

## **Pension Application for Benjamin Kneeland**

S.13669

State of New York

Montgomery County SS.

On this 8<sup>th</sup> day of September 1832 personally appeared before me John Hand one of the Judges of Montgomery County Courts (the same being a Court of Record) Benjamin Kneeland a resident of the Town of Charleston, County of Montgomery and State of New York aged 85 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 7 June 1832.

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

In the year 1776 about the first of May enlisted for seven months in the New York State troops in Capt. George Darrows Company in a regiment commanded by Col. VanDyke, Mustered in the town of Caanan, [Canaan] then Albany County now Columbia; and marched to Albany when the company drew camp kettles and other necessaries and then marched north through Saratoga to Fort George standing on the shore of Lake George, where he remained a short time when Cap. Darrows Company were ordered to repair to Fort Edward to guard that place and from thence again to Albany; then back north to Skeensborough from thence to Fort Edward again, where, the time having expired, at this last place the regiment, was for a short time together but was soon dispersed to guard different places; Capt. Darrows Company remained until discharge. Recollects well that while out on this tour the Northern Army returned from Canada being the small pox and that great mortality prevailed in al portions of that Army. Recollects that Col. Gansevoort commanded at Fort George.

In the latter part of the month of May 1777 he entered the militia service on a requisition of Gov. Clinton to repel the approach of gen Burgoyne's army as a Sergeant Major in Col. Whiting's Regiment, one half of the regiment mustered in Canaan and marched through Albany and Saratoga to Fort Edward and Fort Gerge after remaining a short time at the latter place they returned to Fort Edward; while at Fort Edward, Col. Long had a severe skirmish with a detachment of the enemy between Fort Ann and Fort Edward; and well remembers the arrival of Col. Long at the latter place after the action.

Gen. Schuyler at this time had the command of the army which opposed the Army of Burgoyne when near Saratoga. He was sent home with orders to Major Beebe to bring on the remaining half of the regiment, doing the duties of an Adjutant until a junction was formed with the Regiment which took place at or near Stillwater the day after the first battle which took place on the 19 September. At this time Gen. Gates had superseded Gen. Schuyler.

Continued maneuvering with the enemy until Thursday the 7<sup>th</sup> of October when another action took place, was in the battle on the left wing was near General Arnold when he was wounded; after the surrender of Gen. Burgoyne which took place on; the 17<sup>th</sup> the Militia were discharged and on or about the 25<sup>th</sup> he arrived home.

In this campaign saw Genl Schuyler, Gates, Lincoln, [Lincoln] Arnold, Glover, Cols Warner, Long and many others; the above service was about or a little over 5 months.

In October 1780 was out in the militia in Colonel Watermans' regiment as Sergeant Major on the requisition of Gov. Clintons Regiment mustered at Albany, marched to Schenectady and thence up the Mohawk on the south side of the river, crossed the river at Fort Plain and marched up as far as Palatine Stone Church where we had a skirmish with the enemy. Gen. VanRenselaer [VanRensselaer] fell back three miles, which gave enemy consisting of Regulars, Tories and Indians under Sir John Johnson an opportunity to escape; the next day after the skirmish Gov. Clinton joined us when a pursuit of the retreating foe took place; we followed as far west as Oneida Lake when it was found that the enemy had gained their boats and our party returned; the service in this tour as near as he can recollect was five or six weeks when he was discharged.

In the fall of 1781 news arrived at Albany that that [sic] the regulars, tories and Indians were invading the Northern Frontier and Gov. Clinton ordered out the militia to repel the invasion. Was in Colonel Waterman's Regiment, acted as Sergeant Major in said regiment, mustered in Canaan, marched to to [sic] Albany and thence north to Stillwater in Saratoga County where he was stationed about twelve or fifteen days when he was ascertained the alarm was false, and regiment returned home; on this expedition was gone three weeks.

That he was born on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November in the year 1746 in the town of East Haadan [Hamden] in the State of Connecticut. In the year 1767 moved into the town of Canaan then Albany now Columbia County in the State of New York where he resided at each and every time he was in the Service.

In the year 1783 removed to the town of Milton Saratoga County same state. In the year 1793 he removed from thence to the town of Charleston County of Montgomery and State aforesaid where he now lived whole time of service [?] years and two and one quarter months.

That he has no documentary evidence of his service and knows of no positive proof of his last campaign. He has a record of his age thinks in Family Bible taken from the Family Bible of his Father.

Does not recollect of ever having received a written discharge.

And from bodily infirmity he is unable to attend court.

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) Benjamin Kneeland

Sworn to and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid before me. John Hand one of the Judges of the Montgomery County Courts.