

Pension Application to Elias Clark

R.1970

State of New York

Jefferson County SS.

On this 20th day of April 1848 personally appeared before the Honl Robert Lansing Judge of the County Courts of the County of Jefferson Elias Clark a resident of the town of Adolphustown in Prince Edward District in the Province of Canada West aged 86 years the 12th day of May 1848 who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of congress passed June 7th 1832.

I Elias Clark aforesaid was born in Winterbury about three miles from the City of Hartford in the State of Connecticut on the 12th day of May 1762; my father's name was Benjamin, I had a record of my age, and still have but the original record has been so much injured by the Rats, that is it impossible to read it.

I continued to live in Winterbury with my father until the spring of 1779, when there was a certain number of men to be furnish'd from Winterbury to go to New London into the service of said state and I with two of my neighbours one by the name of Jonathan Eggleston—the other man was Rowley his Christian name I forget. We went to New London and were mustered into the service of the United States and I belonged to the Company of Israel Spencer either Lieutenant Com'at or Capt. the whole under the command of Col. Seymour.

I was stationed in the Fort and served there faithfully six months. We were drilled every day and then employed in repairing and strengthening the Fort. At the end of six months I was honourably discharged or rather we were dismissed there were no written discharges given. I then returned home to Winterbury and I believe spent the winter there and in Hartford and in the spring of 1780 I agreed to go into the regular Army the main body of which was stationed on the north river at West Point and below – a number of us started together, Oliver Bigelow and Solomon Dunham were two of us they lived in my neighborhood we were ordered by Genl. Wadsworth to go first to New Haven. There we drew fire arms, ammunition, provisions &c and immediately marched for the head quarters of the Army and crossed the North River at Kinds Ferry North of Tappan and then went down to Tappan and I was attached to the company of Capt. Edward Elias, Alvin Bigelow, Samuel Brooks, Solomon Dunham, and Samuel Fox my acquaintances belonged also to the same company and all served in the same company all the time I did which was six months.

I was not called to any very active service while stationed at or near Tappan. These were the three Brigades there. I was one of the guard the day that Major Andre was hung. At the expiration of six months I was honorably discharged by Col. Parsons which discharge was in writing and has long since been destroyed.

The next year I think I went to visit my sister, the wife of John Beaver who resided in Esopus in the County of Ulster, State of New York and spent some time there. I was soon enrolled into the Militia of the State of New York and was called out by Major Houghtail. There was an alarm caused by the Indians to the settlers in the backtown ships and about thirty of us were ordered out to their rescue—we marched to places then called Chercoee, Chandayin & Pawkatoken, Indians names for those places, our march was about forty miles out and we followed a body of Indians in the wilderness on their trail and came up with them so near as to find their fires where they had staid the night previous yet alive—we were out just about three months—not long after this expedition I returned to Winterbury and not long after peace took place I was soon after named at Hartford to Catherine Olcott and moved to New Esopus near old Esopus in Ulster County aforesaid where I lived about twelve years and then moved to the place of my present residence at which place I have continued to reside to this day.

The reason of my moving into Canada at that time was the expectation of land being given to me & on the urgent solicitation of some religious friends who had there settled. I have served my

country the United States in the day of her struggle for independence faithfully and honestly 1st 6 months at New London—2d at Tappan N.Y. 6 months under Capt. Edward Elus and then three months in the Militia of New York in pursuit of Indians. I have expended more than sixty dollars in trying to find proof of my services. It was some considerable time after the passage of the Law of June 1832 before I heard any thing about it and then I was told that I could not get a pension because I lived in Canada — after two or three years I found out this was not so and as soon thereafter as my health and strength would admit I went to Albany to get Col. Pierce to assist me in getting my pension—he was gone away, not to return under a week, his clerk took a history of my services as I have here related them—and as it was very [very] expensive living in Albany, I did not wait for Col. Pierces return—a few months after my return I received a letter from him that he could not find my name on the records. Some time after this I heard that a man by the name of Ely residing in Watertown attended to the claims of pensioners and in the winter of 1846 I went to see him. He then took my name and the history of my services and said he would try to find proof. He wrote to me that he did not find my name on record but found that Capt. Spender and Ely were out in the services at the periods I had mentioned and that I had better come over some time and make my declaration. I have not been able to do as until now at that time I came first to Watertown I delivered to Mr. Ely the affidavit of Ashabul Rolling taken before Samuel Solmes Esq on the 22d day of January 1846. The said Rohley is now dead and I do not know of any person living who knew me in early life. Jared Olcott of the town of Brownville Jefferson County New York now deceased was a native of Hartford and a soldier in the Revolution and was under Genl Wadsworth a long while. He the same Olcott knew that I was in the Continental server although he did not serve with me—

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and I hereby declare that my name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state.

I do not recollect anything further essential to a full examination of my claim and pray that the second & proof may be examined and that justice may be done me. I have been a member of the Methodist Episcopal church for more than fifty years in good standing and do not ask or wish for any thing that is not right & further says not. (Signed) Elias Clark

Sworn & subscribed before me this 20th day of April 1848. Robert Lansing County Judge of Jefferson County State of New York.