

Pension Application for John Bancroft or Bancraft

W.4881 (Widow: Anna) Married December 1, 1777. John died September 26, 1837.

State of Ohio

Clark County SS.

On this twenty third day of August in the year eighteen hundred and thirty two personally appeared in open court before George B. Holt and his associate Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the County of Clark and state of Ohio aforesaid now sitting John Bancroft residing in the County and State aforesaid aged eighty four years in September next, 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 or rather what was then the Colony of Massachusetts Bay under the following named officers and served has herein stated.

One Isaac Balster was the Captain and John Hazelton was Lieut of the Company to which this deponent belonged, he says he does not remember the name of his Ensign, one Jeremiah Larnard was Colonel and ---Kies was Lieut Colonel and the service on the twentieth day of April in the year seventeen hundred and seventy five at the Town of Sutton in the County of Worcester in the then Colony of Massachusetts Bay where he then resided that he belonged to the minute men so called and was a volunteer if he correctly apprehends the manner in which he entered the service he and his companions had been prepared for something like three months before to ;taken the field at any moment their services might be called for—

The occasion of their being called out at the time specified was the alarm in consequence of the battle of Lexington fought they day before that he was marched to Cambridge whence after tarrying there a few days he marched to Roxbury where he saw General Washington for the first time and where he remained performing duty as a second Sergeant until about the last of December of the same year, namely 1775 when he was discharged having served eight months the time required by the regulations under which he entered the service.

He further states that he has no documentary evidence of his service or discharge except as hereinafter mentioned that he kept a private Journal but has lost it and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services.

This deponent further declares that he entered the service of the United States for a second term between the first and fifteenth day of July seventeen hundred and seventy six under the following named officers and served as hereinafter stated namely one Bertholomew Woodbury was Captain this deponent was first Lieutenant and ---Thayne was second Lieutenant of the company and the said company was attached to a Regiment commanded by Colonel Jonathan Holman this deponent entered the service as last specified at the same town and County in the State of ;Massachusetts first mentioned at which place he then resided.

This deponent was commissioned by the Council of the Massachusetts Bay which commission bearing date July fifteenth 1776 is now in his possession.

He states he entered the service as a volunteer and marched with the company to which he belonged the day next after the date of his commission and he accompanied the troops then march[ing] through Connecticut [Connecticut] to the City of New York where he remained for a few days only and until the army retreated to White Plains at which place a battle was fought a few days after (as near as this deponent can recollect) the troops battles there this deponent was engaged in that battle General Putman was then this deponent saw and conversed with him on the morning of the day of the battle.

This deponent continued in the service in the capacity of first Lieutenant in the company aforesaid until some time in the month of December 776 and until the expiration of five months which was the term for which he had volunteered when he was discharged at Harleam [Harlem] Heights in the State of New York.

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.

The following statement is made by the applicant in answer to interrogatories propounded to him by the court namely.

1. He says he was born at Beding about fifteen miles from Boston Massachusetts in the year one thousand seven hundred and forty eight.
2. He says there is a record of his age and it is in his bible.
3. He was living when he was called into the service at Sutton Worcester County Mass as he has before stated. He moved from Sutton to Montpelier in Vermont where he resided about twenty years when he migrated to the State of Ohio where he now resides in the Town of Springfield Clark County.
4. He says he was called into the service in the manner he has before described as a minute man the first time and as a volunteer the second time.
5. He says that General Putnam was at Cambridge and had the command as deponent understood of the forces at that place when deponent was there. He thinks that General Putnam's command was then called the centre and General War had command at Roxbury before the arrival of General Washington and the troops under his command composed what was then called the right wing of the army and Genl Lee commanded the left wing on Breeds Hill.
6. He says he never received any written discharge from the service he served out his time and was dismissed. He received a commission signed by fifteen of the Council of the Massachusetts Bay and by John Lowell as Deputy Secy which is now in his possession as he has before stated.
7. The following named Gentleman may be referred as to their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution namely Saul Henkler Clerk of the Court the Hon. Joseph Perrier & Ira Paige Maddox Fisher Post Master Pierson Spining and Charles Cavilier Merchants.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid, John Bancroft.