

Pension Application for Benjamin Bristol

S.9292

State of New York
Genesee County SS.

On this fifteenth day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty three, personally appeared before me William Mitchel one of the Judges of the County Courts of the County of Genesee being Courts of Records--

Benjamin Bristol a resident of the town of Gainesville in the County of Genesee in the State of New York aged eighty three years on the twenty fourth day of June last, who being first duly 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 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States, under the officers herein named at the time and in the manner hereafter stated.—

That in the year 1775 he resided in the Town of Canaan in the present County of Columbia in the State of New York and was called into the services as one of the Militia with the company to which he belonged under the command of Captain Aaron Kellogg in Colonel William Whiting's Regiment, Lt Col. Waterman and Major Becke were officers in the same Regiment and according to his best recollection he was called into the service in October 1775, and the service performed was that of watching and capturing Tories in the neighborhood some of whom after being [??] and tried by a Committee of Vigilance were allowed to remain on their farms and forbidden to depart therefrom on penalty of death by Shooting—Others were marched to Richmond in Massachusetts and kept under guard—He believes he was employed in this service for the term of three weeks.

That in the latter part of July or early in August 1776 he was again called out with the company of Militia under the same officers on occasion of an alarm that the British and Indians were coming from the Lakes into the Western part of the State of New York, that they marched to Johnstown, he took his horses and wagon for the purpose of transporting baggage—after remaining at Johnston eight days they proceeded to Sacandaga with provisions for the regular forces there stationed and then proceeded to Johnstown they remained there a short time, but no enemy appearing they were dismissed and he returned home—this service to the best of his recollection occupied four weeks—

In October of the same year to the best of his recollection. He and the company of Militia to which he belonged under the officers before named were called into the service and marched up the Hudson River to Fort Edward, expecting to meet a party of the Enemy's forces—while they remained there a small force stationed in Kingsbury were attacked by a party of tories and sustained some loss—Some of the wounded were brought to Fort Edward not meeting any of the British force the company were dismissed and returned home. – He believes he was absent in this service not less than twenty five days.

That in the month of June 1777 he was again called out with the company of Militia to which he belonged under Captain Bostwick, in the same Regiment as formerly and marched up the Hudson and to the head of Lake George where a Fort had been built.—The forces there employed were under the command of General Schuyler.—The British had obtained possession of Ticonderoga when he arrived at Fort George. The Fort was blown up by order of Gen. Schuyler after the removal of such property as he could carry away, and a number of Batteaux were taken on Waggon to Fort Edward.

The American forces retreated before the British until they arrived at Stillwater where they were joined by General Gates and the troops under his command. He was in the two engagements with the British army at Stillwater, and he continued with and performed service in the American Army until after the Surrender of Burgoyne at Saratoga, when he and the militia of his neighborhood were allowed to return home. He thinks and verily believes that he was in the service of the United States at this time not less than five months, but he does not recollect the precise time that he arrived home.--

At one period during the war and he is not certain in what year, though it was previous to the year 1781. He was called into the service under Captain Kellogg with the Militia of his neighbourhood and marched Westerly—first to Schenectady where they halted a few days and were then ordered to Cherry Valley, but counter orders were received before they arrived there, the cause of the alarm on account of which they had been called out having ceased. He thinks he was employed in this service not less than three weeks.

And he further declares that in the autumn of the year 1781 and to the best of his recollection in October, there was a call for the militia on occasion of the British and Indians committing hostilities in the Western Settlements, and he together with the other militia of that place marched up the Mohawk under the command of Captain Warner in Col. Whiting's Regiment. Gen'l VanRensselaer was the principal officers from whom the Militia Colonels received their orders, and they overtook the British at Canajoharie where they had a successful engagement with the enemy many of whom were killed and some prisoners were taken—The residue fled and we pursued them two days in the woods, but did not overtake the main body of the enemy—On our return the Inhabitants met us at German Flats with beef cattle and flour and after having fasted two days in the forest, this supply was most gladly received.

He believes he was engaged in this service not less than four weeks—and he further declares that at different periods of the war he served on sudden alarms for short periods some of which did not exceed two or three days under the command of the officers of the Company of Militia to which he belonged the precise amount of which service he cannot accurately state but he believes besides that above more particularly mentioned not less in the whole than one month.

Much of the last mentioned service was against parties of Tories in the neighborhood and that the whole time of his service during the Revolutionary War was not less than ten months and three days five months of which he was a sergeant and the term of five months and three days as a private soldier.

And he further declares that at one period of the war though he does not recollect the precise time he expended between fifty and sixty dollars which was applied together with the other money raised by the class to which he belonged in the company of Militia in hiring a substitute or furnishing a man for the class of militia to which he belonged to join the regular army.

He has no documentary evidence of his service. He has a record of his age in his family bible, which he believes is correct. He was born in New Haven, Connecticut June 24th 1750 at the commencement of the Revolutionary and until the year 1817 he resided in Canaan, Columbia County, New York since which he has resided in Gainesville, Genesee County.

He has no documentary evidence of his service—Daniel Murray of Pike, Allegany County is acquainted with the fact of his having served in the Revolutionary War and he does not know that he can procure the testimony of any of other person acquainted with his service.

He is acquainted with Rev'd Noah Cooke of Gainesville and with Ira F. Pratt Esquire of Gainesville aforesaid who can testify to his reputation as to service and character.

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 any agency in any state. He does not recollect that he ever had a written discharge. (Signed) Benjamin Bristol

He does not recollect that he ever had a written discharge. Subscribed and sworn July 15, 1833, before me. William Mitchell, a Judge as aforesaid.