

Pension Application for Lemuel Barden

S.21628

State of Vermont

County of Rutland SS.

On this 6th day of September AD 1832, personally appeared before the Court of Probate of the district of Fairhaven, in the County of Rutland, Lemuel Barden, a resident of the town of Pawlet in the County of Rutland, in the State of Vermont, aged seventy three years years, [sic] who being; first duly sworn, according to law, doth, on his oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision, made by the act of Congress, passed June 7, 1832.

That he inlisted [enlisted] in the army of the United States, on the 20th day of December, AD 1776 for three years with Lieut Joshua Lawrence, & served in Col. Marshall's Regiment, Patterson's Brigade, in the Company of Capt. Amasa Soper, in the Massachusetts line, except as herein after stated, until he was discharged, on the 23rd day of December AD 1779, a term of three years. That he was appointed to be a corporal, at the time he joined the army & was, in two or three weeks, promoted to be a Sergeant.

That long before his term of inlistment expired, it was proposed to him to inlist anew, for & during the war, & in the month of June AD 1778 he, with others of the regiment, engaged with the Colonel, to serve during the war, & actually served in the army until the month of January 1781, when he was discharged, as hereafter stated.

That in the month of June AD 1779 several companies of Light-Infantry or independent corps, having been formed, by selections from the regiments of the line, in one of which he was placed; the Lieut of which, named Haskell, being directed to do the duty of Adjutant, in the regiment, he, the declarant was promoted to the office of Lieutenant in the independent company to which he belonged, & received a commission as such, from Gen. Patterson, which he held until he was discharged from the service; which commission, several years after the war, being, by him, entrusted, with other papers, to an agent, going to Boston, from the country, where the declarant lived, to wit at New Bedford, for the purpose of obtaining his due from the state government, was never returned, & the believes it is lost.

That at the expiration of his first term of enlistment for three years, those of the company to which he belonged, were discharged, by a general discharge & this declarant among the rest, though an officer (as he supposes, through the mistake of the Colonel) he being in an independent company, & of course, not under that officers immediate command; but being, an officer, he did not avail himself of the discharge, but continued in the service as Lieutenant of an independent company until January or February AD 1780, when, on account of the great number of supernumerary officers in the army, it was resolved, by government, to new-arrange them, a dismiss a part; & he, choosing to retire, & having that he should not be selected for dismissal, under this new-arrangement, asked for & received a full discharge, & left the service.

His discharge was lost with his commission, as before stated. Besides being an officer, he ought not to have bene discharged in December 1779, had he been a private, or non-commissioned officer, because he had, in June, 11778, as before stated, inlisted

anew, to serve during the war. But he supposes that discharge, of him, along with the rest of the company, was a mistake of the Colonel of the Regiment, or of the person who made out the paper from the muster roll.

The field officers of the Regiment, were, when he enlisted, Col. Marshall, as before stated—he does not remember that there was any, Lieut.-Colonel; Major Woodbridge; & he believes Capt. King was promoted to be a major in that Regt before the declarant left the service; but having, as before stated; been, at an early period of his service, detached from the line, & incorporated with the independent, or light corps, he seldom saw any of the field, or other officers of the line, & had not the means of knowing much about them. Capt. Soper, above named, commanded the company of light infantry, to which he belonged.—

The declarant further says, that he joined a part of the American forces at Skeensborough, now Whitehall, at the head of Lake Champlain—went from that place to Ticonderoga, where he remained, until that post, which had been commanded, in succession by the Generals Schuyler, Gates & St. Clair, was evacuated by the later commander; thence he retreated, with the army to Castleton, Rutland & thro' other places, to the Island in the mouth of the Mohawk, he being on VanSchaick's Island. Thence the army advanced northward to Stillwater; & there on the 19th of September, 1777, he with his comrades of Pattersons Brigade, or other corps, fought the first long & bloody battle of Bhemus' [Bemis] heights.—was not in the second battle, between the forces of Gates & Burgoyne, having been on guard.

Remaining with a the army, he was present at the surrender of the British forces, under Gen. Burgoyne, at Saratoga; after which, along with the Regt he marched down the Hudson, joined the army in Pennsylvania, under the immediate command of Gen. Washington—marched with it over the Schuylkill to Valley Forge; where, hutting, l& remaining thro' the winter, enduring his portion of suffering from cold, hunger & nakedness, when the British army evacuated Philadelphia, he went with the American army under Washington, into New-Jersey, in pursuit—but was not in the battle of Monmouth—being with the main body, under the commander in Chief.—thence marched to the banks of the Hudson, & at West-Point & its dependencies, at the White Plains, --In the Northern part of New Jersey, being frequently on the lines, he served the remainder of his term of service; belonging as he did to a corps of Light-Infantry, several years, he was, during a great part of the time, in laborious, active & often hazardous service, frequently encountering the enemy in nameless skirmishes, & on the night of the fifteenth of July 1779, under the command of Gen. Wayne, he led his platoon to the assault of the Fort on Stoney Point & entered, through an embrasure, at its head.

He further states, that in the year 1829, he made application to the Treasury Department, under the Act of Congress of May 15th 1828 & made the necessary proofs, as required by the instructions of the Department, under that act, which are now, probably, on file, there; to which application he received from the Secretary of that Department, the following reply, dated 16th Feb. 1829.

“It appears by a report from the third auditor, that you are entered on the muster rolls, as having insited on the 20th December 1776 for three years, & being discharged 23rd December 1779. Your claim therefore, has not been admitted.”

At that time he resided in Pawlet, where he now resides. He does not know if his second inlistment, which wad for & during the war, or his appointment to a Lieutenancy, in the company of Light Infantry, by Gen. Patterson, are evidenced by any document in possession of the government; but he is well aware, that besides serving about thirteen months after his first term of service had expired, he, also received the pay & appointments of a Lieutenant, from June 1779, till was discharged as above stated, a period of 19 or 20 months.

The declarant further declares that he was born at Freetown, Massachusetts on; the 11th day of October AD 1758. He resided at New Bedford in Massachusetts, when he insited into the military service of the States; & has resided in Pawlet, County of Rutland State of Vermont, more than twenty years past.

He relinquishes, hereby, every claim whatever, to a pension, or an annuity, except the present; & he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state. (Signed) Lemuel Barden

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid. Selah N. Merrill, Register of the Court of Probate. 6th September AD 1832.