

Pension Application for Zephaniah Austin

S.10324

Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

State of New York

County of Cayuga SS

On this eighteenth day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty three before me Augustus F. Ferris, a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the County of Cayuga personally appeared Zephaniah Austin a resident of the town of Ina in the County of Cayuga and State of New York, aged seventy years who being first sworn duty 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 named officers and served as herein stated.

That he entered the service of the United States under an enlistment for three years as a private in Captain Adam Casson's Company in whose company was Lieutenant Ephraim Brookins and Ensign David Tracy in Colonel John Ashley's Regiment of Regular Troops or State Troops of Massachusetts which he can not state on account of the great length of time since and by reason of old age and consequent loss of memory—That his Lieutenant Colonel's name he cannot now recollect.

That according to the best of his recollection his major's name was Ingham.

That he entered the service of the United States as aforesaid under the aforesaid named officers in the fore part of the month of September in the year 1777 at Barrington in the County of Berkshire in the State of Massachusetts and was discharged at Barrington aforesaid in the forepart of September in the year 1780 when his term of three years enlistment had expired.

That he was in actual service of the United States under the aforesaid named officers the whole of the time form the fore part of the month of September in the year 1777 aforesaid to the fore part of the month of September in the year 1780.

And that he was in actual service of the United States in the aforesaid named service under the aforesaid named service under the aforesaid named officers not less than three years as a private soldier.

That at the time he entered the service as aforesaid he resided in the town of Sheffield in said County of Berkshire in the State of Massachusetts—That at the time he was discharged from the aforesaid service he received a written discharge signed by Colonel Ashley but that the said discharge is now lost and cannot be by him found and where or when he lost the same he cannot say.

That he was stationed during the whole of said three years service at Barrington aforesaid to guard the military stores at that place, except three or four weeks in the fall of 1777. He was marched with the rest of his company to Saratoga, at the time Burgoyne was taken and he did not arrive till after the battle but was there when Burgoyne surrendered. And a short time after the surrender he was marched back to Barrington again where he remained till the expiration of his three year enlistment. That the whole of Captain Capons Company acted as a guard at said Barrington to the Military Stores

that he was not in any battles but was engaged in a number of skirmishes with the Tories who attacked them when on guard in the night time.

That he was born on the twelfth of March 1762 in the town of Sheffield in the County of Berkshire in the State of Massachusetts. And that a record of his age was made upon the town record of said town of Sheffield as he has been informed by his father and that he has been informed by his father and that he has no other record of his age.

That after he was discharged from the aforesaid service he returned to Sheffield aforesaid and there lived about three years then moved to White Hall in Washington County in the State of New York, and lived at White Hall till fourteen years ago last February when he moved to the town of Cato (now Ira) in the County of Cayuga aforesaid where he has lived ever since and where he now lives.

That he is acquainted in his present neighbourhood with Augustus F. Ferris Esq. John Jackway Esq, George H. Carr, Esq & Mr. Jay H Carr who can testify to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution.

That he is not acquainted with a clergyman who can testify as to his belief of this applicants services in his neighbourhood and to procure a certificate of a clergyman with whom he is acquainted would be attended with considerable expense.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

That he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services except the testimony of Reuben Austin. (Signed) Zephaniah Austin.

Sworn to & Subscribed the day and year aforesaid. Augustus F. Ferris one of the Judges of Cayuga County Courts

Letter in folder dated June 6, 1939, written in response to an inquiry.

Reference is made to your letter in which you request the Revolutionary War record of Zephaniah Austin of Cayuga, New York.

The data furnished herein were obtained from papers on file in claim for pension, S.10324, based upon service of Zephaniah Austin, in the Revolutionary War.

Zephaniah Austin was born March 12, 1762, in Sheffield, Berkshire County, Massachusetts. The names of his parents are not given.

While residing in Sheffield, Zephaniah Austin enlisted early in September, 1777, served as private in Captain Adam Casson's company, Colonel John Ashley's Massachusetts regiment, was stationed in Barrington, Massachusetts, to guard the military stores, was in Saratoga at the time of the capture of Burgoyne, was in several skirmishes, after which returned to Barrington and guarded the military stores, length of service three years.

He moved from Sheffield, Massachusetts, to Whitehall, New York, and sometime in February, 1812, moved to Cato, thence to Ira, Cayuga County, New York.

He was allowed pension on his application executed January 18, 1833, at which time he was living in Ira, New York. He died November 25, 1835.

Reuben Austin, brother of the soldier, Zephaniah Austin, was in 1833, a resident of Sterling, Cayuga County, New York.

The papers on file in this claim contain no further discernible data in regard to family.