

Pension Application for Benjamin Latimore

S.13683

State of New York

Albany County SS.

On this Nineteenth day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty four personally appeared before Lemuel Jenkins, Garret L. Don and Lorenzo James Esquires Justices of the Justices Court of the City of Albany Benjamin Latimore a resident of the City and County of Albany and State of York aged seventy two 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 in the year 1776 he lived at New Malbury in the County of Ulster and State of New York and in the month of September of that year enlisted at New Malbury aforesaid as a private in Captain Amos Hutchinson's Company of the 5th New York Regiment then under the command of Colonel Lewis Dubois.

That a few days after his enlistment he went with his Regiment by water from New Malbury to New York. On their arrival the American Army commanded by Genl Washington & which had been fighting with the enemy was retreating from Long Island. Some days afterwards the American Army retired from New York and a large part of it was stationed at Kings Bridge.

A very few days afterwards a skirmish was had between a part of our troops and the enemy in which we had the advantage and the next day we sent a flag to the enemy and a truce was declared for the purpose of burying the dead. Some days after this skirmish our troops marched back to Kings Bridge and after remaining there a considerable time they left and went to the White Plains.

The enemy pursued them thither and there were several skirmishes or engagements between them & a part of our forces. In one of the engagements Gen. Heath from the East—had the command of the left wing one of the churches was burnt at this place and several skirmishes were had with the enemy afterwards.

Here they remained until it was time to go into winter quarters when they passed through a place then called Crumpon, and Peekskill at this latter place they halted a number of days when they left and went by water to New Windsor. Here the declarant was taken sick and had permission to go home which he did.

The army at New York & White Plains was composed of Regular troops & Malitia. Some of our officers were killed at the battle at nor near Kingsbridge and your declarants officers were Col. Dubois, Lieut Col. Brown, Major James Logan, Capt. Hutchinson and Lieutenant John Firman. The others are not recollected.

In the month of April 1777 he left New Malbury where he had been living during the winter and went by water to Fort Montgomery at the High Lands Genl Geo Clinton had command of the Fort and they remained here without being disturbed or serving any engagement with the enemy until in October following.

In the early part of that month some vessels belonging to the enemy came in sight and when within five miles of the Fort the wind having slackened they disembarked

at a place called Dunderbarach or Thunder Hill and marched from thence to the fort. Before they arrived at the fort Gov Clinton sent out different detachments of men to meet them and a fire was kept up between them and the enemy until our men returned to the Fort.

Shortly after orders were given by Gov Clinton to stop firing as the enemy had sent a flag by Col. Campbell. The Col approached near to me as the gates of the Fort and was met on the outside of the of the Fort [sic] by Gov Clinton & Dr. Cook after the usual salutations had passed between them and Col. Campbell the Col. was asked by Gove Clinton the nature of his Business, who relied that he came to demand a surrender of the Fort which if done within one hour and our troops surrendered their arms they would be permitted to go as it was not wished to take them prisoners because they (the enemy) had more men with them than could be accommodated in the fort.

Gov Clinton replied that the Fort would not be surrendered as long as he had a man able to fire a gun. Col. Campbell then said he would eat his supper or would sleep & which it is not recollected in the fort that night as in hell. They then parted.

An attack was made on the fort by the enemy and was defended until six or seven oclock PM. When it was taken. Gove Clinton, Gen. James Clinton, Col. Dubois, Dr. Cook and others escaped. Col Bryan or Brown, Stephen Lush aid to Clinton and others and this declarant were made prisoners. In taking the fort Col. Campbell was killed, he was stabbed on the walls of the fort by Capt. Rosecranse of Fishkill. The enemy and the prisoners of whom this declarant was one remained until the latter part of October when the Fort was destroyed by the enemy and they all went by water to New York. Here the declarant remained until until [sic] the middle of the following winter when he was taken to Kings Bridge where he remained until sometime in March and was compelled to wait on the British officers as a servant. From this latter place he went in the capacity as a servant with Captain Outhouse a [?] who had about thirty men with him on an excursion in the vicinity of Tarrytown where they wore [were] all taken by the Americans.

The declarant after being taken was carried to Genl Putnam who on discovering that he was an American and belonged to Col. Dubois' Regiment ordered him to join his Regiment which was then lying at New Windsor on the west side of the Hudson River and the prisoners were sent to Harford. Col. Dubois had the command of the Regiment when the declarant rejoined it and Capt. Hutchinson was then under and arrest and was cashiered for being absent from Fort Montgomery without permission. Lieutenant Vandenberg was promoted to the Captaincy.

