

Pension Application for Matthew Benson

W.18577 (Widow: Johannah or Hannah Davis) Married September 11, 1793 in Haverstraw. Died October 23, 1843.

B.L.Wt.26600-160-55

State of New York

Rockland County SS.

On this fifth day of February in the year AD 1833, personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas [Pleas] now sitting Matthew Benson, a resident of the town of Haverstraw, in the county of Rockland and State of New York, aged sixty eight years, the twenty seventh day of April 1832, as appears by the family records, 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.

That in the spring of the year 1777, his father's wagon was pressed to convey provision and forage to the American Army, when he being the oldest son had to go with his father's team, and was engaged nearly the whole of the time from the spring of the year 1777 to the spring of the year 1779 & conveying provision, forage and baggage for the Army to many different places and was with the army below Philadelphia [Philadelphia] to Burlington, and to Bristol in the state of Pensilvania [Pennsylvania] and was out more than three month[s] at a time before he was permitted to return home to recruit himself and team and suffered greatly during the winter season as he was often obliged to sleep under his wagon.

That then in the month of April he volunteered in a company commanded by Capt. John Gardner, in a regiment commanded by Col'n A. Hawks Hay, and served therein for seven months, served at Stony Point until the British Army took possession of the Point and after that time he served a guarding along the shoar [shore] of the Hudson River at different Places between Stony Point and Sneedens Landing, that then in the year 1780 he again volunteered in the aforesaid Company and served therein for three months, when he was obliged to leave the company being pressed with the teame [team] as aforesaid in which capacity he served at different periods until the American Army marched for Yorktown and then in the year 1782 again entered the service in the aforesaid and served therein at different times when called upon but how long his is now unable to state correctly to state but can confidently say that he was in the service of his country as a soldier and driving team for at least three years that he has no documentary evidence of any of the above recited services as he did not receive any written discharge for any of his services, and the certificates for his teaming having long been disposed of.

That from his Infancy has always resided at his present residence in the Town of Haverstraw.

That he is personally known to John Fetter, Joseph B. Allison, John S. Gurnce, Edward & Lawrence DeNoyells and to the most part of the principal inhabitants of the county of Rockland, and to every member of the said court who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief as to his Revolutionary services.

That there remains yet a few who are acquainted with his services under Capt. Gardner, but his services as teamster, he being a great part of the time employed out of the county in which he resides and knows of no one now living that served with him.

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. (Signed) Matthew Benson

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open court. David Pye, Clerk