

Pension Application for Issachar Bates

S.2360

The State of Ohio

Montgomery County SS

On this 11th September 1832 personal[ly] appeared in open Court Issachar Bates, a resident of Watervliet in Montgomery County, before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas now sitting ins aid County in the Town of Dayton, Ohio, aged 75 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 7 June 1832.

That he entered the service of the United State under the following named officers and served as herein stated, that

I Issachar Bates a resident of Montgomery county, State of Ohio, now in the 75th year of my age, was born in the Town of Hingham;, County of Suffolk, State of Massachusetts, 20 miles south of the city of Boston on the Atlantic shore, January 29th 1758.

When about 13 years of age, my father moved his family into Worcester county, 62 miles from Boston, where we lived at the commencement of and during the revolutionary war.

I as rising of 15 years of age when General [Gage?] landed his troops at Boston. I think with other boys my age, entered the military school—learned the manual exercise and also learned to pay well on the fife; so that abut the age of 17 with the consent of my fater, I enlisted of r8 months under Captain Dexter of Worcester aforesaid, and about the first of May 1775 marched with his company of independent Rangers to old Cambridge where the main army was collected. I was too young to pass muster, but served as a musician. The company to which I belonged was attached to Colonel Patterson's regiment and General Sullivan's brigade. During that summer I as stationed at the edge of the marsh between Cambridge and Boston in open view of the city, where we were often saluted form the old Somerset a 70 gun ship that lay anchored in the bay.

On the 17th of June, I was in the battle at Bunker's Hill, and in several skirmishes during that campaign. In the spring of '76 I enlisted again for three months under Capt Boucher of Worcester, and on a certain night in the month of March we were marched over Dorcesterneck on the Dorchester hill, where we planted three forts, and in a few days routed Lord Howe from Boston, and, on Sabbath morning, had the pleasure of seeing his mighty fleet of 150 sail of vessels weigh anchor, hoist sail, and clear out. Next morning we marched into the city and took possession of what the enemy had left.

Soon after this tour, I enlisted again May 1773 [must mean 1776] under Capt Benjamin Gates of Worcester for five months, and marched to New Haven in Connecticut. There we went on board of a sloop commanded by Capt Fips crossed the sounds an landed at Burlingtonslip, New York City, where his excellency Lord Howe with his great fleet again appeared in sight. We remained a few weeks in the city, and were then moved up the North river about three miles, and stationed in barracks.

I then belonged to Colonel Holeman's regiment and General Fellow's brigade called the new levy of continentals. Sometime in the month of August, after the British

had taken Long Island, General Washington evacuated the city and retreated back to Harlaem heights. I witnessed that whole scene—was left among the city guards to cover the retreat of the army; and after being surrounded by the British on all sides, narrowly escaped with my life and my wife and the clothes on my back, and the next day we overtook the army at Harlaem, and were ready for the grand battle which was fought about two hours after our arrival. I then continued with the flying camps moving back and skirmishing from place to place to protect the military stores till we passed Crumpond, Quaker Ridge &c and reached the White Plains. There we had another severe battle, and left the ground for three days till the stores were moved ahead out of danger. Thence we started by night and continued our march till we reached Croton's bridge, and there on the hill made a final stand. Here my five months ended and I was discharged by Capt Gates and returned home.

In February 1777 I enlisted again under Capt Warner of Worcester for three months and marched to the Jerseys, about the time of the Grand battles at Trenton & Princeton; but those battles were fought just before our arrival. Our march was thro' Ramapo and Pluckhemin, and Morristown to Boundbrook where we were stationed & built a fort, the British then lying in Brunswick. Here we had various skirmishes but no pitched battle; and here I finished my three months tour, was discharged & returned home.

Soon after, in the same year, I enlisted under Capt Stockwell; and went to Bennington Vermont.—

Thence with General Lincoln to Halfmoon point on the North river,, thence we were recalled in haste to Bennington, to aid in the battle at Malcomssock, which battle was fought the day before our arrival and General Starks had taken 500 Hessians, 62 British regulars and 37 Tories. Here we staid and guarded those prisoners till they were marched under guard to Old Rutland and Northampton;. Thence we were marched under Major Wilder to Saratoga, at the time that Burgoyne was defeated at Still-water and was on his retreat to Canada, Thence three regiments of us were ordered to leave the barrack (for Burgoyne to enter who was just at home), and wade the North river and marche with all speed to take possession of Fort Edward in order to cut off Burgoyne's retreat. After crossing the river we had some skirmishing with an advance party of the British and succeeded in getting possession of the fort, and three days after we received orders from General Gates to return speedily to Saratoga to aid in taking possession of the ground, and the arms & artillery [artillery] and the 5700 5700 [sic] prisoners which Burgoyne has surrendered on a final defeat. After this pleasant piece of business was settled, a number of us were discharged and returned home, out on this tour 3 or 4 months.

After this I served a short tour at old Rutland in guarding those last mentioned prisoners, and I filed them on as far as Springfield on their way to be exchanged.

Finally in 1780 I turned out with a volunteer company of young men under Capt. Attern for a three months tour to West Point, and was there when the traitor Arnold sold us all to John Bull. And the result of this important campaign terminated my service in the revolutionary war which according to martial law were faithfully rendered first as

fifer and for the last three terms fife-major, and occasionally drill sergeant, or fuglemaster, and often as a substitute to ease my fellow soldiers in their several camp duties or scouting enterprises.

Thus I served seven tours in the revolutionary war and during the whole tern if service asked for a furlo—never was under guard—nor never received a way word form an officer to my remembrance.

I hereby relinquish any claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, & declares that my name is not on the Pension Roll of the agency of any state, and he has no documentary provision & knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service.

Question. Where & in what year and your born. Ans.

Question have you any record of your age & if so where is it. Ans.

Ques. Where were your living when called into service and where have you lived since the revolutionary war, & where do you now live? Ans.

Question. How were you called into service, were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute & if a substitute for whom. Answer.

Question. State the names of some of the regular officers, who were with the troops where you served & such Continental & Militia regiment as you can recollect, & the general Circumstances of your service. Ans.

Question. Did you ever receive a discharge from the service & if so by whom was it given and what has become of it. Ans. I received several discharges but left them in the state of New York.

Question. State the names of person to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify to your character as to veracity & good behavior & your services as [a] soldier of the revolution. Answer

(Signed) Issacher Bates

Sworn & subscribed the day & year aforesaid in open Court. C. R. Greene Clk.