

Pension Application for William Booth

R.1023

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

State of New Jersey

County of Sussex SS.

On this fourth day of March one thousand eight hundred and forty three personally came before me Lewis Howell a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of said County of Sussex—William Booth a resident of the Township of Frankford in the said County of Sussex and State of New Jersey aged eighty nine years and which William Booth I hereby certify is very infirm and by reason of such bodily infirmity is unable to attend before the said court or any other court of record in order to make a declaration and the said William Booth being by me first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he was of the age of eighty nine years on the twenty fifth day of December last. That in the spring of the year one thousand seven hundred & seventy six (in the month of March as deponent verily believed) deponent entered the American Army as a volunteer at the City of New York, that he went in the company of Captain Foster, Lieutenant Cooley but does not remember the names of the other officers, but remembers they were under the immediate command of General Washington.

The company in which this deponent volunteered were for some time in New York, then went up the river to Fort Washington, remained but a short time—the regt went to Fort Lee, staid there but a few days, then went to Fort Constitution but was not there during any attack said to have been made on the fort.

After the forts were taken by the British deponent went with the army to Morristown in this state. That on his arrival there he together with twenty or thirty others, were turned over to Gen. Wynds in the company of Captain Hetfield whose first name deponent thins was James, Lieutenant William Jackson and Ensign James Barton, there were five persons in my [mess?] in all of which I remember Smith, Williams & Jones the fourth I do not remember. Before we went to Morristown, we stopped at a place –New Jersey where we remained about two months, place called Potoway.

Deponent remained with the army at Morristown during the winter and while there he remembers a detachment of British come up in the Country from Elizabeth Town as far as the Short Hills near Springfield, they were met by the Americans and some skirmishing took place, the Americans took shelter in an orchard, the British were checked and returned to Elizabeth Town. Deponent was in that affray

That deponent well recollects the hardships evidenced by the Army at Morristown that winter, which was severe, and from the effects of which, together with the insufficiency of clothing, provisions & other necessaries very many were taken sick, among whom was deponent that on the last of May or the beginning of time in the year 1777, the camp at Morristown broke up & the army moved off towards Philadelphia, that deponent being sick & unable to move, he was discharged from further duty, that he remained ill for more than a year from the time of his discharge.

That he has no certificate of his discharge nor does he remember whether or not, he received [?] that after his discharge he went to the City of New York where he remained until after the war.

About the year 1784 deponent came to the County of Sussex & has ever since lived there within ten miles of this place (Frankford).

That deponent does not know that any person is now living who has any knowledge of his service, that if any such are living, he would not be likely to know of it, since by reason of his early removed from New York City to this place & not having any communication with his former acquainted, he has not the means of learning whether they are living or dead.

That while in New York he boarded with [blank] Hagerty a brother of Stephen Hagerty of this Township who deponent that he may have some knowledge of deponents service or his early history before deponent left New York City, which is about sixty miles distant from this place, but deponent does not know certainly that Mr. Stephen Hagerty ever knew deponent before the war.

That there is no clergyman now living near, who is personally known to deponent, or who could testify as to his character or to the reputation of his service, the church nearest deponent. Augusta as deponent believes is without a clergyman at this time and the Methodist Society whose church is next require their preachers to change their location every two years. But deponent is well known to John Bell Esqr, a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas to Samuel Price Esqr, late a Judge &c, & to Doctor John B. Beach of this Township.

Deponent has no record of his age but has no doubt he is of the age stated, that the whole time of his service in the manner above stated, was one year two months and a few days over. That he has requested Alpheus Gustin Esquire who is our attorney as have to aid him to procure a pension for the above named services who has more than and proving so to do, but has neglected it from time to time. Deponent is very infirm & poor so as to be compelled to deprive me the presence of others for a support.

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, the age of deponent above written on an erasure is eighty nine years. (Signed with his mark) Wm. Booth.

Sworn & Subscribed the day and year aforesaid by the said William Booth by making his mark, the same having been first carefully read over to him before me Lewis Howell Judge of Court of Common Pleas.