

Pension Application for Joshua Briggs

R.1203

State of New York & Conn.

Delaware County SS.

On this 9th day of December in the year one thousand eight hundred & thirty four personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of said county, now sitting Joshua Briggs resident in the town of Kortright in said county, aged seventy seven years being first 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.

He first went into the service of the United States as a sergeant in the New York forces under the following named officers & served as herein sated.

In the month of September 1775 he resided at North Castle near Bedford in the County of Westchester, N.Y. and then & there enlisted as a sergeant into a company of militia, or military forces, commanded by David Dan—Weed was lieutenant thereof.

The said company was attached to a regiment commanded by Col. Thomas Thomas. His said enlistment was for six months. Immediately upon his enlistment he entered upon service & very soon was marched to White Plains, staid there encamped, about a fortnight & marched thence to near Kingsbridge, where they were [?] encamped—Remained there & on N. York Island something like two months, marched thence to Morrisania – staid there a few days & marched to White Plains where they staid encamped till cold weather when they were marched to Peekskill, crossed Kingsferry & went in to winter quarters & lay in tents, all winter. About the middle of March following was marched to White Plains where his six months service having expired he was discharged. During this campaign, while we lay at Mossisania, there was a skirmish or rather commanding with the enemy across the creek. He (the enemy) fired upon us with a cannon in a house across the creek about a mile off. Col. Thomas then commanding our force ordered a cannon, a thirty two pounder to be brought up & pointed at the house.

It was so done & the shot struck the house. I saw the timbers fly in the air—The Col. ordered a second shot which also took effect.—I saw the enemy pouring out of the house.—There was no more firing till the evening following when the enemy threw several house shells at us.—we fell flat as we saw them coming & nobody was hurt I believe.

In 1777 he resided in the town of Stamford in Connecticut, the place where he was born & brought up, & was then & there enrolled in a company of militia whereof Charles Smith was Captain & Jesse Hoyt was lieutenant the name of the ensign not now recollected. In that year he was drafted to go on a tour of duty & actually went on said draft as a sergeant & under the command of said Capt. Charles Smith & Lieut. Jesse Hoyt to a place near Long Island Sound, called the sawpits, I served there as such sergeant, mounting guard & out on scouting parties for full one month when he was dismissed & returned home. On this tour of duty & while at the Sawpits he was under the command of Col. David Hobie & was at this time in actual service as sergeant certainly as much as one month & he believes more. It was warm weather during this tour of duty but the months he cannot recollect.

In the same year some time in Autumn he was was [sic] again drafted & ordered into service and actually went into service under the command of Capt. Brush who was then the captain of another militia company in said Stamford, other than that commanded by said Capt. Smith & under the same Lieut. Jesse Hoyt & rendezvoused at Greenwich at a place called Titus's Mills, was in service there & at Horseneck mounting guard on scouting parties & doing duty as a sergeant for at least these weeks when he was dismissed & returned home – Gen. Mean was in command at most time & over the detachment to which he belonged—He does not think there was any colonel there at that time but he recollects distinctly that Gen. Mean was there in person & took the command when Capt. Burgh's company

marched to Horseneck & back again.—He recollects too that while at Titus's Mills he assisted by order of Gen. Mead to assist old Fade Donaldson & his son for hanging a British deserter.

And this declarant further states that he has no documentary evidence to establish the above facts or any part thereof.

Two years ago when he set himself about applying for a pension he [?] he could prove his services by witnesses residing in Westchester & Fairfield counties. He went down there to get their evidence but found that all his old companions in army were dead or gone beyond his knowledge. He now knows of no person by whom he can prove any part of his said services.

He was born in the town of Stamford County at Fairfield State of Connecticut on the 6th day of May 1757. He has no record of his age. It may be entered on the town records of Stamford but of this he is not known.

When he first enlisted in the service of the United States he resided at North Castle near Bedford West Chester County N.Y. as a hired man tho he then called it his home at Stamford where he was born & where his father then resided.—When his time was out of his first enlistment he returned to his father's home in Stamford. He resided there till he removed to North Castle near Bedford soon after the war of the revolution.

He resided at said North Castle till 1802 when he removed to Kortright in Delaware County N.Y. where he has continued to reside ever since.

He was called into service in the first place by voluntary enlistment—afterwards by draft or detachment, being ordered into service as set forth in this his declaration.

The names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where he served,—the regiments & general circumstances of his services as far as he can recollect are herein set forth in his declaration.

He never received any written discharge. He was dismissed by his officer in command in each case when his tour of duty was performed.

His [?] to serve as a sergeant he has looked for but cannot find. He cannot recollect any thing about it. He supposes he had such [?] each time he went into service but what has become of it he cannot say.

He states the names of Lewis Marvin and of John Davidson to whom he is known in his present neighborhood, & who can testify to his character for veracity & their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state. (Signed) Joshua Briggs.

Sworn and subscribed before me in open court the day and year aforesaid. C. B. Sheldon, Clerk