

Pension Application for James Adams

S.5231

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Suffolk SS. Boston

On this eighth day of August 1832, personally appeared in open court before the Municipal Court of the city of Boston now sitting at said Boston within and for the county of Suffolk aforesaid, James Adams of said Boston aged seventy two years, who being 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. L; That he entered the service of the United States, under the following named officers, and served as herein stated. That is to say.

He enlisted as a volunteer at Lincoln in the Province of Massachusetts in the Provincial troops about the middle of September 1776. The officers of my company were [big blot] & Lieutenant Eli Ponant; the commander of the [blot] was Colonel Charles Brach[?] in General McDugal commanded the troops where which he served. He marched instead [blot] to New York & was present at the battle of White Plains & near Valentine hill, October [blot] for 28 [blot].

He served in this enlistment a period of three months.

In October 1777, he enlisted as a volunteer at Cambridge; he cannot remember the names of all his officers; his Lieutenant was Samuel Stearns of Waltham, Massachusetts, the Colonel of his regiment, to the best of his recollection was Colonel Weld of Scituate. He was stationed at Cambridge & was one of the soldiers that guarded the British Prisoners that were taken with Burgoyne. He stood on duty as a centinel [sentinel] when these prisoners marched within the lines at Prospect hill; part of the time he was stationed at the old Brattle house, one the residence of Colonel Brattle, a Tory. The period of his service during this enlistment was about nine months; he continued in it till the prisoners taken with Burgoyne, were sent to Europe.

In July 1778 he again enlisted in the State troops of Massachusetts at Lincoln Joseph Durfee of Freetown Massachusetts was Colonel of the regiment. He marched to Rhode Island, was there while the British were besieged. While encamped about three miles from the North part of the Island there was a violent storm which prostrated most of the tents & did much damage to the English and French Fleets. He thinks that in this expedition Governor Hancock commanded the militia & that General Sullivan was commander in chief, Isaac Hartwell of Lincoln was his Lieutenant. A continental regiment commanded by Colonel Webb was stationed near him; during the winter he was quartered at [Fratown?]-

On or about July 1779, he enlisted at Lincoln in the Massachusetts State troops in the company commanded by Samuel Hale & regiment commanded by Colonel John Jacobs, marched to Providence, thence down the river to Tivertown & crossed at Howland's Ferry to the Island & the next day took possession of Newport soon after the British had evacuated it.

He was away from home in this campaign about three months & in the preceding one about nine months. The several periods of this service, according to the best computation he can make, amount to more than twenty three months. He has preserved not written discharge.

He knows of but two persons living who served with him, the deposition of one is annexed, the other very infirm & lived at a distance in the country; his name is Abner Matthew.

He relinquishes every claim whatever, to a pension or annuity whatever, except he present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll, of the agency of any State. (Signed) James Adams

Sworn to and subscribed the day and yea aforesaid in open court, before me Peter O. Thatcher, Judge &c.