

Pension Application for Josiah Belknap

S.22118

Declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress, passed June 7, 1832.
State of Vermont
District of Windsor SS.

On this seventh day of August in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and thirty two, personally appeared in open court before the Probate Court of said District, now sitting, said court being a court of record by the laws of this State, Josiah Belknap, a resident of Springfield in the County of Windsor and State of Vermont, aged seventy two years, the 29th day of December last, 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 was born in Woburn, in the County of Middlesex, and State of Massachusetts, on the 29th day of December A.D. 1759. That the record thereof is in his Bible, formerly belonging to his father in his life time, and that it is also recorded in the Town Clerk's office in Woburn;--

That he was living in Woburn when called into Service;--That in 1786 he moved to Shrewsbury, Mass., where he lived 4 years; then moved to Jaffrey in the County of Cheshire & State of Newhampshire, where he lived till the year 1818, when he moved to Springfield in the County of Windsor and State of Vermont, where he has ever since lived, and now resides.

That in June, 1776, he volunteered and entered the service of the United States, for the term of five months, under the following named officers, & served as follows, viz. Capt Saml Tay of S'd Woburn, Col. Jonathan Reed, Major [blank] Fletcher, Brig Gen. Bracket, or Bricket. That he with the Company to which he belonged rendezvoused, he thinks at the Captains house, in Woburn and marched directly on to Charlestown, N.H. then called No. 4, thence crossed Connecticut River and marched through Vermont, and joined the army under Gen. Gates at Ticonderoga, N.Y. Gen. Gates was then the commanding officer there—remembers well that Wayne was there, wo afterwards was Gen. Wayne.

That he served at Ticonderoga during the term of five months, and on the last (& he thinks the 28th of Novr 1776) he and the regiment to which he belonged were dismissed, without any discharge in writing; -- That they then drew their Batteaux across the land from Lake Champlain to Lake George, crossed Lake George, and down to Albany and returned home.

That he well remembers the engagement on Lake Champlain between the American fleet commanded by Gen. Arnold and Gen. Waterbury and the British fleet, which took place while he was at Ticonderoga, in which the American fleet was defeated, and recollects perfectly, that when the ships that were not taken nor destroyed were returning. That Gen Gates came into the fort where he was there standing as Sentinel, with a spy—glass, and asked him if he knew the names of those ships that were returning. That he never had any written discharge from the above service.

He further declares that in the summer of 1777, the town of Woburne being called upon to furnish number of militia men to go to Rhode Island, he volunteered under Capt Jesse Wyman, and marched to Providence in Rhode Island, where he was stationed and served for the term of two months and was dismissed and returned home. For this service, he never had any written discharge. He recollects that soon after he was stationed at Providence, one John Hart was detected and taken as a spy, and executed as such, and the Regiment to which he s'd Belknap belonged was called out to attend the execution.

And the said Belknap further declares, that in the summer of 1778 he enlisted in the army of the United States for the term of nine months & joined the army, at Fish-kill N.Y. and after being there a short time, he enlisted himself a waggoner in the army of the United States, on the eighth day of August 1778, with Capt Giles Gaylord to serve one year, and marched with a wagon & horses immediately & joined the army at White Plains, and served during the year, and on the third day of August 1779 received a discharge therefrom in writing by Major Gen. Heath, the original certificate of enlistment, signed by said Gaylord, and the original discharge are attached to this declaration. That he knows of no person alive who can testify to his service, and all the testimony in his power is herewith transmitted. Jabez Proctor Judge