

Pension Application for Matthew Halsey

S.10781

State of New York

Steuben County SS.

On this sixteenth day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty two personally appeared in open court before the Court of Common Pleas now sitting at the Court House in Bath in the County and State aforesaid being a Court of Record Mathew Halsey a resident of the town of Howard in the County and State aforesaid aged seventy nine 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 officers and served as herein stated viz, he enlisted for six months but served eight as hereafter stated at South Hampton on Long Island where he resided in June 1775 in a company under the command of Captain John Hollibard—1st Lieutenant John Davis and 2nd Lieutenant William Havens his company belonged to Colonel James Clinton's regiment but did not join it.

That soon after his enlistment he marched with his company to Montauck Point on the East end of Long Island—two companies were there—stationed at that place and this declarant remained there about six weeks, while there a British fleet came in sight but did not land and while there—

The militia were called out to the relief of the troops at that station and next marched to New York where he staid about & then marched to Albany with 2 companies and whiel there [?] each a soldiers coat, and those who had no blanket a blanket and those who had one [13/4?] for the use of Captain Hollibards company to which this declarant belonged.

Marched from Albany to Ticonderoga to guard the ammunition wagons and staid there until 1st of November the American Army when he was stationed at Ticonderoga took Fort Chamblay with about 100 prisoners. The prisoners were taken to Ticonderoga and there given in charge to Captain Hollibard and he marched thence with the prisoners to New Canaan at which place the prisoners were kept except the officers who were marched by Captain Hollibard and twelve men to Philadelphia.

The residue of the company of the company [sic] this declarant being one were marched under the command of the Lieutenant to Fort Constitution opposite West Point and arrived then about the first of December and remained there until discharge, his term of service expired about Christmas but as there was not troops sent to their relief and as they were not yet paid off this declarant with others agreed to stay until some other troops should arrive upon condition that the officers would engage to see them paid and remained there under such engagement until 14th February 1776 when being relieved by three companies called minute men and was then paid off and discharged a written discharge was given him by his captain—which he has since lost.

This declarant does not recollect who commanded at Fort Ticonderoga when they arrived but remembers that some time in the fall of 1775 General Schuyler who commanded the expedition against Canada returned in consequence of sickness to Ticonderoga and they left him then when they marched with the persons as herein before stated—recollect that while on the march to Ticonderoga General Woster was a little in advance of them with a considerable body of men – and he recollects seeing him embark from Fort Ticonderoga after he was discharged as aforesaid he returned to Smithsborough his residence on Long Island.

In spring of 1776 the British fleet hovered off Long Island and in the sound and produced great alarm. The militia were continually under arms and this declarant was almost constantly on duty as a militia man from April until after the battle on Long Island. That when Brooklin was taken he was doing duty in the militia at the east end of Long Island that shortly before the battle they were ordered to Brooklin and on their march found that the British were between them and the Americans and that he was not in the engagement and immediately afterwards was engaged in assisting to remove the people and their effects who were friendly to the American cause on the Island and thinks that he was almost constantly on militia duty from April until the latter part of July—being four months.

He has no documentary or other proof, except the affidavit of Jonathan Cook who was a fellow soldier with him in the campaign of 1775 for eight months service.

He was born at Southampton on Long Island in the year 1753. Has a record of his age at home in Howard. Lived as stated above when called into service & since at Springfield Otsego County New York—removed from there to Howard where he now resides in Steuben County State of New York was called into the service in the manner above stated & does not recollect any circumstances except those stated in relation to his services—nor can he say anything further in relation to his discharges.

He can prove as to his character for veracity and their belief of services as a soldier of the Revolution by Simeon Bacon and Lumon Hamilton.

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) Matthew Halsey

Sworn & Subscribed the day and year aforesaid. M.S. Rumsey, Dep Clk
Steuben County