

Pension Application for Aaron Francis

S.13097

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

State of New York
County of Madison SS.

On this [?] day of December in the year eighteen hundred and thirty two personally appeared in open Court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in the County of Madison & State of New York, now sitting Aaron Francis, a resident of the Town of Lenox in said County of Madison aged 67 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 7, A.D. 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers & served as herein stated—That he was born on the twenty first day of April in the year seventeen hundred sixty five in the town of Sandersfield in the State of Massachusetts, that he has a record of his age now in his house, a record transcribed from his father's family record, that he was living in the town of Westfield County of Hampshire & State of Massachusetts at the several times he enlisted as hereafter mentioned, that he continued to reside in the State of Massachusetts four or five years after the revolution—removed into & resided for the last forty one years in the State of New York that he resided a short time in the State of Connecticut & before he moved into the State of New York that he now resides in the town of Lenox, in the County of Madison and State of New York. That in the fall of seventeen hundred seventy nine he voluntarily enlisted into the military service of the United States—that he enlisted in the Town of Westfield aforesaid into the company under the command of a Captain from the said County of Hampshire, whose name deponent cannot recollect—that the company was raised for the purpose of going to Canada—that he enlisted for the term of three months—that he with his company marched to Albany when news came that the siege in Canada was raised & he remained stationed in Albany until he was discharged from his term, that in the month of August seventeen hundred eighty—he enlisted the second time for the term of three months, that he enlisted in the small town of Westfield into a company & under the command of Captain Edmond Eloy (1) of Springfield in Massachusetts—that as he believes he enlisted to go to West Point—in the State of New York but his company received orders to go to Great Barrington in Massachusetts & from there to Albany, that his company staid three or four days in Albany & then moved up the Mohawk river to Fort Plain & from there to Palentine [Palatine] in the State of New York that he with his company was kept in the vicinity of the Mohawk river guarding the inhabitants until about a fort night before the expiration of his said term when they marched to Stone Arabia in the then county of Tryon where they were garrisoned until the day before the expiration of his term when he and his company & regiment under Colonel John Brown were ordered out to check the march of the British (who were marching up the Mohawk river) until General VanRansalair [VanRensselaer] (2) should join them & then they were to engage with the British that they met the British had a brief engagement Col. Brown was killed (3) & they retreated to the fort of Stone Arabia that on the second day after returning to the fort—he & the remaining part of the Regiment were discharge, that the officers [?] of his company were Capt. Eloy, 1st Lieut. Martin Smith, 2nd Lieut Gideon Styles and Sergeant by the name of Kendal (4) another Jacob Nobles that in a company for the said term of three months were detached & not with other forces until united at Stone Arabia as aforesaid. That in Seventeen hundred eighty one in the month of August he marched again for the said Mohawk River under another enlistment for the term of three months, that he enlisted in the said town of Westfield under Captain Samuel Trol [Thrall] (5) of Granville in the said County of Hampshire that he marched first to Albany & from there to Fort Plain, that from there he went with his company to Fort Herkimer on the Mohawk where they were stationed to guard the inhabitants & country that he served his term at Fort Herkimer until discharged that the regiment was commanded by Col. Merina Willet [Marinus Willett].(6) Officers in his company which he can recollect were Capt. Tol, 1st Lieut Luke Day, 2d Lieut Martin Smith, one Serjeant Comes. That he never received any written discharge from the service that he does not know of any person living that was in the service at this time with him—neither does he know of any of his officers living that he has no documentary evidence of his services that he was a volunteer in his services that the following persons are residing in his neighborhood who can testify to his character for truth & veracity, [?] Daniel Lykes, Jonathan Bush, Asa Walker, Abijah Gleason Abiel Fuller, Joel Gifford, Noah Stevens, Reuben Hawley, Asa D. VanHoozer, Doc Tho Spencer, Gen. Ichabod S. Spencer, Jonathan P. Phillips, Reuben Perkins

That the first and second terms of his service his brother Simeon Francis was in the service with him, that his said brother is not now living that he has one brother now a pensioner whose name is Thomas Francis, but said Thomas was not in the service with him.

That he has been in the military service of the United States in the time of the revolutionary war under three regular enlistments of three months as a private soldier each making in the whole nine months—And he hereby relinquishes all & 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) Aaron Francis

Subscribed and sworn to the day & year aforesaid.

Letter dated June 7, 19[?] written in response to an inquiry.

I advise you from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim, S.13097, it appears that Aaron Francis was born April 21, 1765 in Sandersfield, Massachusetts.

While residing at Westfield, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, he enlisted and served as a private with the Massachusetts Troops, as follows:

In the fall of 1779, three months, no officers stated; from in August, 1780 three months in Captain Edmund Eloy's Company, Colonel John Brown's Regiment and was in the battle of Stone Arabia; and from in August, 1781, three months in Captain Samuel Trol's (?) Company at Fort Herkimer under Colonel Marinus Willett. He was allowed pension on his application executed October 8, [1833?], while a resident of Lenox, Madison County, New York.

It is not stated that soldier was married.

Note: In a letter of inquiry, the person stated at Aaron Francis was living in 1840 with his son Aaron in Java Twp., Genesee County, NY.

End Notes—Aaron Francis S.13097

1. Aaron actually enlisted as a private on July 20, 1780 in Captain Levi Ely's Company in Colonel John Brown's Regiment of Massachusetts' State Levies. He was discharged on October 22, 1780. An Edmond Ely served as a private in the same company for the same length of time. Captain Ely was appointed Captain in Colonel Brown's Regiment on July 8, 1780.
2. Brigadier General Robert VanRensselaer who had been appointed on June 16, 1780. He commanded the Second Brigade of the Albany County Militia of which the Tryon County Militia were part of in 1780.
3. The Battle of Stone Arabia was fought on October 19, 1780. Colonel Brown was killed on his 36th birthday. Captain Ely was also killed in this battle.
4. Lieutenants Martin Smith and Gideon Stiles, Sergeants William Kendal and Jacob Noble were all in Captain Ely's Company.
5. Captain Samuel Thrall in Colonel Elisha Porter's Regiment of Massachusetts State Levies for 1781.
6. Marinus Willett was then (in 1781) the Lieutenant Colonel of a regiment of New York States Levies but he commanded all troops in the Mohawk Valley except Colonels of the Continental Regiments. The Second New York Continental Regiment was in the western part of the Mohawk Valley and Colonel Phillip VanCortlandt would have been the over all ranking officer. When the Second New York was ordered to join the main American Army and left the Mohawk Valley, then Colonel Willett was the overall commander.