

Pension Application for William Brower

W.5877 (Widow: Mary or Mariah) Married October 10, 1784. Died Dec. 28, 1832.

B.L.Wt. 30,605-160-55

State of New Jersey Essex County SS.

On this 14th day of August 1832 personally appeared before me Abraham Reynolds one of the Judges of the Superior Court of Common Pleas in and for the County of Essex William Brower a resident of Paterson in the County of Essex aged seventy two years laboring under bodily infirmity which renders him unable to appear in open court, and 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 was born near Brooklyn, Kings County on Long Island in the State of New York on the second day of February 1760 as appears by the family record of his father Abraham Brower deceased and now in the possession of Christopher Brower his brother,.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein after stated.

That he continued to reside with his father upon Long Island til the month of July 1776. When the British gained a landing on Long Island, at which time he volunteered his service as a private soldier in the American Camp and done duty with a detachment of men under the command of General Putman (1) and was engaged in repulsing the enemy til the American Army retreated on to York Island. That his father's dwelling, Flower Mills and out houses having been burned and destroyed during the action which had taken place with the British, he sought the earliest opportunity to assist in removing his father's family to Hudson on the Hudson River at which time and place he was regularly classed with the Militia of Hudson as a Militia soldier (2) continued to do duty – by attending to alarms—and reliefs til the spring of 1782.

That in the month of April 1782 he was regularly enlisted by Guy Livingston (3) for the term of nine months and was mustered in Col. Frederick Wesenfelt's Regiment. Thence he was transferred to Col. VanCourtlan's (4) Regiment of the New York Line. That he was marched from Fishkill to West Point, from thence to Pompton in New Jersey at which place he was arranged or transferred to a company under the command of Lieutenant James Johnson and in which company he was marched from place to place and continued to do duty in the service of the United States during the period of his enlistment when he was regularly discharged by Col. Gonsworth (5) at a place called Little Brittain near New Winsor in the State of New York.

That his discharge was by him delivered to Jacob Sharp Esqr either in the year 1791 or 1792 with a view of his receiving his bounty lands. That the said Jacob Sharp Esqr soon after died. That this deponent removed to the sate [state] of New Jersey about the time of Jacob Sharp's death consequently he has never received neither the discharge nor bounty land to the present day.

That his brother Christopher Brower was present at Fishkill and saw him sign his enlistment.

That he has no documentary evidence of his services. That he once applied for a pension under the Act of Congress passed 1818. That he considered himself entitled to a pension under the act of 1818 but he never received it.

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. (Signed with his mark) William Brower.

Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. A. Reynolds, Clk

End Notes—W.5877—William Brower

1. Major General Israel Putnam of the Continental Army. William may have been serving in the King's County Militia at this time. The British fleet arrived on July 12, 1776 but it wasn't until August 22 British forces were ferried from Staten Island over to Long Island. The Battle of Long Island was fought on August 27, 1776.
2. So far what militia he served in has not been found.
3. William enlisted as a private in Captain Gilbert J. Livingston's Company in Lieutenant Colonel Commandant Frederick Weisenfel's Regiment of New York State Levies in 1782.
4. A draft from the levies was taken and sent to reinforce and serve in Colonel Philip VanCortlandt's Second New York Continental Regiment. Lieutenant James Johnson of Captain Henry Pawling's Company was in command of this detachment William served out his nine months in the Second New York. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 69, folder 37, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
5. Peter Gansevoort was the Colonel of the Third New York Continental Regiment. When the New York Continental Regiments were consolidated on January 1, 1781, Colonel Gansevoort retired from the Continental service. Gansevoort was then appointed brigadier general of the First Brigade of the Albany County Militia on March 26, 1781.