

Pension Application for Charles Colton or Cotton

W.15657 (Widow: Alethea)

State of Vermont

County of Windham SS.

On this ninth day of August one thousand eight hundred and thirty two personally appeared in open court before the Probate Court for the District of Westminster in said County of Windham and State of Vermont now sitting Charles Colton a resident of Athens in said County of Windham and State of Vermont 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 Act of congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he was born in the town of Brimfield County of Hampshire and State of Massachusetts in the year 1759. That he enlisted a volunteer in the United States service at said Brimfield in the Mass Militia in the year 1777 for the term of three months under Capt Maize and Lieut Fairbanks marched through Springfield, Bennington & Whitehall to Ticonderoga and was there stationed and served out the full term of enlistment aforesaid, and was then dismissed but had no written discharge.

In the same year as aforesaid the deponent again entered the service of the United States, being drafted for the term of three months also, at Brimfield aforesaid and served under Col. Abner Mury and Capt Joseph Hoan.

Deponent marched through Bennington to Ticonderoga aforesaid. At this time the U.S. troops evacuated Ticonderoga and the deponents with the other forces retreated to Hubbardton, where they encamped for the night & on the following morning the battle ensued, in which the deponent was engaged.

The company to which the deponent belonged was not engaged, but the deponent was drawn out from his company on the rear guard. The deponent while at said Ticonderoga (so called) was stationed chiefly at Mount Independence.

The commander in chief at this station was St. Clair. The deponent was dismissed at said Hubbardton after having served the full term of three months aforesaid but had no written discharge. The above service was in the militia.

The deponent again entered the service of the United States at said Brimfield in the year 1780 in the Mass Militia for the term of another three months, as a volunteer under Capt Joseph Browman and Lieut Simeon Keep, marched through Wilberham, Springfield, and Fishkill to West Point and was there when Gen. Arnold traitorously negotiated the surrender of said West Point to the British. The deponent believes he enlisted as a volunteer. After having served the full term of his enlistment. The deponent was dismissed at said West Point but had no written discharge.

The deponent again entered the time he is uncertain the U.S. Service by an enlistment as a volunteer in the Mass militia at said Brimfield under Capt John Carpenter, for the term of nine months, and was stationed in Springfield, to guard Connecticut stores at which place he served the full time of his enlistment and was then discharged having received no written discharge.

The deponent again entered the US service in the Mass militia as a volunteer (the time of which he is uncertain) at said Brimfield for the term of another three months under adjutant White no other officers being recollected, marched through Wilberham Westfield and Greenbush and was stationed at Albany N.Y. where he served the full term of three months, when he was dismissed no written discharge being given.

The deponent 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.

No. 3 That he recollect no farther particulars in regard to the time of his entering or leaving the service nor any other officers or troops then as above mentioned.

No. 2 Deponent knows of no other evidence as he can obtain but such as is here in court.

No. 3 Since the Revolution he has lived in Westminster and Athens Vt. only.

No. 2 He declares that he has no documentary evidence.

No. 4 There is no clergyman resident in Athens but believes that Rev. Mr. Fields of Westminster will soon be present and Esqr. Ball a neighbor now present will certify as required he believes he was a volunteer except once. (Signed) Charles Colton

Sworn and subscribed to the same day and year aforesaid. Peter M. Saft.