

Pension Application for Reuben Bumpus

S.23562

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

State of Pennsylvania

Bradford County SS.

On this 15th day of February personally appeared in open court before the Honorable Edward Herrick Esqr President of the 13th Judicial district for the County of Bradford and his associates the Hon. John McKean and Jonathan Stevens Esquires, Rheuben Bumpus a resident of Rome Township County of Bradford and State of Pennsylvania aged seventy two 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 provisions made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he volunteered in the militia service as early as the middle of April in the year one thousand seven hundred seventy six at the Town of Hoosack since called Petersburgh County of Albany and State of New York in the Company of Captain Samuel Show? Col. Henry Ranslaer's Regiment he remained in Service at that time at least until as late as the first day of October following, that the service in which he was engaged consisted in skirmishing and keeping in subjection the Tories who were very numerous in that part of the Country comprising at least one half of the inhabitants.

That as early as the 20th day of April AD 1777 he again entered in to service under Captain Caleb Bently in the Regiment of Col. Henry Rensalaer and remained in continual service as the year before in subjugating the tories who made incessant aggressions upon the peace of the community until the warefare commenced which immediately preceded and was connected with the taking of Burgoyne.

He was in the action at Fort Ann where Colonel VanRanselaer was wounded who did not take command of the regiment again until the year following. He cannot remember who commanded his regiment the remainder of the season. He was next engaged in a skirmish with a mixture of British Tories and Indians near Bloody Pond in the neighbourhood of fort George and four or five days after another at half way brook in both of which skirmishes, there was engaged on the side of the Americans two companies of militia. Some time after our company and that of Capt. Denison both companies comprising about 160 men was placed as a Piquet guard to the main army when we were attacked by at least three times as many men as we had, but we succeeded in gaining the battle. The next battle he was engaged in was that to Bennington. He was not engaged in any other battle until the final taking of Burgoyne at Saratoga in which he was engaged.

This declarant from old age and infirmity has so much lost his memory that he cannot tell the dates of the several actions in which he was engaged. He thinks that the 20th day of June AD 1778 he went to Upper Fort Schoharie where he remained in service four months when he was dismissed and returned home. The fort was commanded by Col. Broman whose given name he does not recollect.

In the Summer of 1779 (the period of time he cannot recollect) he went on an expedition under the command of Lieutenant David Huston, and Col. Henry Vanransaler to Schenectady for the purpose of the defence of Johnstown, when they arrived at Schenectady they found that Johnstown was already taken and therefore they proceeded no farther he was absent on this expedition not less than twenty days.

In the fall and winter following (dates he cannot remember) he went on an expedition to Fort Edward an old fort at that time in ruins on the North River on a scouting expedition which lasted at least two months.

This declarant was what was called a minute man ready at all times and all seasons when his officers might call for his services for the space of four years and actually was called in many instances to do service of a few days or a five weeks at a time between the periods of service done as before mentioned in this declaration.

This declarant has no record of his age whatsoever is a man entirely without education having never been able to read or write.

He relinquishes hereby 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.

This declarant has no knowledge of any man living by whom he can prove any part of the service in which he was engaged.

This declarant saith that in his first tour he served not less than five months and fifteen days as a private. On his second tour in 1777 he served not less than six months, as a private on his tour to upper Schoharie in 1778 he served not less than four months as a private. On his tour to Johnstown in 1779 he served not less than twenty days, as a private and on his tour to old Fort Edward he served not less than two months.

This declarant was born in the town of Sharon in the western part of Connecticut. When he engaged in the service he was living in his father's family in Hosack Albany County N. York where he lived five years or more after the war and then removed to Rensselaerville in same County where he continued to reside about ten years. From thence he removed to the place where [he] now resides, where he has continued to the present time—All his service was as a volunteer militiaman. He never rec'd a discharge; nor a commission. Though for some short periods and excursions he served as sergeant & some as corporal but only in emergencies.

He would refer to the following persons as some of those who can testify to his character for veracity and their belief of his service as a soldier o the revolution, Viz Col. Joseph Kingsbury, Joseph Kennery esqr, Samuel Bore esqr, Avery Gore esq. of Sheabegain, Samuel Parke of Rome, Doc Stephen Hopkins, Maj. Liephee Flower, Athans. (Signed with his mark) Reuben Bumpus

Sworn & subscribed in open court Feb. 15, 1833 for JP Bull Prot, ES Goodrich Dept.