

Pension Application for Michael Appleby

R.236

In the Matter of the Application of Michael Appleby a Revolutionary Soldier for a Pension under the Act of Congress of June 1832.

Declaration. In order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

State of New York

County of Madison SS.

On this seventeenth day of September 1832—personally appeared before the Honorable Barrack Beckwith one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in & for the County of Madison (the said Court having a Seal & Clerk) at the town of Cazenovia in said County—Michael Appleby of the town of Cazenovia in the County of Madison & State of New York, aged eighty four 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.

That he entered the service of the United States at the time & in the manner herein after mentioned & Stated.

In 1775 I lived at Marblehead on Massachusetts Bay. In the Month of April when the British detachment left Boston to go to Concord, to destroy the American Stores there I started with; about twenty others, volunteers for Lexington, there we put ourselves under the command of Doctor Warren afterwards General Warren & fought the British troops during the engagement, a ball from the English Soldiers cut of an ear lock of hair from Doct. Warren's head—I was near him at the time & saw it—We did not go to Concord but returned to Cambridge & I with several of our number entered a accompany of artillery under the command of captain Travet.

The Several Companies collected there were under the Command of Colonel Prescott. Our Company were the only Artillery at Cambridge & we carried Muskets slung to our backs. We had a field Piece, a four pounder. We remained there drilling & exercising under the Instruction of Warren till the 16th of June—in the evening of that day we were ordered to Bunker's -- & the next morning marched there—Arrived on the hill behind the Breastwork. About nine oclock while firing our fun, a Cannon ball from the ships in the harbor or the floating batteries struck our gun in the muzzle & entirely destroyed it—Shortly after this we commenced to retreat across the Charlestown Neck. While the floating batteries were firing upon us from both sides of the neck.

Soon after the retreat command & within a short distance of the entrenchment General Warren was shot. I was near him & saw him fall. We retreated to Cambridge & remained there for some time—

Early in July following General Washington came to Cambridge & took the command. He immediately divided the Troops there into three Divisions—Stationed one of these Divisions under command of General Lee on Winter Hill & Prospect Hill. Another General Ward at Roxbury & the other others General Washington commanded in person at Cambridge, Genl Washington had his quarters at the house of one Colonel Vassel who was a Tory & had gone to Halifax. Our Troops received a supply of

ammunition, arms & tools from Capt. Manly of a Privateer, who had taken them from a British Vessel.

On night in the early part of March 1776, our company with others marched secretly to Dorchester Heights & passed so near the British out posts that we could hear their Sentries talk—Before morning we had a Breast work nearly completed & at about Sunrise we opened a fire from the heights upon the British Camp in Boston--The first shot struck their guard house & killed Several Soldiers—One man was said to have been cut in two & a part of him blown away & could not be found.

Genl Washington came to the heights the first night & returned to Cambridge—about one o clock in the morning.

Immediately after the evacuation of Boston by the British I was regularly discharged from the service—having served between Eleven & twelve months, most of which time I served as first Corporal—

I continued to reside at Cambridge after I was discharged til some time in the early part of September 1776—When I enlisted under Captain Frothingham for three months, Colonel Brooks commanded the Regiment—I do not remember the names of any other Officers—nor of the Officers with whom I first served (except such as I have named & except the Generals). Within a short time after my enlistment, we marched to Mile Square near New York City—do not remember the paces we passed through—remained at Mile Square a few days & marched to White Plains remained at White Plains till the Battle on the 28th of October. About 9 o clock on the morning of the 28th we were drawn out for battle—I fought faithfully during the Battle & was soon after discharged [discharged] – and returned to Cambridge sometime in the latter part of November or fore part of December having served nearly 3 months except times I cannot recollect.

I have no documentary evidence & know of no person who can testify to his service—

I hereby relinquish every claim 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.

I am old & infirm & dependent principally upon the charity of my neighbours for the support of myself & wife.

In answer to the questions put by the judge above mentioned I declare that-

1st I was born in the Island of Jersey on the 26th of February 1748 (was 84 years old last February) emigrated to America 1771, landed a Marblehead in Massachusetts Bay & lived there till I entered the service.

2nd I have no record of my age—I lost it with my pocket book as mentioned below.

3rd When I first entered the Service I was living at Marblehead as above stated—In 1783 I moved from Cambridge to Deerfield Massachusetts lived there about four years moved to Williamsburg about ten miles distant, lived there about ten years & removed to Cazenovia in the County of Madison & State of New York which has been my place of residence ever since--& where I now reside. I should have stated that I have lived for about thirteen years (previous to the last three years) with my children out of Cazenovia but not out of the state. The last three years I have lived in Cazenovia.

4th I entered the service both times as a volunteer.

5th The only Officers whose names I can recollect are those already stated. I am feeble & my memory has failed very fast for some time past.

6th I received a discharge in writing each time of my leaving service as above stated & I believe the name of General Washington was signed or attached to both—a few years after the close of the war I lost my Pocket Book containing both Discharges and a record of my age.

7th I am known to all in my neighborhood & I think all firmly believe I was a soldier in the Revolutionary War. I mention however Isaac Phinney, Asahel Beswick, Adam Hesler, Henry Hesler, John Mitchel who are substantial & respectable men.

There is no Clergyman residing within five miles of me with whom I am acquainted. The church to which I belong is the Methodist, Send a Circuit minister into our neighborhood. (Signed) Michael Appleby

Sworn & Subscribed before me one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Madison & State of New York this seventeenth day of September 1832.
Barak Beckwith, Judge.