

Pension Application for Joseph Elliott

S. 8409

State of Pennsylvania

County of Bradford SS.

On this eighteenth day July eighteen hundred and forty six, personally appeared before the subscriber an associate Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in and for said county; Joseph Elliott; a resident of [Yogalusing?] township and state of Pennsylvania, aged ninety years the tenth of next October, 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 7, 1832.

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

That his first period of service was in seventeen hundred and seventy five.

He enlisted as a volunteer in April in Captain Daniel Denton's Company under Lieut. Col. Wynkoop not certain which of the regiments was commanded by Col. Livingston or Col. Herrick the command was so frequently changed.

The name of the ensign of the company was Dehart. That he enlisted this time at Chester, Orange County, State of New York for nine months.

That the company mustered about the first of April. That he was first to Albany by water, then marched to Stillwater, Fort Ann after this we made no [?] halt until we got to Sceensboro, now Whitehall [?] there a part of a day, then we went by water on Lake Champlain to Ticonderoga, then by water to Crown Point, form thence we crossed over the lake, and marched by land down to St. Johns.

We laid siege to St. Johns six weeks and four days—before it surrendered. That he remained at St. John's and got back to Crown Point sometime in October, cannot tell how long he remained at Crown Point, but returned by the lake to Skeensboro, from thence to Fort Ann, Stillwater to Albany, where he arrived in December—he remained about two weeks and was there discharged. The next day or day after he started down the river for home and arrived at Newburgh on Christmas night.

That at the time of the surrender of St. Johns, Genl Montgomery had the command. We left him there, when we started for Crown Point—[?] confident Genl Montgomery left St. Johns for Montreal before they left Crown Point.

That his next tour of service was in seventeen hundred and seventy six. He enlisted as a substitute for his brother John Elliott, who was taken sick and was sick all summer.

He enlisted in April under Capt. Daniel Denton in Col. Ritzema's (we pronounced it Richmore or Lickmore) regiment. Enlisted for nine months – we mustered at Goshen. That orders was received from Lord Sterling for as to march to New York. That we arrived at New York about the fifteenth or twentieth of April. Lord Sterling's Brigade was there and the City was full of soldiers.

That shortly after he was detached with others to go up and build fortifications at King's Bridge. Genl Israel Putnam had command of the detachment we built the fort, and named it Fort Putnam.

That he was at Kings Bridge when the Declaration of Independence was made.

That we returned again to New York a day or two before the battle in Long Island. That the British came into the City on all sides. We left the city marched to the fortifications at Kings Bridge. The British [?] as to Harlem

There we fought there and drove them back. We laid a week or ten days at Fort Putnam. Then we marched to White Plains and arrived there about the time that Lord Howe landed his man at New Rochelle. The battle commenced about forty eight hours after we got to White Plains.

That he was selected as one of the Picket guards which comprised a regiment we were ordered to be behind a stone wall until ordered to fire. That when we raised and fired, the British were in the road and some [?] twenty feet off, then we run up the hill where the men and cannon were. The main body of the army and artillery was drawn up in front of the Court house. The British commenced [retreating?] immediately after the fire we made on them from behind the wall.

We laid here about two days, then we marched to Peekskill & Fort Lee, then through the State of New Jersey to Trenton. Genl Lee was taken prisoner on our way to Trenton. He staid back with his life guard; it was said he was with the Camp Ladies, he was about four miles in the rear.

We marched all the forepart of the night of Christmas day arrived at Trenton near midnight and went immediately to the house where the Hessians were gathered—they were fiddling and dancing, Col. Ritesema was on [?] night and Capt. Denton on the right of him when we went to the house. Col. Ritzema said to [?] “I will hail them, it looks too inhuman to force on them without hailing them.” We captured the Hessians.

That in this expedition he was [dissassotiaed?] sergeant, the regular sergeant being dick his sword was taken in this attack.

That Col. Ritzema ordered me into the rear of the house, he gave me one of his pistols and a cartridge box, a negro spotted me and I took a Hessian Lieutenant who gave me his sword. About break of day we heard the firing of the army at Princeton. A few of us who have distanced to watch, crossed the Deleware [Delaware] the day after to where the Hessians had been taken. Genl Washington and his staff crossed before us. That an order being made to [?] property taken from the Hessians, I surrendered the sword I too to Genl Washington; I had broken my sword, Genl Washington sent for a sword and gave it to me—my period of enlistment expired the twenty fifth December. Some of the company were discharged about that time and went home but some of the company among whom was myself remained with Capt. Denton to take care of the prisoners until the army was [augmented?] –we remained about three weeks. I heard with my own years Genl Washington tell Capt Denton if he would remain with some of his company to help take care of the prisoners; that Capt. Denton should draw provisions for them, march them home and there discharge them. We remained about two weeks on the ground and was about a week getting home.

I was discharged about the 20th January 1777. My discharge was in my own name, signed by Capt. Daniel Denton and stated I served nine months; and I received

pay for nine months. The assistant of my brother was in March shot we did not muster until April. I cannot recollect the month of enlistment with certainty, but does know that we mustered both times in April about the first of the month. His discharge was burnt at beginning the [?] April 1777 removed from Orange County to the Wyoming Valley in the State of Pennsylvania.

That he was in the battle of Wyoming fought on the 3d of July 1777 and was wounded in that battle.

That he continued to serve in the border warfare with the Indians, as volunteer and scouting until after peace was declared.

But for his services during all this period, he refers to the proof in record in the Case of his application for an Invalid Pension.

That he has no documentary evidence of his service in 1775 and 1776. That he knows of [no] person living who was with him in 1775 and of but one person who was with me in 1776, except James Drake, who lives in Sussex in this County. That he this declarant believes himself to be the last survivor of the massacre of Wyoming.

That he did not know that he could be or was entitled to a pension in addition to the invalid pension he now receives until recently.

That his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state, nor any pension roll excepting the Invalid Pension which he receives from the United States.

Excepting which and the present, he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity. (Signed) Joseph Elliott

Sworn to and subscribed the 18th of July 1846 before me.

Harry Morgan Asst. Judge.