

Pension Application for John Coleman or Colman

W.1720 (Widow: Rachel) Married March 10, 1784 by John Scamerhor [Schmerhorn?], Justice of the peace in New Britain [New Windsor], New York. John died March 12, 1845 at Southport, Wisconsin, county of Racine. State of Ohio Ashtabula County SS.

On this sixth day of May AD 1840 personally appeared in open court before the Court of Common Pleas now sitting John Coleman, now sitting, John Coleman, a resident of Conneaut in the County & State aforesaid, aged seventy nine (79) 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 AD 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

I think it was in the year 1776 in the spring of the year. I was residing on Livingston's manor about forty miles from Albany in the State of New York, I enlisted in a company of Rangers under the command of Capt John Fundy for six (6) months, the Lieutenant's name was Irvine or Irwin, the Ensign's name I do not now recollect. We marched to Fort Edward, and on our way at Schenectada, Capt Fundy let the company and Capt Robinson took the command. Fort Edward was our Head Quarters during the season, and sometimes we were at Fort Ann. Col. Livingston commanded at Fort Edward at this time. Our duty during the season was in scouring the country after Indians and Tories; we had several small skirmishes with the Indians and Tories, but nothing like a battle. I served some more than my time this year, as at the time our term of enlistment expires I was with a part of the company out towards Ticonderoga and when we returned to Fort Edward the rest of the company had returned home, and we marched to Albany where we received our discharge.

In the following year, I think in March I again enlisted for nine (9) month[s] in a company of Rangers under Capt. Williams, the Lieutenant's name was Hansen, the Ensign's name I do not recollect. We marched again to Fort Edwards, which was our Head Quarters during most of the season. Col. Graham commanded the fort this year. The names of the other field officers I do not recollect. Capt. John Heariman and Capt Magee commanded companies there at that time and the Adjutant's name was Funday. Our duty as the year before was principally scouting after Tories and Indians. While the American Army was in that neighborhood under Genl Gates we were joined to that army, but still were kept on scouting duty. At the time of the capture of Genl Burgoyne, I with a part of our company under the command of Capt. Shaver, were out about four miles looking out for Tories. I served out my term of enlistment, and received my discharge and returned home.

In the following year, in the fore part of March, I again enlisted for nine (9) months in a company of Rangers under Capt. Hauser, the Lieutenants name was Irvine, the Ensign's name if do not recollect. We marched to Fort Independence, and assisted in repairing the fort. We remained there about two months, I should think and then went into Orange County to Smith's Clove, in the Highlands, and took Claudius Smith, his sons, and some others noted Tories and Robbers, and brought the Smiths to Goshen Jail and the others to Polliper's Island. We then went to Fort Edward. A few days after Col. Warner was wounded and Lieutenant Hopkins and Ensign Coon were killed while on their way from Fort George to Fort Edward. I with thirteen others of our company were sent to Fort George with cattle. Fort George was then commanded by the Major whose name I do not recollect, and as the Fort was crowded, we were sent to some barracks near by to sleep. Early the next morning, the enemy, British, Indians, and Tories, I believe about nine hundred strong appeared when the troops from the Fort came out to meet them. And we were ordered to join them. A battle ensued, the Major from the fort was killed and the Americans were ordered to surrender. Our fourteen men being together, we resolved not to surrender, and we broke through a line of Indians in the brush and made our escape, and I was followed by Indians several miles, but being a swift runner I escaped. I served out my time, and received my discharge.

In the following year in May I again enlisted for three (3) months in a company of Rangers under Capt Heariman, the Lieutenant's name was Miller from Cloverick, the Ensign's name I think was Funday. Our duties this year were in scouting up and down the river for Indians and Tories. We were ordered to Stoney Point, and arrived there at the moment Genl Wayne had taken the place. After remaining there about two weeks, we went to the White Plains, and were there to watch Col. Delancy of the CowBoys. We remained there until our term expired and then received our discharge. I served in all twenty seven (27) months, the two first seasons as a private and the two last as Sergeant.

About the year AD 1793 I was living in Greene Township in Chenango (then Tioga) county, New York, and my house, my oldest son, and all my papers including my four discharges were destroyed by fire.

I know of no person living who has any personal knowledge of my services in the Revolutionary War.

In consequence of old age and consequent loss of memory, in the above statement, I may have been incorrect as to dates, but I feel positively certain as to the length of time I served, and as to the act in which I participated.

I further state that I was born in the year AD 1761 in the City of New York, and that I have resided in the State of New York most of the time since the revolutionary war, at Livingston's manor, in Chenango County, and near Ithica [Ithaca] and for the last three years I have lived in Conneaut, Ashtabula County, Ohio.

I have no record of my birth.

I received my discharges the first year from Capt Robinson, the second year from Col. Graham, the third year from Capt. Hausser, and the fourth year from Capt. Heariman; according to the best of my present recollection.

Zebadiah Thompson, Lyman Wilcox and Daniel Chapman are among my present neighbors who can testify as to my character for veracity and their belief as to my services as a soldier in the Revolutionary War.

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) John Colman.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open court. Attest. Sam'l Hendry, Clerk

Letter in folder dated December 10, 1929, written in response to an inquiry.

I advise you from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim, W.1720, it appears that John Colman or Coleman was born in 1761, in New York City.

While a resident of Livingston Manor, New York, he enlisted and served with the New York Troops as follows:

From the spring of 1776, six months as a private in Captains John Fundy's and Robinson's Companies in Colonel Livingston's Regiment; he was in several skirmishes with the Indians and Tories; from March 1777, nine months as a private in Captains Daniel Williams' and Shaver's Companies in Colonel Morris Graham's Regiment; from March, 1778, nine months as a sergeant in Captain Hausser's Company; from May 1779, three months as sergeant in Captain Heariman's Company.

In 1793, he was a resident of Green Township, Chenango County, New York, to which place he had moved about 1786.

He was allowed pension on his application executed May 6, 1840, at which time he was a resident of Conneaut, Ashtabula County, Ohio, to which place he had moved about 1837.

He died March 12, 1845, at Southport, Racine County, Wisconsin.

The soldier married March 10, 1784, at "New Britain", Albany County, New York, Rachel Barden, who was born February 23, 1768, and was a daughter of Mary Barden.

She was allowed pension on her application executed March 19, 1850, at which time she was eighty-two years of age and was living in Southport, Racine County, Wisconsin.

John and Rachel Colman or Coleman had ten children.

The following are the only names given:

Hannah, born in 1785, in Livingston Manor, New York; Elizabeth Tubbs, who was fifty-three years of age in 1850, and a resident of Kenosha County, Wisconsin; Sarah Coleman, aged thirty-eight years in 1850; and Stephen.