

Pension Application for Ebenezer Holmes

S.18885

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

County of Bristol

On this tenth day of January 1834 personally appeared in open court before the Judge of the Court of Probate in the County of Bristol, now sitting, Ebenezer Holmes a resident of Swanzy in the County of Bristol and State Massachusetts, aged seventy one 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 services of the United States, under the following named officers, and served as herein stated.

In the month of March 1778 I lived with my Father in Bristol in the State of Rhode Island, which was then a garrisoned town and my father's house was then taken, by the officers for the public use, and several officers quartered in our chambers and among them was one Doctor Wadsworth, whom I believe was a surgeon of the Army in Cool. Crary's or Col. Sherbourne's Regiment of Rhode Island State line—with him I volunteered to be his waiter, and continued to serve him as waiter in the public service till August 1778, for at least five months—during this time and in May 1778 the enemy planned a strong expedition against Bristol and to destroy the boats in Kickamuit River, which is an inlet from Mount Hope Bay, between Bristol and Warren.

They attacked the Town and partially destroyed it, and in the action that ensued, I fully bore my part, from the first attack, till the enemy were routed, and driven on board of their shipping at Bristol ferry. In August 1778 he was discharged by Doctor Wadsworth at Bristol aforesaid – and immediately thereupon, volunteered at s'd Bristol, for one month into a company, in Col. Livingston's regiment of the Continental troops, and was marched on to Rhode Island and was in the Battle fought there—He cannot remember his company officers—but remembers to have seen at this time Genl Greene and Genl Layfayette—after his time was out he was discharged at s'd Bristol—

He then in September 1778 entered as a volunteer into Capt. Bosworth's Company of Artillery for three months, at s'd Bristol, and was stationed all of s'd time at upper fort on the high land at Bristol ferry, he does not know who had the command over Capt. Bosworth, but thinks Col. Crary had of the State line. In December 1778 he was discharged at said fort in Bristol after having served out his time. In February 1779 he belonged to the Militia company of said Bristol, then under the command of Capt Wm. Throop, of which company Jonathan Dimond and Joseph Reynolds were Lieuts—The members of this company, had been in the public service, doing duty by turns, for one month at a time, from the time that the enemy took possession Rhode Island—In Feb'y 1779 it became his turn to serve, in the guard service one month, he was stationed at the fort at Bristol ferry under St. Dimond—

He again served in the months of April and June 1779 at the guard posts s'd Bristol, at Mount Hope Point and at Little's Narrows under Lieut. Reynolds in August 1779 one month in Bristol Town under Capt. Throop and in October 1779 one month at Mount Hope Point under Lt, Reynolds—said company belonged to the Regiment of Col. Nathan Miller—during these said serviced, one half of our said company of Militia, were on duty at a time, but not all of us at our Guard Posts, and we were sometimes moved from one Guard Posts to another during a month service—all the aforesaid services were performed in s'd Bristol, except the time I was in Col. Livingston's regiment on Rhode Island in August 1778.

Owing to old age, and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot be precise, as to the days on which my services aforesaid began and ended, but according to my best recollection, I served not less than the periods of time aforementioned—and all in the grade of a private—namely—five months under Doctor Wadsworth in Col. Crary's or Col. Sherborne's Regt from March to August 1778—one month in Col. Livingston's Regt in Augt 1778—three months in Capt Bosworth's Company of Artillery from Sept to Dec 1778—and five tours of one month each in Capt. Throop's company, from Feb. to October 1779 making in all fourteen months for which he claims a pension. And he further declares that during all the time he was in actual military service and not engaged in any civil business or pursuit, and received pay therefor.

And he further declares that he was born at said Bristol in the State of Rhode Island on the 6th day of January 1762 and that he hath a record of his age.

That he lived at s'd Bristol when he was called into all the services aforesaid, where he continued to reside until about thirty eight years ago, when he removed to s'd Swanzy in the Common wealth of Massachusetts, where he had since resided and still doth live.

That he never received any written discharge from any of s'd services but was verbally discharged by his commanding officers—

That he has no documentary evidence of any of said services.

That there is no clergyman living in his neighborhood or vicinity but he refers to Theophilus Suther & Isaac Simm Esqrs. Citizens of S'd Swaney and his neighbours who testify to his character for veracity and to their belief that he was a soldier of the revolution—and also to the accompanying depositions.

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) Ebenezer Holmes

Sworn to and subscribed the day and yea aforesaid. H. Baylies, Judge of Probate