

Pension Application for David Holmes

S.31752

State of New York

WestChester County SS.

On this eleventh day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty two personally appeared in open court before the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Westchester now in [?] David Holmes a resident of the town of Bedford in the County of West Chester and State of New York aged seventy five years, who first being 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.

On or about the last of March 1776. He enlisted into Capt. David Hobby's Company of Militia as Serjeant [sergeant] for the term of six months and had enlisting orders ,and enlisted several soldiers into said company in the Town of Bedford in the County of WestChester, James Miller was Lieut, in said Company; and about the first of May we marched to New York and joined Col. Richmore's Regiment and encamped a little above the Town, and after the Battle on Long Island, we retreated to Harlem Heights, and was in the Battle on Harlem Heights in September, and having served out said term of enlistment, was verbally discharged at Harlem Heights. That this declarant again enlisted that is to say . . .

On or about the first of January 1777 he enlisted into Capt Hezekiah Grays Company of Militia in the Town of Bedford as Serjeant for the term of four months, Isaac Titus Lieutenant in said company and served out said term of time on the lines in said company and served out said term of time on the lines in West Chester County under the command of Col. Thomas Thomas and was discharged at North Castle near the mills by [?] Titus Lieutenant, the Captain having died.

That on or about the first of August 1777, he enlisted a Serjeant in Capt. Richard Sackett's and Lieut. VanWarts Company of Militia in the Town of Bedford in Col. Ludington's Regiment and served Three months on the lines in West Chester County being near the White Plains, at the time the British went up the North River to relieve Burgoine—

They landed at Tarry Town and came out to take our Regiment, they sent an officer with a flag, and offered us pardon if we would lay down our arms, and having the front guard, heard the reply from the Col. Who said; not as long as a man had an arm to fight with, or a leg to run &c.

We followed the enemy up the North River, at the time Fort Montgomery was taken and having served the term of time as aforesaid was verbally discharged at Crompond by Colonel Livingston.

This Deponent further saith that on or about the first of April 1778, he enlisted as Serjeant in Capt. John Thomas, and Lieut. William Woodward Company of Militia in the Town of Bedford for the term of three months and in the Regiment under the

command of Col. Thomas Thomas, and served out said term of time as aforesaid on the lines in West Chester County near the White Plains and was there verbally discharged by Captain John Thomas.

On or about the first of February 1779 he volunteered as Sergeant in the Town of Bedford in Capt. John Thomas Company of Militia for the service of two months, and in the Regiment under the command of Col. Thomas Thomas, and was called out under said officers and served out said time as herein sated, ordered to North Castle at Wrights Mills to guard the stores of Wheat and Forage, from thence marched to the White Plains and there stationed awhile as guard, from thence to East Chester and there had a skirmish with the enemy, they retreated and left one killed, from thence marched to Wright's Mills in North Castle and at the expiration of the time aforesaid was there verbally discharged by Captain John Thomas aforesaid.

That this declarant on or about the month of May 1779 he entered the service as a sergeant in the Town of Bedford in the company of Militia under the command of captain Marcus Moseman, Lieut Gabriel Higgins and Eli Tyler Ensign, and in the Regiment under the command of Col. Thomas Thomas, and was ordered into service in West Chester County, and was called out to meet the enemy on their return from Crompond and did meet them at Pines Bridge on the Croton River, an skirmish ensued four of the enemies Horseman were taken prisoners, made a second attack on their out guards, when the said David Holmes was taken prisoner, and put into a barn with other prisoners, and put into a barn with other prisoners, on that night made his escape; the enemy supposing him secreted in the straw in the barn, set fire to the barn to destroy him—and was called out by the aforesaid officers and ordered into service on the lines in West Chester County aforesaid in the vicinity of the enemies lines, and alternately kept guard and patrols to repel the enemy in their excursions as the inhabitants on the lines in West Chester County and those who guarded the same were more exposed than the regular troops generally were except in action, and he then served from the month of May 1779 till the month of November 1780.

And in November 1780 a party of the enemies horse, at day light were discovered driving cattle and sheep from Bedford toward New York. The alarm, guns fired, we pursued the enemy a few miles, retook the whole drove at that instant Lieut Jane from Col. Sheldon's Horse took the command and we made a second charge and drove the enemy to their encampments near Tarrytown where we were surrounded by the enemy, and Lieut___ Jane and the said David Holmes and three others were taken prisoners, and were taken to New York and confined in the Sugar House for some time, and from thence taken to the Hospital and in the month of January 1781 was exchanged and returned to Bedford West Chester County and the service rendered by the said declarant from the first of May 1779 to the first of January 1781, he thus states to be one year and eight months, and this declarant further states that he joined Captain Jacob M. Vermiller Company of Dragons and served til year took place.

And to the Interrogatories propounded to him by the court agreeably to the Instructions of the war department, he on his oath maketh answer and saith, that he was born in the year 1757 at Bedford Town in the County of WestChester.

That he has a record of his age, which record is in the Family Bible at his own house in the Town of Bedford.

That he resided in the Town of Bedford in said county of WestChester at the times he entered the service as aforesaid.

And since the Revolutionary War has lived and now lives in the said Town of Bedford in the County of WestChester aforesaid.

That at some of the periods for which he entered the service, he entered as a volunteer, and at the other times, when called out as herein before stated, was called out by his officers—

That the names of the Regular Officers he now recollects who were with the troops—where he served his campaign on York Island, in 1776, are Col. Richmore, Col. McDougle, General Sterling and the officers belonging to his company and Regiment herein before stated.

That the remainder of his service was on the lines in the said County of WestChester as herein before stated, that there were sometimes a few regular troops with the militia on the lines.

That he now recollects was Colo'n Sheldon some of his officers Lieutenants Jane Dole King and Capt Richard Lieut Holden who [?]

That he did not at any time receive a written discharge. That he had no documentary evidence of his service.

That the names of the person to whom he is known in his present neighborhood and who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution are John Slawson & Abraham Barrett the said John Slawson and Abraham Barrett being within his neighborhood.

And he hereby relinquishes ever y 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) David Holmes

Affirmed & subscribed this 11th of December 1832 in open court before me. N. Bayles, Clk of said Court.