

### **Pension Application for John Baxter**

W.12262 (Widow: Candace)

BL.Wt.1297-160-55

State of New York

County of Jefferson SS

On this Eleventh day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand Eight hundred & thirty two personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Jefferson in the State of New York, now sitting, John Baxter a resident of the town of Brownville in said County of Jefferson aged seventy five 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 provision of the Act of Congress, passed June 7, 1832.

That he enlisted in the Army of the United States in the month of November in the year 1775 with Lieutenant Noah Allen, and served in Colonel Brower's Regiment of the Continental line, under Captain Sowle about two weeks, when the Company under Captain Sowle was United to Colonel Asa Whitcomb's Regiment. He was enlisted in the town of Saundersfield in the County of Berkshire in the State of Massachusetts of which town he was at that time a resident.

He joined Colonel Brewer's Regiment at Dorchester near Boston where he remained about two weeks. From Dorchester he marched with Captain Sowles Company to Prospect Hill, and there joined Colonel Asa Whitcomb's Regiment. At this place he thinks he remained about a month when he marched with the Regiment east mentioned to Roxbury where he remained until after the British had evacuated Boston, when he marched from Roxbury to that place--at Boston he remained until some time in August 1776 when the Regiment took up the line of march for Ticonderoga passing through Charlestown, where he staid one or two days to Skeensborough, now Whitehall in the State of New York, at which place he embarked with the last mentioned Regiment on board of boats for Ticonderoga, at which place he arrived about the last of August aforesaid according to his best recollection.

At Ticonderoga he remained until the first day of January in the year 1777, when the term of his enlistment having expired, he was discharged from the service and returned to his residence in Saundersfield aforesaid having been engaged in the service of the United States a little over thirteen months. The discharge above mentioned which said Baxter received on leaving the service has been lost or destroyed long since, so that he is not able now to produce it.

He recollects that the regiment to which he was attached was for some time commanded by Major Frasier in Consequence of Colonel Whitcomb's illness. He now recollects that while in Boston there was a regiment at that place, commanded by a Colonel Vorce as he believes—Ebenezer Smith was an ensign in the company to which he belonged.

The said John Baxter further declares on his oath as aforesaid that in the month of April in the year 1777 but on what particular day he cannot now recollect, he again entered the service of the United States as a volunteer in Captain Eelizer Deming's

Company of Volunteers, but he does not recollect the names of the other officers of said company, now the Regiment to which said Company was attached, nor by whom such regiment was commanded.

He marched with said Company from Saungersfield aforesaid, where he joined said company to Albany in the State of New York and from thence to Saratoga where he thinks he remained about four weeks when the company to which he belonged was discharged and he returned to his residence in Saungersfield aforesaid, having been engaged in the service of the United States during the last mentioned period about a month and a half. He does not recollect the names of any Continental officers with whom he became acquainted while engaged as such volunteer as aforesaid, or whether he saw or became acquainted while engaged as such volunteer as aforesaid, or whether he saw or became acquainted with any—

He further declares as aforesaid, that in June in the year 1777 he again entered the service of the United States as a volunteer in Captain Wheeler's company of Volunteers, which said Company was according to his best recollection, attached to a Regiment commanded by a Colonel Geley.

That he marched with said Company from Saundersfield aforesaid, through Troy in the State of New York, to Saratoga, Fort Edward & c., and proceeded Northward to within a short distance of Fort George, where he met the retreating army under General St. Claire and joined them. From thence he marched Southward with the forces commanded by General St. Clair, to StillWater, where General Gates took the command of the Army in the North, and the company to which he belonged was disbanded, and he again returned to his residence in Saundersfield aforesaid, it being about the last of August, having been engaged in the service of the United States during the last above mentioned period the line of march for Ticonderoga passing through about two months—

He further declares that he recollects, very well the above named officers & that though he was acquainted with several other Continental officers, the time has so long since gone by that he cannot now recollect their names.

The said John Baxter further declares that on the first day of June in the year 1778 he again entered the service of the United States as a gunner on board the Privateer ship of war. General Putnam mounting twenty Guns, and Commanded by Captain Thomas Allen as he believes.

The names of the first and second mates were Solliston, and Goit whose Christian names he cannot now recollect. Soon after the first of June aforesaid he sailed on board said ship from the port of New London in the State of Connecticut on a cruising voyage upon the Atlantic Ocean. She cruised along coast of the great Bank of Newfoundland South of England and West of Giland, and returned to the port of New London aforesaid, on the fifteenth day of September having been absent on said cruise three months and a half, when he went to his residence in Saundersfield aforesaid. During the voyage aforesaid, the crew of the said Ship General Putnam captured and took six British Briggs and sixty or seventy prisoners of war, but the names of said Briggs and the names of the officers by whom they were commanded he does not recollect.

He further declares as aforesaid that about the last of June or the first of July in the year 1780 he again enlisted in the army of the United States with Captain Noah Allen, whose company he immediately joined at West Point in the State of New York and very soon after crossed the Hudson River to Robinson's farces [forces] where he remained a short time. About a week after his arrival at West Point he was united to the select corps of Infantry under the Command of the Marquis de LaFayette soon after which he marched with Crops aforesaid into the State of New Jersey, crossing the Hudson River at Stony Point.—He was then placed in a company commanded by Captain John Killey Smith under whom he served until discharged as hereafter mentioned. He thinks that after their arrival in New Jersey they encamped in the English Neighborhood near the Totaway River—

During the time he was in New Jersey, he recollects marching with a detachment of about one thousand men to Elizabethtown, with a view of Crossing over to Staten Island, but the expedition did not succeed.—

He returned by way of the Highlands, on the west side of the Hudson River, with the forces under command of General LaFayette, to West Point, some time in the month of November of the same year, at which place he remained until discharged from the service on or about the fifteenth day of December 1780, when he returned to Saundersfield aforesaid having been engaged in the Service of the united States during the last mentioned prior, five and a half months.

The discharge last above mentioned has long since been lost or destroyed, so that he cannot produce, and he has no discharge, certificate, or other documentary evidence of any of the service aforesaid nor are they [their] any persons now living to his knowledge, except those affidavits are herewith exhibited, who could testify to the services above mentioned and set forth.

He further declares that amongst the officers under whom he served during the period last above mentioned, he recollects the names of Colonel Shephard and major Trisket. When he first arrived at West Point, that Station he believes was under the immediate command of General Washington, and he recollects very well that the Baron De [von] Steuben was at that place disciplining the troops. He thinks he heard soon after that General Arnold (of Base memory) was stationed in command there.

He also recollects while in New Jersey of hearing of the Capture of Major Andree, and the infamous treachery of Benedict Arnold.

He further declares that according to a record of his birth now in his possession he was born on nineteenth day of August in the year of our Lord 1857 at Weathersfield in the County of Hartford, in the State of Connecticut. When he was seven or eight years of age when he moved with his parents to Saundersfield in the Country of Berkshire, State of Massachusetts aforesaid, where he resided until about the year 1788, when he removed into the County Herkimer in the State of New York. In the year 1802 or 1803 he removed to Brownville in the County of Jefferson aforesaid where he has resided ever since and where he now lives, & has numerous acquaintances who can certify to his credibility &c.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of any agency in any State.

He further declares that he was not engaged during the time he was in the service of the United States, in any battle, and that the whole time he was in the service including the several times above specified, amounts to two years and one month.

(Signed) John Baxter

Sworn to, and Subscribed, the day and year aforesaid. P. Burchard, Clerk