

Pension Application for James Blakeslee

S.22126

Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7, 1832 by James Blakeslee.

State of Pennsylvania

Crawford County SS.

On this [blank] day of November one thousand eight hundred and thirty two, personally appeared in open court, before the Hon. Henry Shippen, President, Stephen Barlow & John H. Work, Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of Crawford County now sitting James Blakeslee—a resident of Bloomfield Township in the County and State aforesaid aged sixty nine years on the twenty of May last—who being first duly affirmed 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, viz—That in the month of June 1779 orders were received from Captain Stockwell commanding the garrison at Whitehall, at the head of Lake Champlain to the militia of Washington County New York, that the British fleet were coming towards the garrison and requested the Militia to turn out to assist in defending. That the greater part of the regiment commanded by Colo. Williams marched to the garrison under the command of Major Armstrong.

Applicant was in the company of Capt Wilsen in said Regiment—after they had been about five days at the garrison a request was made for all or a part of the Militia men to volunteer for ten days longer a number did so and among them was this applicant at the expiration of which time he with his commander returned home, having been about fifteen days.

That in 1781 in May or June, he went from Hebron in Washington County N.York in the company of militia commanded by his father Capt. David Blakesley to North Granville near to Whitehall on Lake Champlain to repel the British who were supposed to be making their way up the lake for the purpose of landing their landing—they did not however land and the company returned after an absence of seven or eight days.

That in or about September of the same year he went from Hebron to Argail [Argyle] in Washington County with seven or eight men under the charge of Sasse Attwater a sergeant in the company of applicant's father to take some Tories who were harbouring & committing [?] in the neighbourhood of the place—the men returned after an absence of four or six days—the Tories to the number of fifteen were taken at the time by a Scout of men from Vermont.

That in the month of April 1781 he was drafted with a number of the militia living in Granville, Washington County and marched to Saratoga under the command of Captain Anthony Whelp—that after the company had been two months at Saratoga, he was put into the company of Captain Livingston, & was marched to Salem Washington County with thirty one or two of the company under the command of Lieutenant John Honsdale—that the company remained at Salem until in December following when it was marched to Balstown Saratoga County, Ne York, when it joined the remainder of the company under Captain Livingston, who had left Saratoga at or near the same time that Lieut. Honsdale did, for Balstown and after being there a few days the company with applicant was dismissed regularly after a service of nine months.

There was no written discharge given to him or any of the company that he knows of for at the expiration of the nine months they were all anxious to return home without waiting for a written discharge, although the captain told them he could give it.

Neither has he any documentary evidence whereby to establish any of the foregoing facts.

But sometime in the year May 11th 1825, he made proof in the Court of Common Pleas of Crawford County of his service for the purpose of receiving a pension from the general government but

in which he failed for the reason set forth in the letter of J. L. Edwards of the War Department herewith attached—dated 23rd June 1825.

Applicant states that he was acquainted with Major Scott who commanded a number of regulars from New Hampshire at Saratoga, the time he was there the two months before spoken of. Major Scott was the commanding officer the time applicant lay there. The regiment however, to which he was attached was commanded by Colo. Willett but was at no time of his nine months service under his immediate command. The Colo. Previous mentioned having been stationed at Fort Plain about twenty miles below Utica on the Mohawk River.

He was also well acquainted with Colo. Seth Warner of Connecticut & Colo. Herrick who commanded a Regiment of Rangers in Vermont in which was a number of applicants who received a slight flesh wound at the battle of Bennington in 1777.

Applicant states that he was born at a place called the “Nine Partners”, Dutchess County, New York in May 1763.

That when he was near two years old as he has always understood it in the family of his father the latter moved his family to Bennington Vermont where he resided until applicant was thirteen years of age. His father then started for Onion River Town of Middlesex Burlington County Vermont, but owing to difficulties by the way, he returned to Bennington where he with applicant resided for near two years.

In 1779 the family moved to Hebron, Washington County & from thence in about a year after to Granville and adjoining town in said county.

In 1801 applicant moved from Granville to Genesee County New York where he resided until about fourteen years since when he moved to Bloomfield Township, County of Crawford where he has continued to reside ever since.

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.

Had a record of his age in his Bible written forty years ago. Has no written discharge. Thomas Bloomfield Esq & James Ender of Bloomfield Township Crawford Col. can prove his character. (Signed) James Blakeslee

Sworn in open court 13th Oct 1832. Henry Sheppen