

Pension Application for Silas Beckwith

S.32115

Declaration. In order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress of the 7th of June 1832. State of Illinois Crawford County

On this second day of December 1833 personally appeared in open court before the County Commissioners Court, of the County of Crawford and State of Illinois aforesaid, now sitting Silas Beckwith a Resident, of Palestine Township in the County of Crawford, aforesaid & State of Illinois aged eighty seven 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. That some time in the month of January or February in the year 1776 he volunteered with his team to have provisions for the army from East Hudson Landing to Boston and in this station had the command of seven other teams and continued in this business for the term of three months & was discharged.

He immediately moved to the State of New York, with his wife & children (near Albany) where he was early in the Summer of 1777 chosen by the committee (which transacted all such business at that time) to take charge of thirty five man & go to the north and join Genl. Allen in about two months they returned to join General Schuyler's army then a little below Albany on the Hudson or North River; previous to General Gates taking command of the army. Sargent Butler & himself with twenty five men under his command went to the River, where they were drawn into an ambush with a party of Indians had a skirmish in the night and returned, without the loss of a man & only one wounded, next day General Gates took charge of the army and he the said applicant was appointed and commissioned Captain by General Gates in the Regiment commanded by Col. Vanesse, he remained in General Gates Army was in the Battle at Stillwater on the 19th September 1777 and also when General Burgoyne was taken, he continued with General Gates' nine months and was discharged.

Some time in the winter of 1778 he was selected by the committee in Noble Town Albany County, to take charge of thirty men and go and join General Washington, then at Valley Forge, he was requested by the committee to join the Connecticut Troops when he reached Valley Forge, he presented his papers to General Pearson of the Connecticut Line he advised him to go in the Hospital & be inoculated [sic] for the Small Pox, where he lay sick for a long time, was sick when the army marched from Valley Forge, he got better, was put in a wagon & followed the army, but relapsed in four or five days, and was discharged by the Doctor (who was sent to see him) as not being able for service. That he has no documentary evidence and that he knows of no person, whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his service (except the affidavits of Benjamin Beckwith).

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 the agency of any state.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. (Signed) Silas Beckwith

Interrogatories.

To 1st Question. Answer. He was born in Lime New London County State of Connecticut in the year 1746.

To 2. Question. He has no record of his age.

To 3. He was living in Lime, New London County Connecticut where, he first volunteered for 3 months as Teamster lived at Noble, Albany County State of New York lived at Noble Albany County State of New York at his 2nd & 3rd tours of service. 1st of 9 months 2nd was sick with small pox, since the Revolutionary War moved from New York State of Indians, then to Crawford County Illinois, where he now lived.

To 4 Question. He volunteered in the service

To 5 Question. He has previously named all the officers that he can now recollect owing to inform old age he has forgotten many names & places.

6th He received a discharge for the first three months but can not recollect the officers name. He received a discharge as Captain from General Gates, which was burnt [?] present residence as Benjamin Beckwith affidavit [sic] will prove.

To 7th. David McGokey a Clergyman and Asa Piper are persons who know me in my present neighborhood, and who can testify as to my character for veracity & their belief of my services as a soldier of the Revolution.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of office this 24th day of December AD 1833. Edward H. Piper Clk.

Letter in file dated September 25, 1925, written in response to an inquiry.

I have to advise you from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim, S.32115, it appears that Silas Beckwith was born in 1746 in Lime, New London County, Connecticut.

While residing in said Lime, he served from in January or February 1776, three months as teamster, hauling provisions for the army.

Soon after this he moved to Noble, Albany County, New York, and early in the summer of 1777, he was chosen by a Committee to take charge of thirty-five men, they marched to the North and were in a skirmish with the Indians, in about two months they returned to near Albany, New York, and soon after this, he was appointed Captain and served nine months in Colonel VanNess or Vaughn's New York Regiment and was in both battle of Stillwater.

In the winter of 1778, he was chosen by a Committee in Noble Township, New York, to take charge of thirty men and marched to Valley Forge, while there he was sick in hospital and was discharged by the doctor as being unable for service.

He was allowed pension on his application executed December 2, 1833, while a resident of Palestine, Crawford County, Illinois.

In 1776, soldier and wife and children, no names are stated. His wife died about 1830. In 1833, son, Benjamin, was living in Crawford County, Illinois.

There is no further data on file as to his family.