

Pension Application for Judah Chamberlin

S.9314 (Phebe)

B.L.Wt.31570-160-55

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

The State of Ohio

Clark County SS.

Personally comes in open Court in the Court of Common Pleas of Clark County, Ohio, before the judges thereof, now sitting, the said Court being a court of record, having a Common Seal, Judah Chamberlin, a resident of the township of Union in the County of Logan in said State, and late a resident of the township of Harmony in said County of Clark, aged seventy six years who being duly affirmed according to law doth on his affirmation 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 following named officers and served as herein stated. He resided with his father in what was then the County of Albany in the State of New York in the year 1776 in what was then called Spencertown, about thirty miles south east from the town or City of Albany.

In the autumn of that year the people of that vicinity, were called together in Spencertown to ascertain who would turn out to protect the country against the depredations of the tories who were then very troublesome in that part of the State. Applicant was one of those who volunteered to go, being urged thereto by his parents, although he was then but in his sixteenth years. In this service the regiment was commanded by Col. David Pratt, the company in which he served was commanded by Captain Abner Hawley, Eleazer Spencer was Lieutenant of the same company. A Mr. Phelps acted as Major in the same regiment. In this service applicant acted as fifer and whilst he was engaged in it the company in which he served acted in co-operation with another company commanded by a Captain Turner which was raised in the same vicinity and Col. Pratt headed both companies. They first marched to Kinderhook, about fifteen miles from where they were raised and encamped in the vicinity of the village, from which small detachments were sent out daily for the purpose of making prisoners of such of the principal tories as could be found. We remained in Kinderhook about two weeks or a little longer. From that place we marched to Livingston's Manor, where we were engaged in the same service for about the same length of time and then returned home, having been engaged in this service about one month, and the principal object for which we were engaged having been accomplished we were then discharged.

In the spring of 1777, two companies were formed in applicants neighbourhood for the purpose of assisting in protecting the Northern frontiers and keeping up a line of communication with Fort George, then in the occupancy of the Americans, a man by the name of Gideon Potter was drafted for this service. He was a poor man with a family and in bad health and being a neighbour, applicant's father was induced to permit applicant to go as his substitute. Applicant did engage accordingly and marched to Saratoga under the command of Captain Jonah Graves. His brother Stephen Graves was Lieutenant in the same company. The other company marched with that to which applicant was attached, but applicant is not certain by whom it was commanded, he thinks however it was by a Captain Tanner or by Captain Turner before mentioned. While applicant was engaged in this tour of service the company was chiefly employed in erecting barracks and in fortifying the place which they occupied. During the period that applicant was at this station scouts were sent out almost daily, but they encountered no enemy. After the end of two months the company to which applicant belonged was supplied by other reinforcements and they were discharged. Applicant towards the close of this period was attacked with influenza and was taken home in a wagon. His sickness had nearly terminated in death.

In the year 1778, as deponent thinks he enlisted for the period of three months, in a company raised for the purpose of protecting the country from the depredations of the British who then occupied the City of New York. This company was commanded by Captain Ithamar Spencer. Abner Hawley before mentioned served as Lieutenant. The company marched to Fishkill in Dutchess County where they encamped. They were engaged principally in scouting the country until the end of two months, when, there being a scarcity of provisions and their services being considered as unnecessary they were ordered to be discharged and were discharged accordingly. This company belonged to a regiment which was commanded by Col. Payne, and of which a Mr. Smith acted as Major.

About the month of September in the [year] 1779 or 1780, applicant is not certain which he volunteered to go on an expedition on the Mohawk River in a company commanded by Captain John Sallisbury. The expedition was commanded by Genl. Robert VanRanselier. The different regiment rendezvoused at Albany and thence marched near to Johnstown on the Mohawk River near which was a fort commanded By Col. Williams called Fort Stone Robbie. In passing by this fort on the opposite side of the river we heard the firing of an engagement between the enemy and the occupants of the fort which terminated in the capture of the latter and the massacre of the garrison. They thence marched up the Mohawk near to old Schoharie. About this place a skirmish took place between VanRanselier and the enemy consisting of British, Indians, and Tories. The skirmish commenced near dark, the enemy retreated leaving their baggage on the ground which was taken possession of by the Americans. The next morning Governor George Clinton arrived and being dissatisfied with the conduct of VanRanselaar the evening previous, he assumed the command himself and pursued the enemy in the wilderness and returned in two days without success. The regiment then returned except two companies including that to which applicant belonged, which marched up the river about thirty miles further to Cherry Valley. This detachment was commanded by Col. Alden and Lieutenant Colonel Stacy. At Cherry Valley they erected a fort which had been before commenced at which was an old stoen Church, which was sued as a guard house. During their stay at Cherry Valley the fort was attacked by a party of the enemy, chiefly Indians commanded by Brandt and Butler. When the attack commenced Alden and Stacy with some others were at a tavern kept by one Jones outside the fort. The former was killed and the latter made prisoner. The fort was then attacked and after a desperate effort to take it which lasted about an hour or an hour and a half they enemy were finally repulsed and driven away, after this engagement the company to which applicant belonged was received and they were discharged applicant having served in this tour something more than two months.

Applicant is not in possession of any written discharge nor of any documentary evidence of his service, and he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service as above stated or any part thereof.

He left the vicinity where he was raised about forty six years ago, and has lived in this state more than twenty eight years, and he does not know of a single individual now living with whom he was acquainted during the period of the services above mentioned or at an earlier period, and for want of such testimony he has deferred making his application until the present time.

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 or Territory.

The reason why he makes his application is this county instead of that where his residence is that from his recent removal there, and his long residence in this county, his acquaintance is much more extensive and his character much better known here than there. (Signed) Judah Chamberlin

Affirmed and subscribed in open court, May 1, 1837. Attest. Saul Henkle, Clk. Court Com. Pleas.