

Pension Application for Roswell Ray

W.18792 (Widow: Leah) Married June 28, 1789. Roswell died September 23, 1844.
State of New York
Saratoga County SS.

On this 28 day of December in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty two personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in said County now sitting Roswell Ray a resident of Wilton in said County aged sixty nine years and seven months, 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 named officers & served as herein stated. That he lived in Saratoga District in Albany County and State of New York.

In the year 1780 in the month of April he was hired by the Head of a class whose name was Herman Groesbeck, at Schaghticoke in this state and went out of a Regiment of Albany County Militia, commanded by Peter Yates, John W. Groesbeck, Major. He was hired for the period of nine months.

The troops that were raised were to go to West Point. This deponent was lame when the troops marched & could not go. He soon recovered from his lameness, and went to Major Groesbeck to get his pass in order to join his Regiment, and was told my him that delinquents must go the North instead of the South, and accordingly gave him a pass to Fort Edward—When he arrived there he was ordered by the commanding officers, Col. Henry Livingston, to go on to Fort Ann and he did so.

At Fort Ann there was a company commanded by Captain Adial Sherwood, in what Regiment he was not recollected, Ezekiel Roberts being first Lieut, and Cornelius Baldwin being second Lieut, a company stationed at Fort Ann, in order to keep garrison & go on scouting.

This deponent was then attached to said company as a fifer. He continued there doing duty as a Fifer aforesaid under the aforesaid officers in 1780, as he thinks when a party of 800 British troops with 200 Tories & 200 Indians came in the night and surrounded the Fort.

In the morning a party was beat, and the American Officers demanded what they wanted. They said they demanded the Fort.

The American officer, Captain A. Sherwood aforesaid sent out a flag & after holding a consultation surrendered themselves prisoners of war. They were then taken out & placed under a British guard. They were marched to Glens Falls & there encamped. From thence they were taken towards Lake George as prisoners under the said guard Col. Warner's Regiment was stationed at Lake George. Major Chipman commanded the said Regiment at Lake George aforesaid & sent out a part of his Regiment, which lay in ambush for the purpose of retaking us on Gage's Hill.

(They then ambushed Americans) were discovered by a party of British Indians who brought word to the British officers; these parties were immediately sent out to take them. The British attacked the Americans as they lay in ambush & a skirmish

ensued, which lasted about 15 minutes. The British killed & took the whole of the party except five among the party killed was Captain Thomas Sill of the American Army who commanded a said Ambush & Ensign McLowry—Pending the engagement there had been several shots fired from Fort George. The fort was demanded and given up, and all the prisoners lodged therein. Major Chipman was amongst the prisoners & was let go on his parol.

In the morning the prisoners were taken out of the Fort which was there, together with every thing else of a combustible nature, burnt up. They were then marched along the west side of Lake George to Ticonderoga. The British shipping lay at Ticonderoga, with a number of bateaux. Part of the troops were put on board the shipping and in part given in charge to the Indians & he and number of other prisoners went with the Indians & were taken through the Lake to St. Johns where we arrived at this place the Indians obtained same, & the prisoners were taken out of their possession for the night. (Every night during the passage they were taken on shore, & were secured by ropes passing round their bodies the ends extending either way & an Indian laying on each end.)

On the following morning we were again delivered to the Indians, each boat crew taking the prisoners that they brought there to the Lake. They were taken to LaPrairie, & there embarked in each canoes on the St. Lawrence & crossed over to Montreal soon after we crossed he was stripped of his coat by the Indians. They were then marched to a large Hall where an officer held a conference with the Indians through an interpreter. The British Guard was then marched up & they (the prisoners) were delivered to the guard.

They were imprisoned at Montreal through the winter. In the spring of 1780 this deponent with other prisoners was sent down to Quebeck and was kept at Quebeck and Three Rivers until into December 1782. He was then sent up the Sorel & soon after made his escape from the British & brought away these Hessians along with him & brought away these Hessians along with him. This was in February or March of 1783.

And this deponent further saith that the whole time he was in the service on this expedition including the period of his imprisonment, amounts to about two years.

He has no documentary evidence of his service.

He was born on Livingston's Manor then in the County of Albany & State of New York in the year 1763.

He has a record of his age at home.

Since the Revolutionary War has resided in Schaghticoke Rensselaer County of where he has lived about [?5] years, Easton county of Washington where he has lived [2?] years & in Pittstown Renselaer County where he has lived 11 years & from the latter places moved to Wilton Saratoga County where he now resided & where he has resided for 20 years past.

Never received a written discharge, Seldon Emerson, Cyrus Ray, Seth Perry, & Broadstreet Emerson are well acquainted with this deponent & can testify as to his character for veracity & their belief of his services as a soldier & John Angle, late a

Justice of the Peace of the Town of Northumberland in said County now of Milton in said County of the Revolution.

He hereby relinquishes every claim 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) Roswell Ray

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid in open court. Wm. Goodrich. Dep. Clerk