

Pension Application for Ephraim Blackman

R.899 (Widow: Orpha)
Green Mt. Boys
State of Iowa
Scott County SS

Be it remembered that on this 10th day of August A.D. 1857 personally appeared before me the undersigned Clerk of the District Court within and for said County and State, L.S. Blackman of said County and State, who being duly sworn, according to law, deposeth and saith that he was personally well acquainted with Ephraim Blackman deceased and that said Ephraim Blackman was a revolutionary soldier and believes that said Ephraim Blackman volunteered under Colonel Ethan Allen and was at the Surprising of Ticonderoga, on the morning of the 10th of May A.D. 1775.

I have often heard the old Grandfather laugh heartily when speaking of Colonel Allen's singular demand said Allan. "I demand the Fort by the Power of the Great Jehovah and Continental Congress" said Ephraim Blackman, subsequently served under Generals Schuyler and Gates, during the struggle for Independence and was regularly discharged but lost his discharge by fire when my father's House was burned for he was living with us at that time.

I have often heard the said Ephraim Blackman, relate his hardships; how they had to march on frozen ground, when they could have been tracked by the blood of their feet and not a complaint was heard. Said Ephraim Blackman died, as deponent believes, on the 18th day of March A.D. 1833, in the Province of Canada, and his widow Orpha Blackman died on the 15th day of February A.D. 1835 said Ephraim Blackman, has but one son now living Zenas Blackman, who now resided near Saint Charles, Kane [Kane] County, Illinois and is now about sixty years of age. (Signed) L.S. Blackman.

Joshua D. Patton, Clerk of the District Court.

Letter in folder dated September 22, 1925, written in response to an inquiry.

I have to advise you that from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim R.899 it appears that on August 1, 1857 Zenas Blackman a resident of Saint Charles, Kane County Illinois, aged sixty years, applied for pension as the only living son of Ephraim Blackman and stated that his father volunteered under Colonel Ethan Allen and was present at the capture of Ticonderoga on May 10, 1775, also that he subsequently served under Generals Schuyler and Gates during the Revolution.

Ephraim Blackman died in his ninety-sixth year on March 18, 1833 in Toronto Township, Canada and his widow Orpha died February 15, 1835. There is no further data on file as to family, except that one L.S. Blackman of Scott County, Iowa referred to the soldier as "the old grandfather".

The claim was not allowed as there was no existing law that would entitle the child of such a soldier to pension.