

Pension Application for Benjamin Elsworth or Ellsworth

S.29134

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

State of New York

Genesee County SS.

On this sixteenth day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty two, personally appeared in open court, before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas, being a Court of Record and having a seal, now sitting in the town of Batavia in and for the County of Genesee and State of New York, Benjamin Ellsworth, a resident of the town of Elba in the County of Genesee and State of New York aged seventy eight years on the 21st day of March 1832, 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 some time in the summer of 1775 but what month or day he cannot recollect, while he lived in New Paltz, in Ulster County in the State of New York, he went out as a volunteer in the N.Y. State militia in a company commanded by Captain Michael Devoe, Ebenezer Perkins was 1st Lieutenant William Ketch, 2d Lieutenant and David Woolsey, Ensign and was attached to Levi Paulding's Regiment and that a man by the name of Cantine whose Christian name he cannot recollect, was Major, that he went on scouting parties to Warwasing in Ulster County, N.Y. and remained out one month on guard against the Indians, that he then returned home to New Paltz. That he served at this time sergeant.

That in the year 1777 and as he thinks in the month of September or October he volunteered in the New York State militia with 14 or 15 others from the same company, under Capt. Peleg Ransom, who is now dead, 1st Lieutenant, Nathaniel Porter, 2d Lieut. Hugh Cole, Ensign, William Ellsworth; brother of the applicant in Col. Hornbeck's Regiment, and went to Saratoga and was at the battle, but was not in it.—that the regiment to which he belonged took charge of the prisoners and went to Albany when he was discharge after having been out some more than a month and then went home. That at this time he was 1st Seargeant -

That soon afterwards but the precise time he cannot recollect he went out as a volunteer again, in what was called a Lieutenant's Guard and that Nathaniel Potter was his lieutenant and that he was stationed on the Hudson river to watch for vessels and prevent their passage up the River and that he was out a little more than two weeks.—in this time he served as a private.

That he volunteered again and went ot Kingsbridge as a substitute for his brother Joseph Ellsworth, but at what time it is impossible for him to recollect, that Jacob Hawk's brook was his captain, and that he was attached to the Regiment of Levi Paulding, the Col. of the five months [?] that he served there and kept guard about one

month when his brother Joseph Ellsworth came on and took his place and he returned home and served a private.

That some time in 1778, but at what time he cannot recollect, but thinks it was in the summer, he volunteered and went to Hackensack, New Jersey under Lieut. Col. Hornbeck—that Cole commanded as Lieutenant, that while there a party was sent to attack a detachment of British, but that the British got intelligence of our approach and fled.—that he was out in the service at this time a little more than a month and he then returned home, he served as sergeant.

That soon after he volunteered and went to Dover and Rhinebeck under Capt. DeWitt, to take some Tories—that he went in a full Captain's Company—that they took a number and brought them before a Committee who fined them and took their property.—That he was out about a month and then returned home.--

He served as Sergeant.—That not long afterwards, but at what time he cannot tell he went to Wawarsing as a volunteer to guard the frontiers and remained there more than one month under Peleg Ransom, who, he thinks was his captain—that he was frequently out at different times and places, that he frequently hired a substitute and paid him by the month, that he was frequently out on scouting parties at different times, two and three weeks at a time, that he was at Big [Lyardachin?], back of Kingston one month, that his recollection as to the whole length of time that he was out is distinct, having from reflections and remembrance arrived at a general result without recollecting the steps by which he arrived at it—that from such general recollection he is certain that he was out in the service in the Revolutionary War more than two years.

That he is now infirm, that his memory is much shattered and that his service in the war was at so many different times and places and under so many different officers, that he cannot recollect them all—that he served as sergeant at this time.

That he is now aged 78 years and more, that he was born on the 21st March 1754, that he has no record of his age, but thinks there is a Record in Newburgh in the State of New York where he was born and baptized and that he believes he is above age for information from his parents—that he resided in New Paltz aforesaid after the war 17 or 18 years—that he then resided in Seneca, in the county of Seneca, New York a short time—there in Prattstown in the County of Steuben N.Y. about 6 years, then in Pentow, Yates County, 3 years and then came to the town of Elba, where he has resided about four years.

That he never received any regular discharge from the service, and has no documentary evidence of his service. That Benjamin Ellsworth, In his [?] George Wright lives in his neighborhood, who can testify as to his character for truth and veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution, that there is not clergyman living in his neighborhood who is acquainted with him.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that this name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. (Signed) Benjamin Elsworth.

Sworn to, and subscribed, the day and year aforesaid in open court. Timothy Fitch, Clerk.