

Pension Application for James Keeler

R.5808

State of New York

County of St. Lawrence SS.

On this third day of march 1837 personally appeared before John Fine Esquire First Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of the County of St. Lawrence aforesaid, James Keeler resident of the township of Augusta, County of Granville, District of Johnstown in the Province of Upper Canada aged 79 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. Viz:

That in the latter part of the winter of 1776 he enlisted as a volunteer, for the term of one year, in Captain Denton's company, Colonel Richmore's regiment of York troops, General McDugal commander. That at the time he enlisted he resided in the town of Goshen County of Orange and State of New York.

That soon after he enlisted the company was stationed in the city of New York, when he remained until the city was taken possession or by the British under Lord Howe. That during the battle [battle] on the hights [heights] of Harlem his regiment was stationed in the rear of the main army, as a 'reserve' to await orders; that orders came for the regiment to advance against the enemy but before they arrived the British [British] had retreated.

That about two months after that battle while stationed at the White Plains he was taken sick and was conveyed to the hospital at the 'Fish Kill' that he remained in the hospital for about one month during which time his term of service expired and when he came out of the hospital the company had been dismissed and the soldiers had dispersed—some to their homes and other had inlisted [enlisted] again.

That he immediately inlisted under Captain Stewart, for the term of three years, in the fifth regiment of York troops commanded first by Colonel Dubois and after the resignation of Dubois by Colonel Willet. That he was at the Fishkills at the time he enlisted under Stewart, which was about December 1776, & was soon after stationed at the Barracks where he remained until the following spring when he went to Fort Montgomery where he remained until the Fort was taken by the Brittish on the sixth day of October 1777. That at the storming of the fort about one half of the regiment in which he served were either killed or taken prisoners.

That after the battle the remainder of the regiment was dispersed but assembled again at Merdernalers Creek and marched thence to New Windsor in the same state of New York. That he remained in New Windsor during the winter of 1777, '78 and was then marched down to the village of Pickskill [Peekskill] & joined the army of General Gates. That he was soon after marched with a part of General gate's army, to the White Plains & remained there during the summer of 1778.

In the fall of 1778 he with the rest of the Regiment was taken up in sloops to Albany and was stationed in the winter of 1778, '79 at Johnstown, Montgomery County.

That in the spring of 1779 he again went to the White Plains and was there picked or drafted into a company of Light Infantry commanded by Capt Johnson in which he served until the close of the campaign and was then returned to the company & Regiment which he left, at White Plains & returned again to Albany & wintered in Schoharie.

In the ensuing spring his regiment was marched under General Sullivan through the Indian country to 'Genesee Castle' and marched thence to Morristown in the State of New Jersey & then wintered with General Washington and in the spring of 1781 he went to Haverstraw where he was discharged & received a discharge from Colonel Willet which has since been lost.

He further states that he has no documentary evidence and that he now knows of no person, whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his service.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

He further declares that he was born on Phillips Patent 25 miles back of the Fishkill in the State of New York on the fourth day of July 1758, and that there is a record of his age at his house in the township of Augusta County of Granville, District of Johnstown, Province of Upper Canada.

That he resided at the town of Goshen, Orange County, State of New York when he enlisted first. That after the Revolutionary War he returned to Goshen. From thence he moved to Cambridge Upper Canada, remained there 3 years & then moved to Arlington, County of Bennington, State of Vermont, and removed thence to the township of Augusta Upper Canada where he now resides. (Signed) James Keeler

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid. John Fine, First Judge of St. Lawrence Co.