

### Pension Application for Joseph Beckwith

W.17286 (Widow: Esther) Married April 1792.

State of Connecticut

County of New London SS.

On this 6<sup>th</sup> day of October AD 1824 personally appeared in open Superior Court, being a Court of Record for the County & State aforesaid constituted a Court of Record by the Laws of said State & having the power of fine & imprisonment, Joseph Beckwith resident in Lyme in said County aged 67 years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the Act of congress of the 18<sup>th</sup> of March 1818 and the 1<sup>st</sup> of May 1820; that he the said Joseph Beckwith enlisted for the term of one year in the month of March 1776 on Long Island in the State of New York in the company commanded by Capt. Daniel Griffin in the Regiment commanded by Colo. Livingston in the line of the State of New York on the Continental Establishment—that he continued to serve in said Corps until March 1777 when he was discharged from said service at Fort Montgomery in the State of New York—that he again enlisted for the term of three years in the spring of 1777 at Lyme aforesaid in the company commanded by Captain Elisha Lee in the Regiment commanded by Colo John Durkee in the Line of the State of Connecticut on the Continental Establishment and continued to serve in said Corps until April 1780 when he was discharged at Westfield in the State of New Jersey as more particularly stated in his original application dated April 1818—that his name has been placed on the pension list and dropped therefrom on account of his property.

And in pursuance of the act of the 1<sup>st</sup> of May 1820 I do solemnly swear, that I was a resident citizen of the United States on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled “An Act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War passed on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818, and that I have not nor has any person in trust for any property or securities, contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed & by me subscribed. That since the exhibition of my first schedule the following changes have been made in my property, viz.

Property contained in my first schedule viz. 1 small house & 12 acres poor land \$116, 1 cow \$12, six sheep \$4.50 \$16.50, a few poor articles of household furniture \$10, about forty dollars due me \$40, \$182.50. I owed \$52.00, \$130.50.

After I was stricken from the pension roll I collected what little was due me as soon as I could and applied it in payment of my debts as far as it would go—I paid the principal part of A to John & Samuel Rogers to whom I owed nearly forty dollars. One of my creditors I was unable to pay until after I sold my house & land as hereinafter mentioned.

After I lost my pension I applied to Oliver J. Lay to assist me in procuring such necessaries as were indispensably necessary for me and my family and to assist me in paying some small debts I have been obliged to contract. At my urgent solicitation he furnished me with several small sums until the 4<sup>th</sup> day of December AD 1822, when I settled with him for the advances he had made me and found that I owed him \$30.65/100—After that I continued to call upon him and he furnished me with various small sums and orders for necessaries until the 27<sup>th</sup> day of September 1834 when I again settled with him and found that I owed him \$88.41/100 and to pay him I sold my small house and land for \$120 and gave him a deed of it. He gave me an order on a store of \$1.19 and paid me the balance \$20.50/100 in money—but of that sum I paid Joel Loomis \$10 which I owed him and also several other small debts amounting in all to \$6. The remainder \$4.50 I have kept to defray the expenses of this application. I have been deprived of my pension more than four years and during that time have lived as prudently and economically as I could and have not wasted any of my property.

One of my sheep I sold to Charles Tinker for eight shillings which said out in grain for my family use—The remainder have been consumed in my family. My old cow I still keep as she is indispensably necessary for the comfort of my family. The old household furniture remains much the same as it was before.

My family consists of myself & wife aged 57 years, a daughter Hepsibah 25 years and a daughter Harriet about 17 years.—My wife and daughters were some years past enabled to earn something by the business of weaving cotton cloth but that business has now entirely failed. My occupation was formerly that of a seaman in the coasting trade but for six or eight years past I have been so old and infirm that I have done nothing at that business, and but very little of any other kind.

I have served my country long and faithfully four years in the whole, am now old infirm and poor and need my pension for my necessary support.

All my property real & personal except bedding & wearing apparel consists only of 1 old cow \$10, some of furniture not worth more than \$10. \$20. (Signed) Joseph Beckwith

Sworn to & declares in open court on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of October AD 1824 before the Judge thereof.  
Attest James Stedman, Assistant Clerk.

Letter in file dated May 7, 1929, written in response to an inquiry.

I advise you from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim, W.17286, it appears that Joseph Beckwith enlisted on Long Island in March 1776 and served one year as a private in Captain Daniel Griffin's Company, Colonel Livingston's New York Regiment.

He enlisted at Lyme, Connecticut, in the spring of 1777, and served three years as a private in Captains Elisha Lee's and John Buell's Companies, Colonel John Durkee's Connecticut Regiment and was in the battles of Danbury, Newport and Germantown.

He was allowed pension on his application executed April 2, 1818, at which time he was living in Lyme, Connecticut, in the sixtieth year of his age. He died there, August 25, 1837.

The soldier married in April, 1792, Mrs. Esther Daniels, widow of John Daniels. She was the daughter of Lowen Wait and Zeruah Calkins, who were married, November 3, 1761, in Lyme, Connecticut. Esther Wait was born, May 22, 1765.

She was allowed pension on account of the services of Joseph Beckwith on her application executed August 6, 1838, while residing at Lyme, Connecticut. She died, March 25, 1840.

They had six children, and the following are the only names mentioned: Richard, born in January 1793; Hepsibah, who was twenty-five years old in 1824; Anna, twenty-four years old in 1820; Harriet, eleven years old in 1820, and Mahalia Tinker, who in 1838 was aged thirty-three years and a widow.

The following children survived their mother: Harriet, wife of James Haynes and Mahalia, wife of Frederick Champion.