

Pension Application for Abijah Holmes

S.13455

State of New York

Westchester County SS.

On this fourth day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty two personally appeared in open court before the Court of Common Pleas in and for the said County of Westchester now sitting at Bedford in the said County of Westchester, Abijah Holmes a resident of the Town of Bedford in the said County of Westchester aged seventy five years on the sixteenth day of July last 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 7th 1832.

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

That (on or about the twentieth day of November) in the year of our Lord 1775 he this Declarant at Cross River in the said County of Westchester enlisted in Capn Samuel Delavans company of Militia, called "minute men" as a Private for four months and faithfully served as a Private in said Company for the whole term of his said enlistment of four months, and was honorably discharged at Hornes Hook on York Island the last of March in the year 1776.

That this declarant afterwards and about the middle of June in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy six enlisted in Capn John Thomas Company of Militia and served in said company as a private for the term of five months and a half and was honorably discharged about the first of December in the last mentioned year at Haverstraw in the County of Rockland (then Orange) in the State of New York, that this declarant enlisted in the last mentioned company at Bedford aforesaid and said company was attached to and under the command of Genl Scott and said Company was raised for the Brigade of the said Genl Scott. That this Declarant recollects—Col^l Samuel Drake as one of the officers of said Brigade and Major Nicholas Fish acted as their Brigade Major.

That on or about the month of June in the year of our Lord 1777, this Declarant enlisted at Bedford aforesaid as a Sergeant in a company of Militia commanded by Capn Richard Sackett (Called the Minute Service) and served in said last mentioned company a[s] a Sergeant—almost constantly till the close of the Revolutionary War.

That while this declarant belonged to the said last mentioned company & served therein as aforesaid company was employed as a guard on the lines within the said County of Westchester and on parties against the enemy below the lines till Peace.

And this declarant further states that he was born in the Town of Bedford aforesaid on the 16th day of July 1757 as he has been informed by his parents and verily believes to be true.

But he never had any record of his age—That he lived in Bedford at the several times when he entered the service as aforesaid and ever since he was born to this day (except when absent on duty as a soldier during the Revolutionary War—

That this declarant was in actual service in the Militia of the State of New York (as he has above set forth) in the whole more than three years but he has not any documentary or written evidence of his enlistments services or Discharges aforesaid.

That he always entered the service as a volunteer and never served as a substitute.

That this Declarant cannot now recollect any other regular officers that he was acquainted with than those above stated—

And this declarant further states that in the fall of the last year he procured the affidavits of John Holmes of Patterson in the County of Putnam, and previously obtained the affidavit of Richard Miller late of the said Town of Bedford proving his services in the American Army during the Revolutionary War as he has above stated and set forth in his preceding Declaration.

That the said John Holmes & Richard Miller were the only persons then living that could testify to his aforesaid services. That the said Richard Miller is now deceased and the said John Holmes is very sick and unable to make any affidavit on the subject as this declarant is informed & verily believes to be true—

That last winter this declarant caused the aforesaid affidavits of said Holmes & Miller (though Genl A. Ward the Member of Congress from this district) to be laid before the Committee of Congress on Revolutionary Pensions which committee on the 3rd of January last reported favourably on this declarants application by Bill, a copy of which report is hereto annexed as received by him from Washington—

That no bill was passed allowing said pension to him & he is unable to state what has become of said affidavits. That he is known in his present neighbourhood to Aaron Read and Benjamin Isaacs Esquires both of the Town of Bedford in the said County of Westchester, who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution and of his age.

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 with his Mark) Abijah Holmes

Sworn to and subscribed in open court the day and year aforesaid N. Bayler,
Clk

22d CONGRESS 1st Session {Rep. No. 114.] 110. of Prps.

ABIJAH Holmes
January 9, 1832.

Mr. Hubbard, from the committee on Revolutionary Pensions, made the following
REPORT:

*The Committee on Revolutionary Pensions to whom as referred the petition of Abijah
Holmes, report:*

That it appears from the affidavit and petition of the petitioner, that he served for nine months and a half under two different enlistments, in the service of the United States, in the years 1775 and 1776; that, under the first enlistment, he served in captain Saml. Delavan's company for four months; and, under the 2d enlistment,

he served in Capt. John Thomas's company, in Gen. Scott's brigade, for five and a half months; that after the expiration of said enlistments, he received his honorable discharge; and it also appeared that, in the year 1777, he enlisted in Capt. Richard Sacket's company, in the service called the minute service, and that he continued in said service to the close of the war; which facts are fully proved by the testimony of John Holmes and Richard Miller, soldiers of the revolution.

It also appears that the petitioner is 74 years of age, and that he is in indigent circumstances; and needs the assistance of his country for his support. The committee are of opinion that the petitioner is entitled to a pension, and therefore report a bill.