

Pension Application for Ephraim Kidder

S.13652

State of New York

County of Yates SS.

On this twenty eighth day of September 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common pleas now sitting Ephraim Kidder, a resident of Benton in the County of Yates and State of New York aged seventy eight 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 he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated:

In the winter of 1776 he belonged to Captain Salsbury's Company of Minute men and in the month of January of that year to the best of his recollection he was called out under the said Capt Salsbury on an expedition against the tories, at a place called Johnstown, on the Mohawk River, in the State of New York where it was understood they were assembled—in considerable numbers under Sir William Johnson.

That the said Capt. Salsbury with his company of Minute Men (the said Ephraim Kidder being one of said company as aforesaid) marched from Spencertown in the County of Albany (now Columbia) and State aforesaid to Greenbush—crossed over to Albany, then to Schenectady and from thence to Johnstown, a considerable distance up the Mohawk River.

The tories capitulated, and delivered their arms, and Sir William Johnson [Sir John Johnson] gave hostages as the said Ephraim understood for their future good—behaviour—

After this affair he returned home to Spencertown having served in that Expedition one month.

And the said Ephraim Kidder further declares that about the first of September 1776 he was drafted and sent to Fort Montgomery on the west side of the Hudson River—under Captain Spencer where he served three months—thinks it was some time in December when he returned home—that during his stay at Fort Montgomery he worked at the Batteries and kept guard—the British shipping lay in the river below them—that it was expected they would come up and attack the Fort—that he assisted in putting a chain across the River to prevent the British shipping from passing up.

General Washington came to Fort Montgomery once during his stay there and gave orders about placing the cannon so most to annoy the enemy in case he attempted to come up—that he was sent down the River once to watch the motions of the shipping.

After his time was out he was discharged and returned home.

And the said Ephraim Kidder further declares that about the first of August 1777—he was drafted to go against the northern British army under General Burgoyne—that the company to which he belonged rendezvoused at Greenbush on the

East side of the Hudson River under Captain McKinster and Lieutenant Samuel Utley—that he was marched from Greenbush to Stillwater where they encamped – that he kept guard and done duty at Stillwater was there during the first action with Burgoyne on the 19th September—that after the second battle on the 7th of October he followed the British army to Saratoga, where he was put on guard. Lay on his arms for several successive days and nights, on the ground.

The nights were cold and frosty, and he the said Ephraim got sick from this exposure so that he was unable to march with the army.

The British Army surrendered to the Americans under General Gates. Saw them march out and lay down their arms—After the surrender he was put on board of a Boat and was taken to HalfMoon—from thence to Albany—where he lay a number of days and was discharged—that he returned home in November and was out in this campaign not less than three months—It was called the three months service and he staid his time out and was discharged.

And the said Ephraim Kidder further declares that in the Fall of 1780 he was called out on an expedition, up the Mohawk River against the Indians & Tories under the celebrated Indian Chief Brant and one Col. Butler, who it was understood were committing [committing] great depredations along the Valey [valley] of the Mohawk.

They rendezvoused at Greenbush & from there to Schenectady & so on up the River and fell in with enemy at a place called Canajoharrie [Canajoharie] where they had a pretty smart skirmish, in which his Lieutenant DeLong was wounded in the breast—Several others were killed and wounded in this skirmish—

The Tories and Indians were defeated and fled, and the Americans pursued them about three days but not overtaking returned to Fort Herkimer and from there the militia returned home—In this expedition he was out one month and was commanded by Capt. Hogehome and Lieutenant Francis DeLong.

And the said Ephraim Kidder further declares that he was called out a great number of other times during the Revolutionary War on short tours of duty, against the Indians and tories beside those before mentioned, at StillWater, Livingston's Manor and other places, under Capt. Allen and other officers whose names are not now recollected.

That the precise length of time he was out in these expeditions, or the particular times at which they occurred [occurred] he cannot now tell, but that they could not in all have been less than four months.

And the said Ephraim Kidder further declares that he has no documentary evidence whereon to rely—that he never had any written discharge as he recollects, but when he had served his tour of duty was verbally discharged by the Captain or other commanding officer—that 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.

And the said Ephraim Kidder further declares that he was born in the town of Nine partners in the County of Dutchess and State of New York in the year 1754—Has a record of his age in his Bible.

That he was living during the Revolutionary War in the town of Spencertown, in the County of Albany and State of New York, (now Hillsdale Columbia County N.Y.)— that about the year 1799 he removed to the town of Jerusalem Ontario County N.Y. (now Benton Yates Co.) where he still resides that he was called into the service by being drafted or otherwise called out in cases of alarm or sudden emergency by the whole company being warned out en mass.

(Signed) Ephraim Kidder

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. T.J. Nevins, Dep. Clerk