

Pension Application for Elisha Bills

S.12217

Otsego Common Pleas of October Term 1832.

Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

State of New York

Otsego County SS.

On this 16th day of October 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in & for the County of Otsego being a court of record & now sitting Elisha Bills a resident of the Town of Hartwick County & State aforesaid aged 84 years next April 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 in the Revolutionary War under the following named officers and served as herein stated to wit.

In the year 1779 as he believes he was a resident of the Town of Cambridge in the County of Washington & State aforesaid & in the month of April of that year this deponent volunteered in the Militia of the State of New York for the term of three months at Fort Edward in a company commanded by Capt. George Gilmore in Col. VanWorts Regt & who also commanded the Fort. He does not recollect his officers except those mentioned but he recollects one Capt. Sherwood who commanded a company in the Fort.

He was stationed at the Fort during the whole term aforesaid doing garrison duty, hunting tories, scouting &c &c & at the end of his term was discharged & returned home but he never at any time had any written discharge.

In October following he volunteered again for the term of 3 months under the same officers & at the same place after remaining in the fort for the term aforesaid about the last of December or first of January he was again discharged & returned home. His duty was mostly the same as before.

In March following he again volunteered on an excursion to go to Skeenesborough on an alarm that the Indians & Tories were in the vicinity. Capt. Gilmore being at this time unwell & unable to do military duty, the company to which he was attached elected one Solomon King a Captain over the company for this expedition.

He proceeded to Skeenesborough & remained there about 3 months doing garrison duty & watching the Indians &c & then returned home. He never received a cent of pay for any of the proceeding services.

He was frequently called out upon alarms against the Indians & Tories for a few days at a time sometimes a week sometimes more & sometimes less. He marched to Skeenesborough from Cambridge on foot when the snow was deep & bad travelling.

He knows of no person whose testimony he can procure to his service nor has any [collementary?] evidence of the service.

He was born at Lebanon Connecticut, Windham County on the 18 day of April 1749.

He has a record of his age at home in his Bible copied from his father's Bible [??] since then is also a record of his age in the town where he was born.

He lived there until he was about 25 years of age when he was married & removed to Wilmington in Vermont about 20 miles east of Bennington where he resided about six years from thence to Cambridge New York about two years from thence to Pittsfield Massachusetts about 7 years thence to Jonesborough about 7 years more thence to Charleston New York on the Mohawk River about 5 years thence to Milford Otsego Co. New York about 16 years thence to Hartwick adjoining about 13 years since where he has ever since resided.

He would refer the Dept to Deacon Birch to David Kendall Esquire & Capt Samuel Mallory of Hartwick to William Bernard Esquire & Allen Baker of Milford as to his character for truth & veracity.

He does not recollect the names of any other officers than those heretofore mentioned and he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever except the present to a pension or annuity & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. (Signed) Elisha Bills

Sworn & subscribed in open court the 16th day of October 1832. Horace Lathrop, Clerk