

Pension Application for Levi Blaisdell or Blasdel

W.25251 (Widow: Mary or Polly) Levi Blaisdell and Polly Cronk were married on the 23rd day of October in the year of our Lord 1814, Coeyman's by Daniel Ostrander, Elder. Levi died June 1st, 1833 in Coeyman's.

Continental, Massachusetts, New York

B.L.Wt.26,394-160-55

Declaration. In order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

State of New York

City & County of Albany SS.

On the first day of November 1832, personally appeared in open court, before the Justices Court of the City of Albany now sitting Levi Blasdel, that he was born at Amesbury in the County of Essex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and is now a resident of the Town of Coeymans in the County of Albany and State of New York, and will be seventy five years old on the 20th September now last who declares that he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated.

That he enlisted in Amesbury aforesaid in the year 1775 in Capt. Timothy Barnard's Company and Col. Little's Regiment as a soldier and marched to Cambridge & Prospect Hill near Boston and served six months.

That in 1776, he enlisted in Capt Eliphath Bidwell's Company and Col. Wigglesworth's Regt for nine months, and marched from Amesbury aforesaid through New Hampshire and Vermont to No. 4. now Charlestown, and across the woods to Lake Champlain and so to Fort Ticonderoga, and were there in garrison; and was ordered out one a fatigue party, and assisted in Constructing a floating bridge, fastened by Anchors and cables across the lake to Fort Independence; after which the declarer was detached with a part to assist in making bricks for barrack chimnies [chimneys] in which he was engaged for about a month; from thence to Old Skenesborough (now Whitehall) under the command of Major Ballard, and there detached with a fatigue party under that Major and assisted in building the galley called the Gates.

That he remained there until about the month of December following, and then returned home to Amesbury by the way of Fort Ann and Albany.

In 1777 he enlisted a third time for 9 months in Amesbury aforesaid, and was made orderly sergeant under Capt. [blank] the first Lieutenant's name was Daniel Bailey in Col. Johnson's Regiment, of Andover in Massachusetts and marched from Andover under General Starks to Pawlet, and thence to Lake George, where, as oldest Orderly, he was ordered with a guard to take charge of the baggage and stores, whilst the army when to attack the Block Fort near Diamond Island on Lake George, which they took, and made prisoners of the British garrison in the Fort with the loss of but one man of this declarers company—then returned back to Pawlet, and from thence to Bemus's Heights at or near Stillwater—

The regiment to which this declarer belonged were encamped on the parade west of the fort— on the drums beating to arms, Col. Johnson's Reg't was ordered to reinforce Col. Morgan and Col. Sullivan whose Regts were stationed on the right of Col. Johnsons—then marched on the road through the woods, whilst three field pieces were firing upon us, which we were ordered by General Arnold to take, and which order was no sooner given than it was obeyed and on which occasion, the right hand file leader of this declarer received a shot from a musket ball, which, whilst he was presenting his musket to fire wounded him in the left hand and right arm & shoulder, and his musket dropped down by his side.

In taking the 3 field pieces, 12 British Artillery men, who were with the pieces, ran into a small log house, from which one of them cried out for quarters, which on their stacking their arms, as ordered, was granted them, and they taken prisoners, and brought into proper quarters. Upon this occasion, General Arnold rode up on full gallop across the British entrenchments hallowing out "Come

on, my boys come on, the day is our own", and whilst animating and encouraging our troops that General received his wound in the ankle or leg, which also wounded his horse.

The Americans then pursued the British on their retreat, and in the pursuit took the kettles from the fires, and throwing out the liquor, satisfied their craving appetite preparing for their conquerors, and eating as they pursued them, overtook them, at the time that General Redisel and Major Ackland were either wounded or killed—and night coming on, the American Army were ordered to retreat back to Bemus's heights.

The next day a flag of truce was sent in by the enemy, proposing a capitulation on the following day at 11 o'clock; but when that hour arrived, and no proposals of capitulation offered, it was suggested that the firing should be renewed on them, but General Gates ordered a suspension of the firing for one hour, when the British commenced their march for the purpose of capitulation, which ceremony this declarer had the pleasure of witnessing; and on the moment after they had crossed the line of demarcation, the American Music commenced playing "Yankee Doodle", and continued that tune, until the British has passed through the American lines. Col. Johnson's Regt then marched back to Bemus's heights having lost in killed and wounded 36 as appeared by the returns; one company having lost all its officers except the Ensign who was on the next day promoted to the command of the company and the non-commissioned officers, to the rank of Subalterns, shortly after which the Regt marched home, through Albany to Amesbury.

In the same year 1777, this declarer enlisted again in the month of December for 4 months under one Capt. Evans in Col. Smith's Regiment and marched on the 27th Dec'r from Amesbury (to serve in the tour of his father, who was at that time either drafted, or ordered out) for the Southern Army and on his having marched through the following towns to wit: Newburyport, Rowley, Ipswich, Beverly, Danver, [?] Boston, Roxbury, Dedham to Fishkill, and at Fishkill assisted under the command of General Heath, to erect barracks there.

From Fishkill thro Sing-Sing, Tarrytown, Philip's Manor and Kingsbridge—then soon after went to Morristown, Bound Brook in the Jerseys near New Brunswick, and remained there until his time of service expired, and then returned home to Amesbury—

In 1780, this declarer removed to the Town of Coeyman's in the State of New York, where he now resides, and there enlisted to serve as a substitute for a class of six men, of whom Conradt Ten Eyck was the head, for the term of six months, under Capt Sanford and acted as Ensign—the class for whom he had enlisted, being obliged, and having engaged to furnish an Ensign;—that when he arrived with the men at Albany, Capt Sanford enquired of this declarer, from what quarter he came to serve, and on being answered by this declarer, that he had enlisted at Coeyman's to serve for the class of which Major Ten Eyck was the head, Capt. Sanford replied, then you are the Ensign which that class was to furnish—whereupon this declarer told Capt. Sanford, that being but a poor young man, and little accustomed to company, he did not aspire to a commission, but that he would be obliged to the captain if he would continue him as Orderly Sergeant, as he had theretofore served in that station.

That Captain Sanford reluctantly consented to his being Orderly Sergeant but at the same time insisted on his serving as Ensign when duty required; which this declarer accordingly did. That in consequence of Capt. Sanford's not obtaining the complement of recruits to fill his company, this declarer and the men with him were turned over to Capt Dubois's Company in Col. Lewis Dubois's Regt in which regt was marched to West Point and afterwards to Albany; and from thence to Fort Plain and Stone Arabia (Col. Peter Gansevoort with the Continental Troops then being about three miles distant therefrom, when Col. Brown of Pittsfield) was defeated and killed in battle there on the Summer fallow. Col. Dubois's Regt having been joined by Col. Gansevoort's Regt, then pursued the enemy in three divisions and at George Cloack's they drove the enemy across the river after taking three of their field pieces. The next morning, they pursuing the enemy till they arrived at Lake Otsego near Cooperstown, and having been without provisions for nearly three days, the friendly American Indians advised our

troops to Swathe their bodies with red Elm bark, and tighten their bandage three times a day to prevent the bad effects from hunger—which on trial was found beneficial—

Thereupon finding that further pursuit was useless, they returned to Fort Plain & remained there until their term of service was expired and then returned home.--

That during the whole of this campaign the company had no Ensign attached to it, or acting as such, other than this declarer, who was uniformly recognized and called Ensign Blaisdell.

He hereby relinquishes every claim to any pension or annuity whatever, except the present, and that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state. (Signed) Levi Blaisdell.

Subscribed and sworn on the first day of November 1832. J. G. Wasson, Clerk.