

Pension Application for Solomon Ketcham

S.13626

Court of Common Pleas

for Suffolk County

State of New York

In the case of Solomon Ketchum.

On this second 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 said Court now sitting Solomon Ketcham a resident of the Town of Huntington in the county of Suffolk and State of New York aged seventy six 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 7th 1832.

That early in the spring of the year 1776 and as he supposes and believes early in the month of March, he enlisted on board the Sloop Montgomery which vessel was fitted out under the authority of the Provincial Congress of the State of New York in order to cruise against the British. That William Rogers of Huntington was captain and a Mr. Too first Lieutenant a Mr. Leycraft second Lieutenant and a Mr. Wescot sailing master.

That he sailed with the said Captain in said vessel until Long Island was taken by the British. That shortly after that event probably about the first of September or shortly after Captain Rogers left the Inlet, came into the sound and lay in Norwalk Harbour and continued there some time, as he supposes and believes until the British too New York about the middle of September and he thinks it probable that Captain Rogers remained at Norwalk until the British came up the Island as far as Huntington which was the latter end of September or beginning of October.

That Captain Rogers then sailed as he has been informed and believes to Connecticut River and shortly after gave up [?] and the vessel was sold as he was informed and the men dispersed.

That at the time the captain was ordered to leave Fire Island Inlet and come into the Sound the said Solomon Ketcham and Ebenezer Conklin another of the crew ere fire master's on board one of the Captured vessels in the South Bay about five miles from the Inlet where Captain Roger's lay with the Montgomery.

That they received no orders to come aboard and they came across the Island by land to Huntington which lies nearly opposite to Norwalk.

That Ebenezer Conklin went across the Sound to Norwalk to the Montgomery to receive orders or to get discharged if the Captain had given up cruising—The vessel lay waiting for orders and neither the said Ebenezer Conklin nor this deponent were ordered to come aboard.

During this suspense the British got possession of New York and shortly after came for us in Huntington and made the deponent and all the other inhabitants prisoners.

The deponent was subject to the orders of the captain of the Montgomery while she lay at Norwalk. The Captain knew where he was & had constant intercourse with

the place and might have ordered him aboard at any time if he had needed him or had not preferred that he should remain at home until he did need him or a new cruise was determined on. He never was dismissed or discharged.

Upon the whole the deponent says that he was subject to Captain Roger's orders from the day he enlisted early in March to the day the British took Huntington the latter end of September or early in October and that he actually served on board the Montgomery or in some other boat or vessel under the orders of Captain Roger's from the time the Montgomery sailed until she prepared to leave Fire Island inlet which was probably early September.

He relinquishes all claim to a pension except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. (Signed) Solomon Ketcham
Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. Joseph A. Huntting, Clk

Letter in folder dated November 27, 1936, written in response to an inquiry.

Reference is made to your letter in which you request the Revolutionary War records of Jeremiah Hubbard and Solomon Ketcham, of Long Island, also, records of all soldiers with the name John Smith of Long Island.

There is no claim for pension or bounty land on file based upon service in the Revolutionary War of a Jeremiah Hubbard. No records could be identified of the John Smith in whom you are interested. If you will give as much as possible of the following data, another search of the records will be made; approximate dates of birth and death, places of residence at enlistment and after service and given name of widow.

The record of Solomon Ketcham is given herein as found in pension claim, S.13626, based upon his service in the Revolutionary War.

Solomon Ketcham was the son of Solomon. The date and place of his birth and the name of his mother are not shown. During the Revolution, Solomon Ketcham, Senior, was engaged in transporting property taken from captured vessels to his home in Huntington, New York.

Early in March 1776, while residing in Huntington, new York, Solomon Ketcham went on board the sloop "Montgomery", and armed vessel fitted out by authority of the state of New York, Captain William Rogers, commanding. The vessel cruised from Fire Island in the adjacent waters, and captured eleven British vessels, loaded with oil, provisions, tools, etc. Solomon Ketcham was placed on board one of the captured vessels as prize master, and served until after the capture of New York, and was taken prisoner at Huntington, New York, when that place and all of its inhabitants were captured. The "Montgomery" escaped capture by going up the Connecticut River and was eventually sold.

Solomon Ketcham stated that in 1808, "during the embargo", he fitted out a vessel which he owned, pursued and captured a British ship and took the cargo to the Collector at New York. He stated, also, that in 1813, he was a member of a volunteer company composed of those beyond the age of militia service and continued through the war and that he had charge of the arms which were furnished by the state. In 1813, he assisted in capturing two ships which had taken refuge during a storm in

Huntington Bay and were bound to sea contrary to law, and delivered them to the Collector at New York.

He was allowed pension on account of his service as a mariner during the Revolutionary War on his application executed October 2, 1832, at which time he was aged seventy-six years and resided in Huntington, Suffolk County, New York.

It is not stated that soldier was ever married.