

Pension Application for John Forbes

W.16992

(Wife) Abiah

State of New York

Cayuga County SS.

On the 25th day of July 1832, personally appeared in open court before me J. S. Richards Esqr, first Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the County of Cayuga and state aforesaid.

John Forbes, a resident of the town of Flemington in the County of Cayuga and State of New York aged eighty eight years who being first 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, he inlisted about the first of August in the year 1877 [sic] for five months under Col. [Morris] Graham, (1) the name of his Lieut. Col. was Hopkins, there was no Capt. in command of the company to which he belonged, but said company was commanded by Lieut. Trimper (2) who died during the time he this deponent was in the service—at the time of his inlistment he resided at Fishkill in Dutchess County in the State of New York—That he immediately volunteered and went into the service of his country. The first ingagement he was in was at White Plains & from thence this deponent marched with the company to which he belonged to Fishkill at which place he this deponent was placed as Sargeant of the guard over the Continental Stores, and was not relieved at the expiration of the five months for which he inlisted, but continued in charge thereof for about two weeks thereafter at which time he was relieved & discharged—and thinks his discharge was verbal, for he has no written discharge now in his possession neither can he now recollect of ever having had one. After which he inlisted for nine months according to his best recollection and believes to go under col. Wysesfelt (3) on an expedition against the Indians under General Sullivan (4) which inlistments he believes was in the spring of 1778.—that soon after his inlistment his father was taken sick & he was obliged to furnish a substitute which said substitute served the term of his inlistment & brought to him this deponent, his discharge for which he this deponent paid to said substitute sixty bushels of wheat—that afterwards he this deponent was drafted & in the service of his country for short periods at four different times, at one time he went to West Point where he remained about three months, and was then discharged, at an other time he went to Crompond under the command of Col. Bailey (5) & Capt. Ostram (6) & thinks he remained there about one month before he was discharged, at an other time he went to West Point under the command of Capt. Smith (7) & Lt Harris, and was there about one month before he was discharged—and at one other time he went to Fishkill was under the command of Col. Brinkerhoof (8) & Capt. Benscoten (9) and how long this deponent was at this last place before he was discharged he cannot now state, but thinks it must have been one month or more—That the discharge brot to him by his said substitute for the nine months service was burnt with his dwelling house & also all of his vouchers and evidence of his service as a soldier during the revolutionary war were consumed at the same time, so that he has not now in his possession any documentary evidence of such service—Neither is there, to his knowledge, any person now living who had personal knowledge of such his services except one Solomon Ward who will state as far as he has any knowledge thereof—he was born in the town of Flushing on Long Island in the year 1743; has not now any record of his age, it was burnt with his dwelling house, that he lived in the Town of Cambridge in Washington County & state aforesaid for several years, since that time has been moving from place to place—that the Reverend Midad

Pomeray and Doct. Jonathan Whiting such certify as to their belief of my character for truth and veracity, and also give their opinion of my services as a revolutionary soldier.

(Signed in very shaky handwriting) John Forbes.

He hereby relinquishes every claim 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.

Sworn to & subscribed this day and year aforesaid. J. L. Richard, a first judge of court.

Letter from the pension application folder.

April 13, 1935

Mr. Elsie Forbes DeVine

690 Thompson Avenue

Salem, Oregon

Dear Madam:

The data which follow were obtained from the papers on file in revolutionary War pension claim, W.16992, based upon the military service of John Forbes in that war.

John Forbes was born in 1743, in Flushing Long Island. The name of his parents are not shown.

While a resident of Fishkill, Dutchess County, New York, John Forbes enlisted in the Revolutionary War and was in the battle of White Plains: (10) no details of this service given: he enlisted August 1, 1777, (11) served under Lieutenant Trimper and Colonel Graham [hand written note in margin: 'Found such a Lt in Graham's Regt.'] in the New York Troops and was discharged January 15, 1778: he enlisted May 1, 1779, and served until August 1, 1779, under Lieutenant Hardenburg (12) in the New York troops: he enlisted June 1, 1780, and served one month in Captain Ostrum's Company, Colonel Baily's New York Regiment: enlisted October 1, 1780, and served one month in Captain Smith's [hand written note in margin: 'Found out in NY In The revolution in this ?'] New York company: and enlisted November 10, 1780, and served one and one-half months in Captain Van Benschoten's Company, Colonel Brinkerhoff's New York Regiment. All of his service was rendered as a sergeant.

