

Pension Application for Richard Betts

R.808

State of New York

Montgomery County SS.

On this twenty first day of September A.D. 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Montgomery now sitting Richard Betts a resident of Broadalbin, in the County of Montgomery and State of New York aged seventy six 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.

That he resided in the Town of Beekman in the County of Dutchess and State of New York during the war of the revolution except when he was in said service.

That in the year 1775 in the month of June and before he removed to Beekman he resided in Longisland. That he volunteered to guard and protect the coasts under Capt. William Ludlum, Ensign's name was Ephram Martin. ; The Lieut. has forgot. Continued in said service till the next year about the forepart of April.

The company during the time aforesaid was raised for the purpose of preventing the British from taking off the people's cattle & stock, was no regiment to what company belonged. Company was spread along the shores where the inhabitants were most exposed.

In the time aforesaid served at least nine months.

In April in the year 1776 enlisted for five months under the same captain and ensign the Lieutenants name is not recollected certainly, continued on the Island til the British drove them off which was the forepart of September in said year and soon after the battle on said Island .

After the retreat from the Island the regiment & company to which he belonged was dismissed. Coll. Smith (thinks it was Josiah) commanded regiment. Lieutenant Col. John Sands & Major Remsen belonged to said regiment.

That he continued on the Island on the south side of Jamaica. That when the British landed at Staten Island wqas called into the lines at Brooklyn.

That his regiment was the first to take possession of a high piece of ground between Brooklyn and Flatbush where the British halted.

That he was in some skirmishing.

That his regiment was relieved bby General Lord Sterling's Brigade. General Washington was on Island at this time. General Putnam also—also General Sullivan served this time five months.

In the month of March in the year 1777 volunteered and went into service at Peekskill—was at Fishkill when he volunteered. Continued there at Peekskill till after Fort Montgomery was taken then retreated to Fishkill. Continued there till the month of December from thence went out as volunteer for attack a fort at Setucket on Longisland sailed from Norwalk in Connecticut the fore part of evening, in the morning found themselves near a British Frigate and was driven on shore and abandoned the vessel on which they were.

This exhibition was commanded by General Pierson, Cols Ely and Webb were taken prisoners aboard of a six gun privateer was under Captain Hart. Fort was abandoned by British that they went to [?] where [?] was.

Then went to the river head near the East end of Longisland. Captain Brewster of the Artillery went to Connecticut procured vessels and too them off to New London & New [Charched?] back to Fishkill about the 20th December of same year and was then discharged. Served at this time nine months.

In the following year 1778 in the month of May or June volunteered to build the fort at West Point was there one month under Captain Roger Morey Lieut. Bently, Lieut Col. Benjamin Birdsall commanded. After that he again volunteered for three months about the first of July in said year and went to Fishkill and continued in said service till the month of October following at that place was in the service this year about in between four & five months.

That after he volunteered the deputy wagon master General Thomas Wicks requested him to act as his clerk—and served in that capacity about three months when he was discharged.

That at the time he volunteered to go on Long Island & attacked the fort at Setucket he was in the service but he and about 30 others from Island requested permission to go with those that had been ordered into that expedition when at Peekskill Major Campbell commanded at that place.

That at the time he was at Peekskill in the year 1777 he was taken from army and by his consent made clerk to the deputy wagon master general Thomas Wicks who was engaged in collecting forage and provisions for the army and that he acted and served as his clerk except when it was necessary to go out in skirmishes and or scouts which he with others frequently did. That he volunteered for nine months at the time now referred to. That he has no documentary evidence of his services and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service.

That he was born at the Town of Jamacia on Longisland in the State of New York on the sixteenth day of July in the year 1756.

That he lived on Longisland when he first went into service as aforesaid.

That being obliged to flee from said Island he afterwards made it his home at Beekmans aforesaid when not in service.

That he has lived since the revolutionary war in Beekman aforesaid until he removed to [?] where he now resides which was between 40 & 50 years ago that he removed to Broadalbin.

That he has stated the manner of being called into service and the names of the regular officers he recollects at this time and the troops with which he served & the circumstances of his service to the best of his recollection.

Never had a written discharge.

That he is known to the Reverend William Groom & Abner Sherman who reside in his present neighborhood and who can testify to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution. 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) Richard Betts

Sworn to & subscribed in open court 20th Sept. 1832. Geo. D. Ferguson, Clerk.