

Pension Application for Robert Brush

S.23555

State of New York

Dutchess County SS.

On this thirteenth day of October personally appeared before me Stephen Thorne one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the said County of Dutchess, Robert Brush now a resident of the Town of Pine Plains, County of Dutchess & State of New York aged eighty years, 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 the said Robert Brush was born in the Town of Huntington, Suffolk County, Long Island and that he is now eighty years of age.

That he resided at his father's house in said Town of Huntington in the year seventeen hundred & seventy six, in the spring of which year, in March or April according to the best of his recollection he entered the service of the United States by enlisting as a private soldier, for the term of nine months, in a regiment raised on Long Island, and commanded by Colonel Josiah Smith then a resident of Suffolk County & now deceased, and in a company commanded by Captain John Weeks and Lieutenant Thomas Brush both then residents of said County & both now dead.

That said company rendezvoused at the Town of Huntington.

That they were for sometime employed in keeping guard at Caton's Neck and along the shore on said Island and from thence they were marched to Brooklyn and encamped near a Stone Church at that village where they lay at the commencement of the battle of the 27th of August.

That after the battle he retreated with the American Army to New York and continued with it until he was discharged a short time afterwards—and that he has no written document in his possession either of his enlistment or discharge.

And the said Robert Brush further says that after he was then discharged, not daring to reside at his father's house on Long Island in consequence of said Island then being in the possession of the British he went to live in Westchester County & from thence to Dutchess County where he lived during the principal part of the year of 1777.

That whilst he thus lived in Dutchess County he went several times to Peekskill when that place was threatened by the British—his recollection does not enable him to state the particular times nor the length of time he was out, nor any particular circumstances which occurred except that he recollects that one time when he was there one Palmer was hung as a spy—he believes that he was commanded by Lieutenant Delevan of the Militia on all his expeditions to Peekskill and according to the best of his recollection the time he thus served was between two and three weeks.

And the said Robert Brush further says that during the time he so lived in Dutchess he went as a volunteer to Connecticut when the British burnt Danbury – that he was in the battle of Ridgefield at that time and near General Woorter when he fell. He is unable to state the time he served at this time nor the officers under whom he served—he remembers that after the British embarked he then returned to his home in Dutchess County.

And the said Robert Brush further says that he removed from Dutchess County to Norwalk in Connecticut some time in the latter part of the year 1777 where he resided until the close of the war he was out as a volunteer at several times for a short period each—once if not more he thinks under the command of one Captain Keeler—their object was to repel the invasion of the British at the times when they burnt Norwalk—Fairfield & Green farms and other times to guard the coast & resist the depredations of the British -- he was also employed whilst he so lived at Norwalk to carry expresses: but he cannot state the length of the time he thus served from the first that they were frequent and irregular.

And the said Robert Brush further says that during the time he thus lived at Norwalk he was in the habit of going with Lieutenant Caleb Brewster whose certificate is hereunto annexed to Long Island whenever Brewster called upon him. That he continued to go with him for the space of three or four years—that the number of these expeditions varied from one to three & four times a month and in duration from two days to a week or more.

That the object of said Brewster was to get intelligence from the British and it was their usual custom to start in the night an land on the Island at some place where they would not be discovered and lay concealed whilst Brewster went to some agency as he supposed whom he had on the Island & after obtaining the information he returned & they then embarked as secretly as possible for the mainland,

From the nature of the services he can not state the number of times or their amount in duration—he remembers that at one time they were obliged to lay concealed on the Island for two weeks, in consequence of a snow storm—at other times he has been one night & back the next—at other times they lay on the Island two or three days or more according as the information was obtained by Brewster more or less expeditiously or the danger of Detection by the British required.

And the said Robert Brush further says that from the length of time which has elapsed the irregular nature of his services and the impaired state of his memory he cannot state more particularly the length of the times he served, but he has no hesitation in believing & saying that they exceed in amount the period of two years.

And the said Robert Brush further says that Caleb Brewster whose certificate is hereunto annexed was a Lieutenant in a company commanded by Captain Selah Strong in the same regiment with himself—and that the above mentioned certificate was given by the said Brewster at a time when he was dangerously sick and that he died before he was able to procure a magistrate to take his affidavit. The said Brewster at the time of his enlistment was a resident of Suffolk County but at the time of giving the certificate he resided at Fairfield Connecticut when he for several years commanded the revenue cutter.

And the said Robert Brush further says that he knows of no person living by whom he could proved his services which he has mentioned.

And he the said Robert Brush hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

And the said Robert Brush further says that he cannot say whether the regiment raised by Cool. Josiah Smith in 1776 was put on the Continental Establishment or not.

And he further says that the said Sturges Brewster mentioned in the affidavit of Sarah Brewster now lives in Herkimer County & his testimony could not be procured without much expense.

And the said Robert Brush further says that he has lived in the town of Pine Plains not quite two years previous to which he resided in the town of North Salem for about forty years.

Sworn and subscribed this thirteenth day of October in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty tow.

And the said Robert Brush further says that he was born in the year seventeen hundred and fifty two as he believes. There was a record in his father's Bible but where it now is he knows not. And he further says that he has no documentary evidence of his services or discharge. Sworn & subscribed day & year aforesaid. (Signed) Robert Brush.

Sworn & Subscribed this 13th day of October 1832. Stephen Thorn, Judge &c of said County, State of New York.

Letter dated October 4, 1907, written in response to an inquiry.

In reply to your letter dated the 3d ultimo and received on the 4th, you are advised that from the papers in claim, Survivor's File 23555, it appears that one Robert Brush applied for pension October 13, 1832, at which time he was a resident of Pine Plains, Dutchess County, New York, having formerly lived

at North Salem. He stated that he was born in 1752, at Huntington, Suffolk County, Long Island, where he resided when he enlisted in March or April, 1776, and served as a private in Captain John Week's Company, Colonel Josiah Smith's regiment for five months; that he volunteered in 1777 when Danbury was burned; was in the battle of Ridgefield near General Wooster when he fell, served under Lieutenant Lelavan in expedition to Peekskill and removed to Norwalk, Connecticut in the latter part of the year; that he served two months each in the years 1778, 1779, 1780 and 1781 and one month in 1782, under Captain Keeler in guarding the coast and carrying expresses, and upon secret expeditions to Long Island to observed movements of the British, under Lieutenant Caleb Brewster.

The claim was allowed.

It is further alleged that the soldier died October 29, 1935, leaving no widow and only two sons and two (married) daughters whose names are not mentioned.