After the Revolution, he lived in Cambridge, Washington County, New York, and in several other towns, names of these towns not given.

He was allowed pension on his application executed July 25, 1832, while residing in Fleming, Cayuga County, New York.

He died July 14, 1839, in Savannah, New York.

The soldier married Abiah Ward, who was born in 1754, in Dutchess County, New York. They were married in said Dutchess County, in January 1769, according to a statement of the widow or February 5, 1772 as shown by a copy of the marriage record of the Presbyterian Church of Pleasant Valley, Dutchess County, New York. On this copy of the marriage record, the soldier's name appears as John Forbes and her name as Abia Ward.

Soldier's Widow, Abiah, was allowed pension on her application executed August 30, 1843, while residing in Savannah, New York.

She died July 17, 1843, in said Savannah, New York.

The following children survived their mother:

Prudence Williams of Savannah New York

Polly Colgrove of Cayuga County, New York in 1850 Polly was residing in Ayrelius, same county and state.

No other names of children are shown.

In 1843, Lester Williams, of Savannah, New York, stated that he was aged sixty years and was a son-in-law of the widow, Abiah Forbes: he did not give the name of his wife. In 1848, the name Daniel Williams appeared, no relationship to Prudence Williams was shown.

In 1843, the widow's brother, Daniel A. Ward, (13) was aged eighty four years and resided in Seneca County, New York.

There are no further family data.

Very truly yours. A.D. Hiller, Executive Assistant to the Administrator.

End Notes—W.16992—John Forbes

1. John enlisted as a private in Captain James Teller's Eighth Company in Colonel Morris Graham's Regiment of New York State Levies for 1776. The regiment was authorized on July 16, 1776 and to serve until December 31, 1776 unless sooner discharged. Roswell Hopkins was the lieutenant colonel under Colonel Graham.
2. Possibly First Lieutenant William Tremper or Trumper of Captain Teller's Company, Lieutenant Tremper was still alive as late as September 10, 1776.
3. Lieutenant Colonel Frederick Weisenfels of Colonel Philip VanCortlandt's Second New York Continental Regiment in 1779. The nine months enlistments were from May of 1778 to February of 1779 and John's name was not among those recruits. On April 26, 1779 Weisenfels was appointed lieutenant colonel of the Fourth New York Continental Regiment. There were three different time periods that the fourth New York recruited men for 9 month or five months. In 1779 the term was fro May to February of 1760 but they were discharge don January 1, 1780. John's name was not found on this term or on the other two terms. It is possible that the substitutes name was used but as he did not give his name it cannot be traced.
4. Major General John Sullivan in 1779 raised an army which later joined forces with Brigadier James Clinton and together they destroyed the Iroquois Villages in the Western part of New York.
5. Probably Adjutant Theodorus Bailey in Colonel Tobias Stoutenbergh's Fourth Regiment of Dutchess County Militia. Adjutant Bailey is not listed with any appointment of a higher rank.
6. Captain David Ostrom was commissioned captain on May 28, 1778 in Colonel Stoutenbergh's Regiment. Joseph Harris was commissioned on the same date in Ostrom's Company as the second lieutenant.
7. Samuel Smith was also commissioned on May 28, 1778 in Colonel Stoutenbergh's Regiment.
8. Colonel Abraham Brinckerhoff of the Second Regiment of Dutchess County Militia.
9. Either Captain John VanBenschoten or Captain Matthew VanBunschoten of Colonel Brinckerhoff's Regiment. Both Captains were commissioned on June 25, 1778.
10. The Battle of White Plains, NY was fought on October 28, 1776. It's not clear if he meant he was in the battle or if it was his first term of service.
11. This service is believed to be in 1776. Colonel Graham also had a regiment of a detachment of Dutchess and Ulster Counties in August of 1777 but by August they had joined Major General Horatio Gates' Army at Saratoga. Colonel Graham's Regiment was attached to Brigadier General John Glover's Brigade.
12. First Lieutenant John L. Hardenburgh of Captain Jonathan Hallett's Seventh Company in Colonel VanCortlandt's Regiment. There appear to be no nine months men enlisted for that company in 1779.
13. Daniel Ward served as a private in either Captain George Brinckerhoff's Company or in Captain John G. Brinckerhoff's Company in Colonel Brinckerhoff's Regiment.