

Pension Application for John McDaniel

W.18498 (Widow: Barshaba)

State of Pennsylvania

Warren County SS

On this third day of June Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and thirty three personally appeared in open court of Common Pleas of said County of Warren before the Judges of the same Court now sitting at Warren John McDaniel a resident of the township of Pinegrove in said County aged about eighty 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 of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he enlisted in the United States Service under the following named officers & served as herein after stated.

In the month of August 1775 I enlisted as a private at Poukepsie [Poughkeepsie] Dutchess County New York State, under Capt. Andrew Billings, Ezekiel Cooper was first Lieut John Langlin was 2d Lieutenant, James Clinton was Colonel, our Lieutenant Col's name was Wizencope (I think) at Dutchman, he lived at Esopus our general's name was Montgomery. I joined the army immediately after I enlisted & after exercising a few days marched to Ticonderoga & from thence into Canada, our object was to take Forts St. Johns & Shamble, then march on & take Montreal & Quebec, I was with the division that invested & took Fort St. John. We advanced on the East side of the river & on the west and then up Brant works.

But we had so few battling Cannon & so little powder, we did onto make much headway till after Fort Shamble was taken, we then got about 120 barrels of powder & several [?] of Artillery with which we were enabled to prosecute the siege with effort against Fort St. John, after I had been there about six weeks I was taken sick ;& unable to do duty for several days, so soon as I was able to travel I was sent with others to take charge of the prisoners that were taken at Shamble & take them to Albany.

I went with them as far as fort George, I was then taken sick again & put in the hospital where I remained about ten day as an invalid. After I got well enough I assisted to [?] the Hospital till my term of enlistment expired. I got my discharge & went home, having served at this time six months & endured many & severe hardships.

I kept my discharge for several years but not thinking it would be of service to me was not particular in preserving it & it was lost or destroyed by my children.

After I got home from this tour I was sick several weeks as soon as I got well I again enlisted as a private for one year at this time Frederick Richmore was one Col. Frederick Wizenvelt Lieutenant Col. soon after I enlisted I marched to New York to repel an attack [?] by the British shipping the Asaia man of war having fired on the city we were gone about a month. I returned in a sloop commanded by Capt. Lewis.

Early in the spring we marched to N. York again, & went to work building Batteaus. I assisted to build Fort Montgomery & a fort on Governor's Island at these forts I worked hard late & early till they were done.

In August word came that the British had landed on Long Island he had orders to march there. I was In the Battle that was fought on Long Island the 27th of Aug. 1776. I was then in a Company of Artillery. Captain Carpenter commanded the Company he was shot dead at my side, a ball passed through the hair of my head taking some of it off my arm was fractured in the same battle. One General (Sterling) had his shoes shot under him being a large fleshy man was unable to get away was taken prisoner. Col. Miles was stationed to guard the Flat land road but by some had management the British got the advantage & he was taken or killed, with most of his men.

The British were greatly superior in numbers & we were obliged to retreat. Genl Washington conducted the retreat in person. The British pursued as close—Just as the last boat load of our soldiers crossed the river a thick fog disappeared & discovered the British within a few rods of our rear. We were marched by Gen Washington to Harlem Heights. Shortly after this Battle I was taken in company with them into New Jersey to cut dry cedar timber with a view of making five crafts to float down the river & fire the enemy's shipping.

After I came back from this service I was sent with one Lieut Holmes on duty 4 miles below Hackensack. Staid there a few weeks & returned to Harlem staid there a short time, thence marched to Kingsbridge. I was in the battle at White Plains. I fought till I was detached to take off two wounded officers viz., Thos Cole Ensign & Sergeant Ransom. Before I could get back from taking care of those men the battle was over.

We were then marched to Peekskill. Part of the army went to Trenton & the rest to Fishkill to winter Quarters. I went to Fishkill staid there till I got discharged. I think at this time I did onto get a written discharge. The army was so broken up – scattered & distressed for provision & clothing I was permitted to go home a week or two before my time was up having served at this term at least eleven months and a half & almost constantly on active duty.

After this I was drafted at six different times during the war & each time performed a tour of duty—except one when I was drafted & held as a minute man for three months, at one time when I was so drafted I was taken up the Mohawk River under Major Isaac Gross as a private at this time I was gone two months on actual duty at another time an alarm came that Brant was coming down with an army of Indians. I went as a private militia man & was gone three weeks. At each time when I was drafted I performed some tour of duty as a private not less than two weeks at one of the other times beside the three months I was held as a minute man as above mentioned. The whole time that I actually served in the Army was not less than one year & nine months beside the three months I was held as a minute man.

I was born at a place called Oblong in Dutchess County New York State. My mother died when I was a small boy my father went into the army in the time of the French war & I never heard of him afterwards. There is no record of my age, but suppose I must be about eighty years of age.

When peace was made I lived at Kinderhook before that I lived some years in a place called Paltz in Ulster County N.Y. I lived at Kinderhook about fourteen years I then moved to Saratoga N.Y. lived there about five years then moved into what is called [?] Patent Albany Co., N.Y. & back to Kinderhook lived in those two places about five years I then moved to [Worster?] Co., N. Y. State lived there till I came to this (Warren Co.) about two years ago where I now live with my son Barney dependent on him for support. I have heretofore lived in easy circumstances but am now poor & destitute of property.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatsoever to a pension or annuity except the present & declare that my name is not on the pension roll of any state or agency of any state & have never made an application for a pension till the present application. I have no documentary evidence to prove my services & know of no person whose testimony I can procure to testify thereto—since I left Kinderhook I never have seen but four of my fellow soldiers in the army they were either dead or [?] places of residence unknown to me.

Henry Hibbard, Daniel Putnam & Edson Putnam can testify as to my character for veracity in my present neighbourhood as also when I lived in Erie Co., NY & Martin VanBuren V.P. of U.S. as to the same where I formerly lived in Kinderhook N.Y. That he is not acquainted with any clergyman in his neighborhood—there is none nearer than twelve miles. (Signed with his mark) John McDaniel

Sworn & subscribed in open court this 4th of June 1833 before. Henry Shippen.