

Pension Application for Israel Aiken

W.25339 (Widow: Susanna)

Declaration of Israel Aiken

State of Vermont

County of Windsor – District of Windsor SS.

On this Thirtieth day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-two, personally appeared before the Probate Court for the District of Windsor in the State of Vermont, Israel Aiken, a resident of Windsor in the County (and District) of Windsor aforesaid, aged Seventy-two 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 provision made by the Act of Congress, passed June 7th 1832.

That he enlisted in the Army of the United States in the year 1778, with Capt. Daniel Shays in the regiment, of [the] Massachusetts line, commanded by Col. Rufus Putnam, under the following named officers:

At Hardwick in the State of Massachusetts, in the month of May 1778 he enlisted for Nine months, marched to Fishkill on North River and there on the Seventh day of June, same year, entered the company and Regt above mentioned. In his march to Fishkill, he marched through “old Springfield, Danbury, Milford, and other towns not recollected. The Ensign’s name was Chelenor or Chaloner, or a name resembling those in sound; the Lieutenant’s name was Baker, as it now seems to him, although he cannot positively say the [fach?] was so—Of the officers of the Regt he can remember only one name, which was Allen; but whether Allen was Lt. Col. of Major, he is unable to state. The name of the Adjutant was Trotter. He lived in said Hardwick when he enlisted for this service, and also there lived when he entered at other times of cutting the service hereinafter to be mentioned.

He marched (back) from Fishkill back to Hartford (Conn.) there remained sometime—Went to White Plains and at other places—wintered, partly, in huts, on the each side of North River, against or nearly against West Point, at a place nick-named, by old Gen. Putnam “Soldiers Fortune” and partly at Croton River. He was discharged, at the latter place, on the 7th day of March 1779, but received no written discharge.

The said Israel Aiken further declares, that at Hardwick aforesaid, on or near the 6th day of June 1776, he remembers the time because he was sixteen years old that day (6th June) and was impatient and anxious to go into the army, he enlisted, for a tour about which he has no recollection whatever, into the company of Capt Knowlton, in the Regt of Massachusetts militia commanded by Col. Dyke.

He marched to Dorchester heights that “over looked” castle William, and was there employed in cutting turf and carrying it up to the Fort that was begun before the British left Boston. Here he remained until into the fall, at a time not long after fruit was generally ripe, and the weather had become cold, when being unwell he hired a man to take his place. At this time, the dysentery greatly prevailed in our army. He was, this tour, out, as he quite confidently thinks, not far from 4 months. During this period, he did not see or know any continental regiments, or officers: “they had all

gone off to New York”, and the militia about Boston was “pretty much old men and boys.”

The said Aiken further declares that “in that year Arnold sold West Point”, (1780) at Hardwick aforesaid, he enlisted into the company of Capt. Timothy Paige, (the same who afterwards signed and gave him the certificate hereto annexed) of Massachusetts militia; but who commanded the Regt he has entirely forgotten.

He cannot state for which precise term he enlisted, but distinctly recollects that the first night after he marched from Hardwick he stopped at “old Springfield” and slept on the base boards of a barn scaffold and knows that no hay had been cut that year; he is quite certain this was in June.

He marched to West Point, and was there and at other places, as the regiment moved. He was about 2 or 3 miles north of Poughkeepsie getting wood for the garrison at West Point, at the time Arnolds treason “broke out”, when he was ordered down to the Point. When they came within about 10 miles of the Point, they were ordered back again, and he continued there until he was discharged. The exact time of his being discharged, he cannot state; he only knows that he came directly home, and found in Hardwick snow as much as six inches deep on the ground. He thinks he must have been out this time not far from 5 months, but has no other recollection that as above. He had “but little chance” to know continental officers or troops, and recollects only that he frequently, or a number of times, saw Gen. Arnold & other officers whose names he has forgotten.

The said Aiken further declares that, at Hardwicks aforesaid, he enlisted, for a term about the extent of which he has no precise recollection, into the company of Capt’n Richardson, Massachusetts Militia. He cannot remember either the time of his enlisting nor the time of his being discharged; nor can he remember whether there was or was not any regiment from New England; his impression was is that Col. Schuyler of Albany commanded “the men” after they were assembled. He remembers well that on the march, they procured new potatoes of considerable “bigness” and the farmers would not take pay for them. He marched to Albany N. York, at which place they feared an attack from the Indians at the north and west, and there remained until he was discharged, but at which time he is unable to state. He was dismissed sooner than he expected to be when he went. He believes he was there not far from three months, though unwilling to “speak certain” about it.

He has no documentary evidence, except the certificate annexed, and knows of no person, whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his services.

About the 1st day of June 1781, he removed from said Hardwick to Windsor Vt. Where he has ever since resided. In the winter of 1783, being at Hardwick, and not having then (nor at any time) received more than half his pay, he asked Capt. Paige under whom he served, for a certificate. Said Paige gave him the papers hereto annexed, and the declarant preserved it thinking that “some day there might be a settlement of such things”.

Hardwick January 30, 1783.

This may certify to whome so was it may confirm that Mr. Israel Aiken hath sarved twenty one months as a good soldier in the Continental Army in the present war. Timo. Paige, Capt.

He herby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension, or annuity, except the present, and declares that his not on the Pension Roll of the agency of any state.

To the Interrogatories, propounded by the Court, the declarant answers, that he was born in Hardwick in the State of Massachusetts on the 6th day of June 1760, and, that he believes there is a record of his age in said Town of Hardwick; gives the names of Andrew N. Woodruff and Elias Savage, as persons in his neighbourhood, who can testify to his character for veracity, and their belief of his services; and as to the other matters to which he is interrogated, he has related the same, according to his best recollection, in his declaration above. (Signed) Israel Aiken.

Sworn to, and subscribed, the day and year aforesaid. Jabez Proctor Judge.