

Pension Application for Eliab Alden

W.20581 (Widow: Mary) Married March 6, 1785. Eliab died March 14, 1844.

B.L.Wt.6431-160-55

State of New York

County of Greene SS.

On this third day of September 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in & for the said county of Greene Eliab Alden aged 71 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—(said Court now sitting)

That I entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

About the first of the month as I think, in January 1776 being then not quite fifteen years of age, enlisted voluntarily as a private into the Continental service for one year into Capt Allen's company, Col Ward's Regiment, General Spencer's Brigade was stationed at Dorchester until the British evacuated Boston—was then marched to New York—crossed over to, and was at the battle on Long Island, when the British landed above the City of New York, this regiment was stationed opposite their shipping to oppose their landing in order to cover the retreat of the main army, it being supposed that this Regt must fall into the hands of the British for the safety of the main army. We however effected a retreat across the island (New York) with the loss of but a few men. My regiment was in a skirmish at Harlaem plains above the city. I then being on guard was not in it.

I was in the battle of White Plains—my regiment went into winter quarters at the Highlands above Peekskill where I was discharged in or about January 1777—regularly served out my term of enlistment (one year) and was discharged verbally.

In the month of July 1779 I enlisted voluntarily as a private for nine months into the Continental service rendezvoused at Springfield Mass. I was then put into a company commanded by Lieutenant Remicks commonly called Capt Merrils company in Col. Brewer's Regiment in General Patterson's Brigade was marched down to West Point—staid there a while then the Regt in which I was, was [sic] marched to & stationed at Fishkill and then placed under the command of Col. Ebenezer Sproat, and it appeared to me that we were shifted from Genl Patterson's Brigade and attached to that commanded by Genl Lovers or Genl Nicholson of this I am not positive—served out my term of enlistment and was discharged at Fishkill—except that I was absent home by permission about a month—during which time I employed a man who did duty for me and answered to my name on the roll—It appears to me that I received a written discharge—that when discharged I asked for one to prevent being taken upon the [?] which was given me. This is lost & destroyed.

In 1778 in the winter there was a draft made from the militia for three months, one Nathan Backus was drafted for whom I volunteered and was accepted and went as a substitute in company commanded by Capt. Nathaniel Wood of Middleborough Mass. The Lieutenants in this Comp. were Kingman & Perkins from the same town,

were attached to a Regt commanded by Col. Sproat (father of Col. Ebenezer Sproat of the Continental service under whom I served as before stated at Fishkill)—does not know whether attached to a brigade or not. Capt Wood's Comp. in which I served stationed at North Kingston, Rhode Island.

The object was to prevent incursion of parties from the British shipping in the bay the British 64 gun ship, Somerset then lay off opposite North Kingston. This ship was afterwards cast away on Cape Cod & her crew taken prisoners. Were but two companies stationed at North Kingston by Capt. Washburn. The rest of the Regt scattered along the bay.

I regularly served out my term of service three months and was discharged received no written discharge was discharged I think in the month of April 1778.

In the fall & December of 1778 served as a substitute for two months in the militia of Massachusetts one month for my father Joseph Alden and one month for Seth Eaton—who were drafted for three months—served in a company commanded by Captain Abraham Washburn, names of Lieutenants have forgotten, was but one company & he believes was attached to no regiment. The duties of this company were to guard some British prisoners the crew of the British ship Somerset –served in Boston—a day or two before discharged marched these prisoners to Providence R.I. where we were discharged; served two months & was discharged. Did not receive a written discharge. There was at this time a Continental Regt in Boston commanded by Col. Sergeant does not recollect of any other troops being there at that time.

I have been down to Massachusetts in order to obtain all the evidence of service, I could land I can find, and know of no person living by whom I can prove my service, except Ezra Clark and William Drake of whom I have procured affidavits of all within their knowledge concerning my service which are hereunto annexed.

In answer to the interrogatories prescribed by the war Dept I answer.

I was born March 24th 1761 in Middleborough Plymouth County Massachusetts—That I have no record of my age. That I was called into service each time from said town of Middleborough – that I resided in said town of Middleborough until about 30 years of age (except when absent on service as herein stated) then removed to East Windsor Connecticut where I remained 10 or 11 years when I removed to Cairo, Greene Co., N.Y. where I have since and do now reside.

I voluntarily enlisted into the Continental [service] and went as a substitute into the militia service as before stated.

Can state the names of no regular officers with the militia or Continental or militia regiment with the militia where I served farther than above stated. Did receive but one written discharge which is destroyed.

I can state the names of a large number in my present neighbourhood with whom I am acquainted who can testify as to my character for veracity and their belief of my services as a soldier of the revolution.

I will mention Jonathan Nickerson, Eli Brooks, Amasa Keith, David Johnson, Isaac Bogardus, Daniel Sayre, William Pearson, Robert B. Field, John Crooker, William Barton, Benjamin Hine, Isa T. Day, Horace Austin, George A. Crooker & many others.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever 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 or if any, only on that of the agency of the state of Massachusetts. (Signed) Eliab Alden. Sworn & subscribed the day and year aforesaid. William V. B. Heermance, Clerk