

Pension Application for Josephus Westbrook

R.11352

State of New Jersey

Sussex County SS.

On this twenty eight day of August eighteen hundred and thirty two, personally appeared in open Court before the Judges of the Inferior Court of Common Pleas in and for said County now sitting, Joseph Westbrook residing in the Township of Montague in said County of Sussex and State aforesaid aged seventy six years and four months, who being first duly sworn doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

That in the commencement of the war he belonged to a company of Militia commanded by Capt. Henry W. Cortright of Minisink on the Delaware in Montague township –

He was drafted from Capt Cortrights Company & placed under Captain Emanuel Horn of [Ualpack?] in s'd County and was ordered to New York where he remained about four or five weeks, on duty, keeping guard, and working on the fortifications which were putting up then called the Grand Battery that he then returned home and of the some short time, he was called out again, and went with Captain Cortright, whose company volunteered, to Springfield in this state and that he was there at the battle with the British & fought under Captain Cortright, Col. John C. Symores, commanded the Regiment to which I belonged.

He says he remembers the circumstances of Major Spencer's Horse being shot under him in that engagement. At this time he was absent a month or five weeks.

In the next place, he states that Captain Cortright was called on to furnish a certain number of men from his company, and I was drafted as one and went with the drafted troops to Woodbridge in New Jersey below Elizabeth Town & New Brunswick—and laid there one month but don't recollect of any particular engagement during this time. The next duty that he recollects of performing was in Captain Cortrights Company or rather as a drafted man from his company on the frontier on the Delaware River, and the duty assigned was principally to guard the fording or crossing places on the river, and to guard against the incursions of the Indians and watch the movements of the tories and remained out one month.

The next duty was when the Indians cut off the Navasink and killed & carried off in number of the Inhabitants. He then went up to the mouth of the Lackawana on the Delaware River on Pennsylvania side [of] the New York Militia was on the other side at this time, the battle at Beaver Brook was fought, and a great many were killed. He was at this time in Captain Cortrights Company who was also in that expedition. He saith he was enrolled in the Militia early in the war in the year 1775, and was often called out, besides the times above stated, upon sudden alarms from the Indians and tories, which were very frequent, in that part of the Country & on that frontier which was much exposed, and that according to the terms of the enrolment, he was to be ready at an hours warning and turn out to march were required.

That he served more than six months in the service, and believes that he served on different occasions, and in performing various duties as a militia man on the frontier more than the different tours from home, as above stated. When absent on other excursions.

He says he was born in the Township of Montague in the County of Sussex afs'd on the 18th of April 1756. The record of his age was burnt, about fourteen years ago, when he had the misfortune to lose his house and his barn by fire and the bible in which his age was recorded was burnt together with much of his household furniture. By this accident he lost almost all he possessed. He thinks such loss three thousand dollars which made him a poor man.

He has a copy from the Record of the Reformed Dutch Church of Minisink which he produced here in Court by which it appears he was baptized on the 4th July 1756. He says he has always resided in Montague aforesaid Captain John J. Westbrook, Doctor Jacob Hornback & James Stott Esquire, are known who resides in his neighborhood, and can testify to his character for veracity and good behavior.

I Josephus Westbrook do hereby relinquish every claim whatsoever to a pension or annuity (except the present) and declare that my name is not on the pension Roll of the agency of any state. (Signed) Josephus Westerbrook

Sworn & Subscribed in open Court this 28 Aug 1832. Benj Halsey, Judge &c.