

Pension Application for Eli Baker

S.18304

The State of Ohio

Ashtabula County SS.

On this 2d day of October AD 1832 personally appeared before me Jonathan Gregory, one of the Associate Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in & for the County of Ashtabula and State of Ohio, Eli Baker who is now a resident of the township of Orwell in the county & State aforesaid aged eighty one 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 was born in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and fifty in the town of Woodbury in the County of Litchfield in the State of Connecticut. That he has long had a record of his age written [written] in his bible that at the commencement of the Revolutionary War he resided in the town of Williamstown in the county of Berkshire & State of Massachusetts.

That in September of the year 1776 he entered the American army as a volunteer under the command of Captain Nehemiah Smedley who was then Captain of the Militia in said Williamstown, the country being new our Military Stores & provisions were wanting in that quarter transported or conveyed by horses, that his Duties were to transport provisions & military stores to the northern army, as the British troops were daily expected from Canada by the way of Lake Champlain.

That our Military Stores & provisions for that section of country were deported at Pawlett in Vermont. That he was in that employ until the latter part of November or December of the same year when it was ascertained that the British had returned to Canada for winter quarters he was discharged & returned home to Williamstown having served at this time about three months.

That in March following (1777) an allarm [alarm] was mad [made] calling for volunteers at which time he again volunteered in the same capacity as before carrying provisions & military stores from Williamstown In Massachusetts to Pawlet & from that to Castleton Hubbarton [Hubbardston?] & Mount Independence in Vermont.

That he was actively engaged in the above employ when on the 7th July 1777 the battle at Castleton was fought by the British General (Frazer) & Colonel Warner.

That he remained at Castleton & Hubbazrdton & in that vicinity until about the first of August as the British still had command of Lake Champlain a Military Port was kept up at Castleton.

That he was then ordered to Bennington in Vermont about fifty miles South of Castleton where he went with the Berkshire Militia under the command of Colonel Symond. That Military stores were kept at Bennington at this time & guarded by Colonel Symonds Regiment of Militia at this time at certain proportion of Pawden and had was kept by the government in each to be kept in readiness whenever it should be called for it being considered safe from the grasp of the enemy in that situation there. It would be if it were kept in large quantities in any one place.

That he was ordered by Colonel Symonds & others to collect & transport part of the said military stores, the Barrington as fast as possible he being acquainted in that part of the country—that at the time of the battle at Bennington he was constantly collecting Powder & lead in the different tours & running bullets which so fast as collected & [?] were transported to the army.

That he arrived in Bennington the next day after the battle which was on the 16th August 1777. That Colonel [Barum?] commanded the British troops & General Stark commanded on the part of the Americans, Colonel Warner Commanded a regiment of Continentals & Colo Symonds a regiment of Militia. That soon after the battle of Bennington he was again ordered back to Castleton when he arrived the last part of August or first of September from this place he went to Mount Independence a military fort then held by the British on Lake Champlain.

That the roads were so bad in that section of country at that time as about to exclude the transporting of Provisions & Military Stores except on the back of horses.

In which duty he was engaged between & near the last mentioned place until the last part of November 1777. That Burgoyne with his army had at this time passed to the south near Saratoga & the pass from the enemy from the North had began [begun] to subside he was Discharged at Castleton & returned to Williamstown his place of residence, being the service in this season; between seven & eight months. That he stayed at home the greatest part of the time through the winter & spring 1778 altho there were frequent Alarms during the winter & Spring & that he as often turned out in the defence of his country altho the periods of service were not so long as before stated.

That the whole time he was in the revolutionary service was something more than one year say more than fourteen months.

That he has no documentary evidence of his services in the revolutionary war as he received no writen [written] Discharge. That his name is not on the pension roll of any state.

That he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present.

That more than fifty years have elapsed since his service were rendered & at this time living six hundred miles from the place where his services were rendered he can get no person who can testify particularly to the services rendered.

That he has been acquainted with William Colbrook who lives in my present neighborhood, that he has also been acquainted with Billy Ames about twenty years who also lives in his present neighborhood.

That by reason of bodily infirmity he is unable to attend court.

That he resided in said Williamstown in Massachusetts about ten years after the Close of the revolutionary war when he moved to Colchester in the State of Vermont where he has resided until the Spring of 1831 when he moved to Orwell in the County of Ashtabula & State of Ohio where he now resides.

That by reason of bodily infirmity he is unable to attend court.

He further says that the towns he passed through when in the service from Williamstown to Powlet the place of deposit for military stores & provisions he went

through to Pownell Bennington Shaftsbury Newport to Powlett from there to Castleton he passed through [?] & Poultney to Castleton from there through to Hubbardton & Benson to Mount Independence in Lake Champlain in the State of Vermont. That during the whole time to furnished his own horses for which he never received any pay—that he went to Mount Independence with a regiment of military commanded by Colonel Johnson to attract the attention of the British from Lake George landing which was at that time taken from the British by Colonels Brown & [Herrick?] (Signed) Eli Baker

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid before me. Jonathan Gregory Associate Judge.

Letter in folder dated October 8, 1928, written in response to an inquiry.

I advise you that from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim, S.18304, it appears that Eli Baker was born in 1750 in Woodbury, Litchfield County, Connecticut.

While a resident of Williamstown, Berkshire County, Massachusetts, he enlisted in September, 1776, and served until November or December, 1776, as a private in captain Nehemiah Smedley's Massachusetts Company.

He enlisted in March, 1777, and served until late in November, 1777, in Colonel Symond's Massachusetts Regiment.

In the winter and spring of 1778 he served on several short tours, officers not stated.

He was allowed pension on his application executed October 2, 1832, at which time he was a resident of Orwell, Ashtabula County, Ohio.

There are not data on file as to his family.

The above history is that of the only soldier named Eli Baker that is found on the Revolutionary War records of this bureau.

This bureau has no record of service rendered in the Colonies prior to the Revolution, hence no record of John and Henry Bowen, or other Bowens who served prior to 1775.