

Pension Application for John Belknap

R.716

State of Pennsylvania

Susquehanna County SS.

On this fifth day of December A.D. 1832, personally appeared in open Court before the Hon. Edward Herrick, and his associates, Judges of the Court of Common Pleas for the county aforesaid, now sitting; John Belknap, a resident of New Milford in the County of Susquehanna and State of Pennsylvania aged sixty nine 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 7, 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

To wit—that in the spring of the year 1766, at the town of Newburg, in the County of Orange, and State of New York, he entered the service of the United States as waiter to his father, John Belknap, then captain of a company he thinks of Continental troops; but he is unable to state from memory, whether they were continental or state troops, for the term of one year. That he soon after his enlistment, marched with his father to Fort Montgomery situate on the Hudson River about fifteen miles below the present village of Newburg. That he remained at Fort Montgomery, and assisted in completing the fortifications—during the summer of that year—was present and assisted in putting a chain across the river for the purpose of preventing the British shipping from passing up.

That there were stationed at the fort, Capt. Belknap, Capt. Billings and Capt Rosencrantz with their companies:-- Colonel Dubois was there with his regiment a part of the time. General James Clinton commanded fort and Genl George Clinton commanded at "Fort Clinton" (Situate on the Height a little below Fort Montgomery) both of whom he well knew.—That he remained at Fort Montgomery until the expiration of his term of enlistment and was discharged sometime in the spring of 1777.

And the said John Belknap on his oath further states:--That in the fall of 1777, and immediately after the taking of fort Montgomery by the British his father received the appointment of Purchasing Commissary to the Army from general Wadsworth's that he served as an assistant to his father, and continued and continued actively engaged in that capacity until the close of the war.

And the said John Belknap on his oath further states. That a part of his business was procuring & furnishing cattle and other supplies for the American Army at West Point.—That his father expended a handsome property in the discharge of debts contracted for the benefit of the United States, while Commissary to the Army.

That his name was placed on the pension roll under the Law of 1818 at twenty dollars per month; (as he verily believes will appear by the records of the War Department).

And the said John Belknap further states—that he has no documentary evidence; and he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services.

He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his names is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state, to his knowledge. (Signed) John Belknap
Sworn to and subscribed in open court. The day and year aforesaid. Asa Dimock [?]