

Pension Application for Isaac Armstrong

W.16174 (Widow: Amy)

Declaration in order to obtain [the benefit] of the act of Congress passed June 6, 1832.

State of New York

Saratoga County SS.

On this fourth day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty two personally appeared in open court, before the court of Common Pleas of the County of Saratoga and State of New York, now sitting, Isaac Armstrong, a resident of the town of Ballston in the County of Saratoga and State of New York, Aged seventy seven 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 7, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following names officers, and served as herein stated.

On or about the first day of May 1776 he enlisted as a private Soldier for nine months in a company of State troops being detached from a class in the militia to fill a vacancy in the Continental Service, commanded by John Thomas Captain, Zephaniah Mills was Lieutenant, Nathan Canfield was a Sergeant, other officers names not recollected. Samuel Drake was Colonel of the Regiment, one Strang was Major. General Scott commanded the Brigade. He was discharged at the expiration of the nine months by Col. Samuel Drake at Peekskill Dutchess County N.Y. which discharge is lost.

He enlisted at Bedford, Westchester County New York, marched from thence to New York, from thence to Long Island, from thence to New York back, from thence to Kingsbridge, was in the battle on Long Island and compelled to retreat. New York was surrendered at this time—the enemy's shipping moved up the Hudson and East rivers and landed troops above Kingsbridge to cut off our retreat. We forced our way with considerable trouble and some hard fighting to White Plains in Westchester County, New York—was in the battle of the White Plains which took place a day or two after we arrived there. We then retreated to Wright's mills over the mountains Pursued the enemy on their retreat to Kingsbridge and had several skirmishes. Was ordered from one place to another as was thought best by the commanding officers until his term of service expired.

In 1777 in the spring, the particular month he cannot state, he was drafted and mustered as a Sergeant in a company of Continental troops commanded by the said John Thomas for three months he belonged at the time to a company of militia under the command of some man in Bedford, his name is not recollected & the militia were classed and every five men were required to furnish one to fill the vacancies in the Continental establishment. He was detached from the class to which he belonged & served out his time.

He was stationed on the lines between the two armies and was ordered from one place to another as circumstances required. The Lieutenant of the company died about the commencement of this service, Capt. Thomas deserted & the command of

the company devolved upon him the applicant who was then Orderly Sergeant, there was no Ensign. On the expiration of this service he was immediately mustered in the service of the United States as a substitute for some person who had been drafted to serve three months but he cannot now state the name of the person, he served the three months & was discharged, which discharge is lost. Was stationed during this time on the lines, most of the time at the White Plains and West of there towards the river. Col Drake was in command of the Regiment at both the periods last related. General Scott commanded the Brigade.

In the spring of 1778, the particular month he cannot state he enlisted as a Sergeant in a company of minute men which was raised by Capt. Richard Sackett of Bedford, Westchester County, New York, to serve during the war. The company consisted at first of about one hundred and thirty men, other officers names not recollected. This company was organized for the purpose of protecting the lines and was under the orders of the officers who commanded there. Was frequently ordered out & should say that he was in active service more than half the time during this period, that is to say, more than two years from the time he enlisted, until peace was proclaimed in 1783.

To the interrogatories propounded by the court, the applicant answers as follows.

1. I was born in a place called Middle Patent in the town of Standwich town lies party in New York & partly in Connecticut, in the year 1755.
2. I have no record of my age, but my Father had which is now in the hands of some of his children, which I have not the means of providing.
3. I was living in the town of Bedford, Westchester County N.Y. when called into the service & have lived in the town of Ballston Saratoga County N.Y. since the Revolutionary war and now reside there.
4. I was called into service and detached form a class in the company to which I belonged, to fill up a vacancy in the Continental establishment. The militia (as I understood) were all classed for this purpose, and a certain number were required to furnish a man for so many months—this was also the case in the second term of service I have related, which was for three months. In the third term of service I was a substitute, but cannot state for whom. In the fourth and last period of service I was enlisted or bound myself to be ready at a moment's warning.
5. Cols Thomas Thomas, Drake, Maj. Franklin, Col. Marshall, Maj Strang, Capt Townsend, I recollect col. Marshall's Regiment was next to us when we lay in New York. The general circumstances of my service are stated in declaration as correctly as I am able to.
6. I was at the expiration of each period of my service regularly discharged but my discharges with all my other papers were burnt up when my house was consumed several years ago. They were carefully preserved until then.
7. I would mention the names of Bushnel Benedict, Lemuel Stewart, Elias Tyrrell, Isaac E. Garnsey, Jesse Robertson, Aaron Nash as persons to whom

I am known in my present neighborhood and who can testify to my character for veracity, and their belief of my services as a soldier of the Revolution. Having resided in Ballston forty years, I confidently appeal to any respectable inhabitant of this town for proof of my character. There is no clergyman living in my immediate vicinity.

I have no documentary evidence, and know of no person except Reuben Slocum and Sanburn Ford whose testimony I can procure who can testify to my service.

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 New York. (Signed) Isaac Armstrong

Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open court. Thomas Palmer, Clerk.