served in said Company for several months & was honorably discharged at New York. That he was verbally dismissed, no written discharge were to his recollection given.

That on the first day of June 1776 he entered in the same company for six months. He enlisted at New York City. Shortly after this enlistment Captain Gilbert resigned and he was succeeded by Andrew Stockholm. Lasher was still Colonel. The Brigade was commanded by John Morrisin Scott. That he was actively employed clearing the campaign, in performing services similar to those in evidence in my first term as above.

I was detached about the first day of July with nine [?] others & places under the command of Captain Ralph Thurman. I went with said detachment in a flat bottomed boat, armed with a four pounder to guard an inlet between the New Jersey shore and Staten Island. Two armed vessels of the enemy came into the inlet—We landed on the Jersey Shore and exchanged a number of shots with these vessels. Night came on & we retreated with our cannon about two miles. The next morning we returned with the intention of burning the boat—but the firing from the enemies vessels prevented—we then returned to the City of New York.

That in the latter part of August he went with his regiment to Long Island where he was on guard at an out post on the nights of the 26th & 27th of August. The time

the battle commenced was about day light in the morning of the 27th, General Sullivan and Sterling commanded the American forces.

That he joined his regiment as soon as he could after the commencement of the firing and that he with his regiment retreated from the said Island to the City on the night of the 29th of & morning of the 30th.

That he continued as such soldier in his regiment until he & said Regiment retreated from the City of New York on the 15th day of September to Kingsbridge, where he remained with said Regiment until the British Army landed on Froggsneck about the 12th day of October. About the 23rd of October our army left Kingsbridge and went to White Plains. That he with one hundred others was left under the command of Col. Lasher at Kingsbridge. That he there staid a few days by command of the Col. the barracks were burned & bridges taken up.

That he then crossed Your Island to Fort Washington & from thence crossed the North River to the Jersey shore & then marched up to Haverstraw & from thence to Peekskill from thence on our way to join the Regiment, when we were met by an express and ordered back to Peekskill, that we returned to the latter place. That he remained there having been joined by the Regiments until the 1st of December. That he then crossed over to Haverstraw, and was there discharged about the 1st day of December 1776, having fully served the period of my enlistment.

The discharge was signed by Frederick Stymets, then acting Captain. The captain not then being with the regiment. This discharge is lost or destroyed. I have no documentary evidence of my services. Neither do I know of any person living by whom I can prove them or any part of them. General Scott, Col. Lasher, Captain after Col. Stockholm & Lieut Stymets are all dead.

I have stated in what manner I entered the service and how I was discharged.

I was born in the City of New York on the 30th day of November 1756.

I have a record of my age in my family Bible taken from my father's family Record & now in my possession.

I continued to live in New York till 1803. I then moved to Tompkins Delaware County & State of New York where I lived till May 1818, when I removed to Bainbridge where I have ever since resided & now reside.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

That he is well known to Levi Bigelow and Jotham Bixby of Bainbridge aforesaid who can testify as to my character, as to my age and as to the belief in the neighborhood of my having been a soldier of the Revolution & as to their won belief of the same. (Signed) John Elsworth

Sworn & Subscribed this 17th day of October. 1832. Robt Mowell, Circuit Judge.