

Pension Application for Ebenezer Dunning

S.12826

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

State of New York

County of Saratoga SS.

On this fourth day of September one thousand eight hundred and thirty two personally appeared in open court before the Judges of this Court of Common Pleas of the County of Saratoga now sitting Ebenezer Dunning a resident of the town of Milton in the County & State aforesaid aged seventy one years the 8th day of June 1st who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain this benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers & served as herein stated.

That in the month of June 1777 he resided in the town of Stillwater in the County of Albany (now the town of Malta in this country of Saratoga) in the State of New York

That at this time he entered the service but whether he was drafted or not he cannot now tell. He joined a company which his father Michael Dunning was Captain who was at this time absent & he the applicant was under this immediate command of William dunning his brother a sergeant of the company.

He marched through Fort Miller & Fort Edward to fort George where he joined a militia regiment commanded by Major Daniel Dickinson. He was waiter to adjutant Elisha Andrus.

He staid at Fort George until Fort Ticonderoga was taken by the enemy & evacuated by our troops & then retreated with the troops to Fort Edward where together with as he believes one half of the militia he was dismissed by General Schuyler for the purpose of going home & removing their families. This he thinks was in August 1777. He assisted his father in removing their family to a place called Nobletown south of Albany—

In the year 1779 in the month of April he engaged for a nine months service as a substitute for one Thomas Merrick who was drafted now deceased.

He traveled from Stillwater to Fort Miller & from there to Fort Edward where he said during the whole nine months. His Captain was Levi Stockwell his Colonel was Jeremiah VanRensselaer. He with a part of his company was attached to the regiment of Colonel Warner.

During the nine months he was engaged in building a fort, carrying provisions to Fort George in scouting. This term of service ended Jan'y 1, 1780 when he was dismissed.

In the year 1780 or 1781 he volunteered to go in the militia under Captain Michael Dunning his father to Fort George did not get there till after the fort was taken. He helps to bury the dead & returned to fort Edward where he was dismissed. He was out he thinks a little more than a week.

He thinks in the same year he volunteered to go again under the same captain to Saratoga. He assisted in keeping guard, was out he thinks about two weeks this time.

During the whole periods of the Revolutionary War except when he as in service he resided at his father's houses in the town of Stillwater aforesaid. His father Michael dunning was a captain of the militia & by his directions he very frequently volunteered to go out on short tours whenever an alarm rendered it necessary but he cannot now state the number of times he was out nor the length of each particular service.

His father being an officer it was necessary to guard his houses constantly & during all the times that the seat of [War?] in the northern part of the State of New York the applicant was engaged almost continually either in keeping guards at home or in small parties about the neighborhood. He once in company with a few others took a spy by the name of McMullen & after having him examined by Genl Schuyler he assisted in taking him to Albany where he was shortly after executed as he was informed. He was engaged in this about two weeks. At another time he pursued a party of Tories & assisted in taking a part of them with their knapsacks.

He has no documentary evidence of his services & he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services except those whose affidavits are annexed.

To the interrogatories propounded by the court the applicant made the following answers.

1. He was born on the 8th day of June 1761 in the town of Northfield (now called Weston) in the County of Fairfield & State of Connecticut.
2. He has his father's family record which is present in court.
3. When he was first called into service he lived in the town of Stillwater in the County of Albany (now in the town of Malta in the County of Saratoga) & State of New York. He continued to reside here till the year 1797 then removed to the town of Champlain in the County of Clinton Y& State of New York, resided there till the year 1819 then removed to Bennington Vermont where he resided till 1829 then removed to the town of Milton in the County of Saratoga & State of New York where he has continued to reside ever since & where he now resides.
4. He is not certain whether he was drafted or volunteered the first time he went into service. This second time he went as a substitutes for Thomas Merrick & all other times as a volunteer.
5. During this nine months service when he was at Fort Edward the fort was commanded by Captain John Chipman a Continental officer, a Lieutenant Bates also a Continental officer was there. He does not recollect the names of any other Continental Officers & he cannot state the circumstances of his service more fully than he has above set forth.
6. He never received any discharge from the service.
7. Lyman Myers, Cornelius Dubois, Theophilus Redfield, Howell Gardner.

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) Eben'z Dunning

Sworn and subscribed to in open court the day and year first above written.
Thomas Palmer, Clerk.

Letter in folder dated December 22, 1923, written in reply to an inquiry.

I have to advise you that from the papers in the revolutionary War pension claim, S.12826, it appears that Ebenezer Dunning was born in Northfield, Fairfield County, June 8, 1761.

While residing in Stillwater, Albany County, New York, he enlisted in June 1777 and served as a private one and one half months, in the company of his father, Captain Michael Dunning, under Major Daniel Dickinson, New York Militia.

In April 1779, he enlisted and served nine months in Captain Levi Stockwell's Company, Colonel VanRensselaer's New York Regiment.

He was allowed pension on his application executed September 4, 1832, while living in Milton, Saratoga County, New York. It is not stated whether soldier ever married.