

Pension Application for John L. Fowler

R.3706

Declaration. In order to obtain the benefit of the act of congress passed June 7 1832.

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State of New York

Wayne County SS.

On this thirtieth day of January AD 1840 personally appeared in open Court, before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of the county of Wayne now sitting, John L. Fowler as resident of Lyons in the said County of Wayne & State of New York aged ninety six years the seventh day of April AD 1840 personally appeared in open court, before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Wayne now sitting, John L. Fowler a resident of Lyons in the said County of Wayne & State of New York aged ninety six years the seventh day of April now last past, 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 2, 1832.

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

That he was born at [Swago?] in Dutchess County New York in the year 1743, but has no record of his age.

When he was called into service he was living at Swego Dutchess County & afterwards lived at Cambridge 1 year & half moon four years & since the war in a number of other places & now lives at Lyons above stated.

That he was first called in to service as a three months man to defend Fishkill & serve three months & then returned home.

That afterwards and in the year 1775 he was called by order of the governor, as he considered it, to to [sic] defend the lines & guard against the depredations of the Tories in the Counties of Renselaer [Rensselaer] & Saratoga, that he then lived in half moon as a temporary residence. That one of the principal objects of their duty was to take a notorious spie [spy] by the name of Bettis who was traveling back & forth from Canada.

That in this service he was engaged two years, that he & his company were constantly under arms for this time & he had to stand a mount guard every other night. That during this service he was under the command of Col. Ezekiel Taylor, Capt. Joshua Taylor, Lieut. Henry Efner, Ensign Joseph Cook. That he was frequently engaged in scouting parties & Ensign Cook was always his Commander on such expeditions. That it was this same Ensign Cook who finally took the said Bettis & had him carried to Albany where he, the said Bettis was hung as a spie.

That George Elsworth whose affidavit is hereto annexed was in the same service with this applicant & knew of his services.

That he never received any written discharge to his recollection.

That he remained in & about the town of Half Moon until about the close of the war.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state. (Signed with his mark) John L. Fowler

Letter dated Oct. 24, 1919, written in response to an inquiry.

In reply to your letter of the 17th instant, you are advised that in the papers in the pension claim of John L. Fowler, R. File Nol. 3,708, it is stated that he was born April 7, 1743, At Swago?, Dutchess County, New York, where he resided when he first entered the service, at which time he did not usually use the initial "L" in his name, but took it afterwards at the request of is uncle, the name of his uncle is not stated.

He was called out in 1775, under Captain Israel Vail, for the defence of Fishkill and served three months. He next went to Stain Croix, where he joined Captain Elsworth's Company under Colonel Lewis VanWoert; and he afterwards served at different times during the war, under Major Ezekiel Taylor, Captains John Whiteside and Joshua Taylor and Ensign Joseph Cook, on scouting parties, driving cattle and horses and guarding against Tories, Canadians and Indians.

His claim was rejected on the ground of no proof of six months service in a military capacity as required by the pension laws.

The above noted is the only John Fowler of New York found on the Revolutionary War records of this Bureau.