

Pension Application for Eliakim Barnum

R.551

State of New York

Onondaga County SS.

On this eleventh day of September in the year of our Lord Eighteen Hundred and thirty two personally appeared in Open Court before Daniel Mosely Esquire Vice Chancellor of the Seventh Circuit of the State of New York at a Court of Chancery for said State now setting at the town and in the County of Onondaga Eliakim Barnum a resident of the town of Manlius County & State aforesaid aged eighty four 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 entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

And first that he was born in Danbury Connecticut 21st August in the year 1748 and that he has no record of his age it was upon the town record which was burned when Danbury was burned and also upon his Bible which has been destroyed.

That this declarer was living at South East in Dutchess [Dutchess] County State of New York when first called into service. That immediately after the battle of Concord a meeting was called of the citizens and Judge Crane delivered an oration on the subject of the colonies and at its close my oldest brother Joshua Barnum myself and 6 or 8 others volunteered to defend the Country and furnished ourselves with arms clothing &c and went to recruiting and practicing in the exercise about a month when we got about 40 men and met and chose officers and Joshua Barnum was chosen Captain William March first Lieutenant and myself second Lieutenant and Jonathan Crane Ensign.

The convention of the State of New York then setting at Poughkeepsie sanctioned our proceedings and sent us commissions. The commissions were signed by Charles Thompson Secretary & believe they were also signed by a man by the name of a man by the name of Woodhull and required me to obey the orders of the then Congress and any future Continental Congress and this declarer was sworn before Judge Crane who was chairman of the Committee of the town to hold himself in readiness to go at a moment's warning in case of alone or sudden invasion &c and also to seek out and inform against all such as should by their words or action shew themselves to be enemies to the cause of liberty his commission was dated some time in September 1775 and continued to exercise & raise more men during that fall and kept watch for tories Colonel Swarthout & Lieutenant Colonel Bailey were our field officers in the court of the fall the tories of Crum Pond and Tarrytown sent word to our Captain that they were ready to meet him and his company, and we turned out immediately and went in pursuit of them but they fled and secreted themselves and after a search of 3 days we returned the next winter in January or 1st February the British ship of war Asia came and fired upon New York and we were called out to defend the City and went in February and returned in April having been gone better than two months. Col. Morgan came with his regiment of riflemen & relieved us, while at New York we one night made an entrenchment on Governour's Island. When about [?] spent the nights in guarding the corners of boats and found our own provisions. That he served about a year as Second Lieutenant and on the twentieth day of September 1776 was ordered by the Committee to go with 15 or 16 men and join Capt. Thomas Storm at Fort Montgomery and went and found him then with part of a company and also went with him to Fort Constitution and we helped build the fort Capt. Storms First Lieutenant not attending this declarer was appointed to fill his place the commission was from the same convention & signed by the Secretary but cannot recollect who he was and dated in Sept. 1776 & required his service 2 months and he served this time out and Major Mott came with a party from South East & relieved us.

This declarer then returned to his duty under the first commission & living in sight of the Chairman of the Committee was called upon when at home to go continually scouring wood in the

daytime and watching roads and public places nights—duty when about home was much harder than when stationed out.

After he returned from Fort Constitution was sent with an association paper and was required to bring every man who would not sign it before the committee and carried 16 of them to Dover to one Draper's Tavern when the committee was setting when word came that the British had attacked Fort Montgomery he started and got to Peek's Kill opposite the fort the fort had been surrendered and the Militia which had assembled at Peeks Kill had gone up to Fish Kill when he followed and remained there a few days till the British went back and then returned.

In the Spring of 1777—my brother was taken prisoner when the British came to Danbury I was out and came home at night found the old men waiting for me and the chairman of the Committee ordered me to go & I found nine men and started my computer were mostly at Fredericksburgh guarding the stores there, and we went in sight of Danbury and waited till the morning them could see the British in number about 3000—in the town and at the same time saw a small collection on the hill opposite to me and went to them & found Col. Bradley of New Fairfield with about a Captain's Company and joined him the town was then on fire, the Whigs houses were burned the Tories houses were not burned and the British marched out and as they evacuated the town we went in there joined Col. Cook who knowing the country took the lead and cut across and came before the British and lay in ambush till they came up then fired upon them & harassed them in this way until they got to Ridgefield where they encamped for the night while on the way we were overtaken by General Worcester he was killed having been out then 24 hours without victuals got tired out and then and went home being too weak to effect anything until Burgoine was taken the Tories kept the country in such a continual turmoil that I was kept either scouting or watching when not stationed away so that I did not work for myself except a day or two at a time for about 2 years—after the capture of Burgoine the Tories were not so troublesome I was the only officer left of the minute men in my neighborhood my brother being a prisoner and March having been wounded I was required by the committee to stay and be in readiness to go when called upon and frequently had to turn out during the remainder of the war and served more than 2 years but never had a written discharge.

And this declarer further states that while he was living at South East he sold stock for \$2500 in 1776 and took it in Continental Money and kept it relying upon the faith of Congress until they passed the law that \$1. Should redeem \$40, and thereby became poor and moved about the close of the war removed to Fredericksburgh [Fredericksburgh] Duches [Dutchess] County lived there 5 years and from there moved to Charlston now Saratoga County lived there 5 or 6 years then removed to Bern Albany County lived there 30 years and the last 10 years has lived in Manlius his present place of residence.

And this declarer further states that he kept his commissions aforesaid until the fall of 1830 when he delivered them to Isaac W. Brewster of Jamesville in the County of Onondaga aforesaid for the purpose of making an application to Congress in this declarers behalf for a pension since which he has not seen them. That he is acquainted with the Reverend Daniel Marsh Deacon, Thomas Barnum, Ephriam Salmon, Jacob G. Low, Isaac W. Brewster and other in his present neighborhood and who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution and that he knows of no person now living who knows of his service aforesaid or by whom he can prove the same and that he has no documentary evidence thereof.

And 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 any state. (Signed) Eliakim Barnum

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid Daniel Moseley, Circuit Judge.

Letter in file dated January 6, 1914, written in response to an inquiry.

In response to your letter dated the 24th ultimo, you are advised that from the papers in the pension claim, Rejected File No. 551, it appears that Eliakim Barnum was born in Danbury, Connecticut,

August 21, 1748, and while residing in South East, Dutchess County, New York in the spring of 1775, he aided in recruiting a company and exercising the men of it, acting as 2d Lieutenant until October 17, 1775, when he was commissioned 2d Lieutenant and his brother Joshua commissioned Captain of said company of Minute men of the South East precinct of Dutchess County. On October 1, 1776 he was commissioned 1st Lieutenant of Captain Thomas Storm's company of Dutchess County Militia under Colonel Snyder. He served under both commissions on guard duty and on scouts and alarms whenever called upon.

He applied for pension on September 11, 1832, at which date he resided in Manlius, Onondaga County, New York, but his claim was not allowed for the reason that he did not render six months actual military service in the field, as required by the Act of June 7, 1832, under which he applied.

One of his sons, Jeremiah lived in Syracuse, New York, in 1853, at which time the soldier was dead. The date of his death and names of his wife and other children are not stated in the claim.