

Pension Application for William Miles

S.28813

Declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

State of New York

Onondaga County

On this 6th day of September 1838 personally appeared in open courts before Grover Lawrence First Judge and Johnson Hall & Lyman H. Manson two of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas & general Sessions of the [?] now sitting, at Salina in said County, William Miles, a resident of Lysander in said County of Onondaga, and State of New York, aged seventy five 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 7th 1832.

That he entered the service in the fore part of October 1780 in a company of Militia commanded by Captain Jacob Fosbury in the town of New Britain then in Albany County, State aforesaid, he Lieutenant was Nathaniel Miles & Father to this declarant, and all lived then in that place,—that he turned out as a volunteer also, & we all went under Col. Whiting & Col. Waterman, to whose Regiment of local militia, said company belonged up the Mohawk river, & fought the enemy in the Battle of Palantine, [Palatine] on the same day that Col Brown was killed—

That he returned home in November, having served one month & followed the enemy to Fort Herkimer where he was discharged with all the Militia Volunteer by Governor Clinton in person –

Afterwards, in the month of August 1781, he enlisted for four months into Capt. Skinners Company of State troops, which was attached to Willet's Regiment, that he went to Albany & went from there by advice of Gen. Clinton, with a detachment of another company to Schoharie, where were some of Skinners' company, with whom he marched to Fort Plain on the Mohawk River, where Capt. Skinner was with his company –

From there he marched in a detachment to Fort Herkimer – remained there two weeks & were then marched back to Fort Plain—then went with a guard to fort Walrat, & then after a week or two, went back again to Fort Plain—from thence he marched with all the troops by the way of Fort Hunter to Johnstown and was there in the Battle of Johnstown—from there the Regiment under command of Col. Willett, marched to Fort Herkimer—Major [Rowley?] was in that battle & got wounded in the heel—after about four days we pursued the enemy & had a skirmish killed some & took fourteen prisoners & declarant was sent back with the prisoners to Fort Herkimer, while the regiment pursued the enemy & killed their commander Butler—the regiment then returned to Fort Plain where Skinner's Company was discharged in the month of December—

That in April 1782 he enlisted for Nine months into Capt Grays Company of State troops, & Joined it at Schoharie, and served in it there till August, & then & there he enlisted for three years, into Capt. Joseph Harrison's Company of State

troops—Rial Bingham was his Lieutenant & Pliny Moore was his Ensign that he was mustered into the three years service at Albany under General Clinton & then the whole company was taken back to Schoharie & remained there till October, keeping Garrison--& watching the Indians, and then went to head quarters at Fort Plain & built our huts for winter—

In January 1783 the men were inoculated at Fort Plain for the small pox—and in Feb he belonged to a party of about four hundred who were ordered to go and surprise & take Fort Oswego—at Oswego falls we eat our last provision -- & proceeded down the down the [sic] river about four miles & the pilots got bewildered & the enterprise failed—returned there to Fort Plain having lost a number who were frozen to death—that he was so frozen himself, that he got a furlough & went home in March but did not recover so as to join the regiment before it was discharged at Albany in July—being confined at his Father's house more than three months—that he resided in New Britain, County of Albany, State of New York when he entered the service as aforesaid—

That he knows of no other person except those whose depositions are hereto annexed, whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his service that he was born in the Town of Brimfield, County of Worcester, & State of Massachusetts, on the 9th day of September 1763, but has no record of his age—that since the Revolutionary War, he removed from New Britain to Pompey, Onondaga County – to Garanon in Madison County to Phoenix Oneida County and then to Lysander Onondaga County where he now lived, that he remembers Major Van Schouten & Colonel Willet at Fort Plain also Capt Cannon, Capt. Tierce Capt Pierce, Capt McConnel & Adjutant Fonda—

That he never received a written discharge, excepting one from Col. Willet at the end of the four months service, and that is long since lost.

That the reason why he has not made this application before now, is because he has not been able to find any witnesses alive who can't swear to any part of the service herein set forth.

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, and that he engaged Elbert B. Dyckman are known to him in his present neighborhood & can testify to his veracity & their belief of his services in the revolutionary war as a soldier. (Signed) Wm Miles

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid. E. Rhoades Clerk Onon Com Pleas