They remained here until the roads were good when they crossed over the river and marched to the White Plains and remained there until the next fall. On arriving at the White Plains they found a large force encamped there. Cols VanSchaick, Gansvoort, Livingston, and Courtlandt were there and Genl. James Clinton had the command. The object of the concentration of so large a force at this place was as the declarant understood to aid Genl Washington in a contemplated attack on New York.

None however was made and the declarant while here saw Genl Washington and Lord Stirling.

From the White Plains Col. Dubois' Regiment marched to Fishkill where it embarked on board of vessels for Albany and proceeded up the river as far as Clavarack at which place owing to the ice in the river they left their vessels and marched on the East side of the river to Albany and stopped there ten or twelve days when they left for Schoharie passing on their route thither through Schenectady and over the Helderbarach and on arriving at Schoharie were [were] stationed at the lower fort and remained there until April following without being required to act against the enemy except on one occasion when a band of Tories & Indians came to a place called Beaver Dam some miles from the fort and carried off some of our committee men who were pursued but not taken.

In the month of April Col Dubois with his regiment left Schoharie and went to Johnstown, shortly after their arrival at this place a detachment of 40 or 50 men of whom declarant was one was sent by Col. Dubois under the command of Capt Henry Vandenburg and stationed as an outside guard at a block house near the fishing place of Sir William Johnson about eight miles from Johnstown. They continued here for two months and were not during the time engaged in any skirmish or affair with the foe.

From Johnstown they returned to Schenectady and wore there a few days and left threesome in battles on the Mohawk and some on foot for Canajoharie where they found Col. Livingston's regiment Col. Livingston's regiment Col. Livingston's regiment was then forming a circle around a gallows on which was hung a Canada spy. These two Regiments after the lapse of a few days left Canajoharie form Otsego Lake where they found Col. Gansevoort, Verplank and Courtland Regiments. While here they damned up the end of the lake so as to raise it and enable them to carry their stores and baggage by water to the Susquehannah River. On daming up the lake and the waters being raised they proceeded as far as Tioga Point where they found Genl Sullivan & stayed a short time.

While there they received the news of the Capture of Stony Point by Genl Wayne and the Regiment had a general rejoicing.

From this place they proceeded through the woods to Niagara and halted within hearing of the enemy's Guns. On their way they passed through and destroyed a number of Indian settlements friendly to the Enemy but had no battle with them except at a place & called Newtown about two days March from Tioga Point. Here the enemy made a stand and threw up a breast work and after resisting about an hour they gave way and fled. At Niagara they remained a short time possibly a fortnight when they all left and returned nearly by the same route they had gone until they reached Tioga Point which was in October.

Here the declarant received his discharge, he having served the period of his enlistment of three years when he together with Sergeant James Pride, Samuel Langdon, Daniel Robison and Abraham Oakie who were privates & had also been discharged returned home.

And the declarant further declares that he was born at Withersfield in the State of Rhode Island in the month of January 1762. That he has no record of his age at having been kept in a family bible which was taken by the enemy at the time his father's house was robbed in the Revolution.

He lived at New Malbury at the time of his enlistment and continued to live there for three or four years after the Revolution when he moved to Poughkeepsie in Dutchess County and lived there until he moved to the City of Albany about forty years since. Where from that time to the present he has lived.

He received a written discharge from Col. Dubois at the time he quit the service and has lost it. The only persons who he knows of & who can testify to his having been in the Revolution as a soldier have made their depositions thereof which are hereto annexed and who were not [deceased] by him until very recently and those persons who can as his neighbors and who have been requested to testify that they have understood and believe that he served in the revolution as a soldier and is [?] of veracity have made their certificate of those facts which certificate is embodied herein.

And the said Benjamin further states that until recently he has attended and been a communicant of the Revd Mr. Campbell's church in this City but that he quit the said church because he considered the said Campbell too much of a politician and so therefore has not called upon and got him to certify as is required by the forms prescribed by the War Department June 15th 1832 and the said Benjamin Latimore 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 or (if any) only on that of the agency of the State of New York. (Signed) B. Latimore

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid in open court. John G. Wasson
Clk