

Pension Application for Joseph Arnold

W.15546 (Widow: Ruth) Married April 5, 1778, Joseph died May 1, 1788.
Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

On this seventh day of February A.D. 1837 personally appeared before the Judge of the Municipal Court within and for the County of Suffolk and Commonwealth aforesaid Ruth Arnold for thirty years past, a resident of the City of Boston in said County of Suffolk aged seventy eight years who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress—passed July 4, 1836—

That she is the widow of Joseph Arnold, who was a resident of Braintree in the County of Norfolk and commonwealth aforesaid, and who was a private soldier in the army of the revolution and that from the best of her knowledge and belief and from the declarations of her late husband and his fellow soldiers who served with him, she states as follows. Viz—

That said Joseph Arnold was a minute man belonging to a company under the command of Captain Selas Wild that marched from Braintree on the alarm of the 19th of April 1775, to Nosbury Neck where he was stationed on guard duty until about the first of May following, when he enlisted under the same Captain in Colonel Greaton's Regiment for eight months, and was stationed near Boston. He helped build two forts on Dorchester Heights, and when his time was out he engaged to continue twelve months longer.

In 1776 he enlisted again under Capt Winton of Braintree in Col Marshall's Regiment and went to New York where he was selected by General Washington one of eighteen rangers for a scouting party under Lt Macomber. At one time they went in a boat with Muffled oars to Long Island. And he was on a scout when the British set fire to New York, and burnt his quarters with all his clothes & except what he had on, which he said he did not get paid for. Soon after the British went off, and when his term for twelve months was out he came home.

In 1777 he enlisted to serve under Col Burbeck on the Castle in Boston harbor, and was stationed to work in the Smith's Shop, and soon got promoted to foreman of the shop and served until the spring of 1778 when he came to Braintree, and married me.

Col. Burbeck made him a present of a pair of bellows and anvil from his faithfulness, to help him set up his trade. He built himself a shop and worked in it.

In July 1780 when there was a demand for thirty seven men to be raised in the town of Braintree to reinforce the continental army, for six months my husband joined them and marched to Springfield Massachusetts, and was there placed under a Lt Jackson with whom he went to West Point, when the army was stationed and was in the Fort that general Arnold sold the British. At West Point my husband saw General Washington waiting to have a shoe put on his horse and offered his service and made the shoe and put it on and was by him promoted to be foreman of the shop.

He continued to do the army work until Cornwallis was taken and then he went with the fifteen hundred men that guarded the prisoners to Pennsylvania and remained with them until they were sent home and the army disbanded in 1783.

After his time was out in 1781 they persuaded him to stay longer at Smith's work, having been taken from the ranks and off the army rolls, although in actual service at the time. He was thrown into a consumption and died May 1, 1788, at Braintree where he was born.

She further declares that she was married to the said Joseph Arnold at Braintree on the Twenty fifth day of April AD 1778. That he died at the time before named, and that she has remained a widow ever since that period, as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed.

She would further state that her husband was under Washington when he marched to Yorktown and was present during the siege of that place and at the capture of Cornwallis. (Signed) Ruth Arnold.

Sworn to and subscribed on the day and year above written, February 7th 1837 before me. Peter O. Thacher, Judge of the Municipal Court of the City of Boston.

Norfolk SS Braintree

This certifies that the Subscriber of said Braintree living, now seventy four years of age of sound mind and passed recollection, and having served (in different stations) more than six years, in the army of the revolution, having been taken by the enemy confined on board of a prison ship and from—more than ten months and also have undergone many deprivations & hardships of a protracted war, many of which will always be fresh in my memory, do hereby testify & say that Joseph Arnold then of Braintree aforesaid did in the year 1780 enter the army with me and march'd from Boston to Springfield & to West Point, where said Arnold was employed as a Blacksmith, that I then left said Arnold, and after heard & was knowing to his continuing in the service for a long time which I believe to be more than three years at different times, said Arnold was always considered to be an active & good soldier.

That when stationed at Horse neck (so called) said Joseph Arnold with a few other men manned a whale board and for the purpose of driving the enemy went from place called Farm shore, passed through Neck Island gut, returned around the Island entirely exposed to the continual fire from the enemy.

That said Arnold was generally called upon and was always ready to perform all, and the most hazardous and important duties, may more particular circumstances might be mentioned, to prove the valuable services which said Arnold did perform. I and I do firmly believe that the services which said Arnold did perform during the War were such as to entitle his unfortunate widow to receive the same compensation that has been allow'd to other soldiers of the Revolution, many of which were for less deserving. (Signed) Bryant Newcomb. Braintree Jan'y 30, 1837, When the above named Bryant Newcomb made oath to the truth of the above statement before me. Arndt Mayer Jus Peace.

