

Pension Application for Benajah Miles

S.29329

State of New York

Country of Rensselaer SS.

On this twenty fourth day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty two personally appeared before me. George R. Davis one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the County of Rensselaer aforesaid—at the town of Hoosick in the County of Rensselaer and State aforesaid Benajah Miles, a resident of the town of Hoosick in the County of Rensselaer and State of New York aged seventy two years as he thinks—who being first by me the said Judge 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, that in the fall of 1776 the month or day he cannot recollect he enlisted for one year in a company of state troops under Lieutenant Covington his Christian name not recollected that he was march to Boston and joined his company & Regiment at [Witters?] Hill. That he officers which he now recollects were Captain Thompson, thinks his given name was Joseph, Colonel John Nixon and Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Nixon.

That John Nixon was subsequently promoted to general, that they were encamped there until the enemy left Boston and then marched to New York and on to Governor's Island where they remained until Long Island was surrendered to the enemy & then marched out near Harlem Heights, and had an engagement with the enemy and then marched to White Plains.

That General Lee then took a party of men among whom he went & marched to head the enemy who were then going to Philadelphia, that in the town of Phickman as he things it was then called in the State of New Jersey, Genl Lee put up and sent the troops two miles ahead to there wait for further orders. That General Lee was there taken prisoner together with some of his staff & they then went under command of General Sullivan, that they headed the enemy & drove them back to Trenton, that he was the sent to reinforce the troops who were fighting the enemy at Trenton & before he got to them they commenced a retreat, that after this he went to Princetown under command of General green & had an engagement with the enemy the Pennsylvania Millitia [militia] commenced the attack they began to retreat & their General was killed, the New England Militia then came up & some of the enemy until they met the army that had been drove from Trenton & being thus reinforced again turned upon them & that he was then marched back & crossed the river and after crossing threw the plank off the Bridge into the river. That they there halted & was permitted by the enemy to send surgeons & nurses for the wounded & were to bring the [?].

That he was then marched near Amboy & their [there] received his discharge in writing signed as he thinks by his captain he having then served out his full time of one year. This discharge has long since been lost or destroyed.

That he next enlisted in the month of May he thinks but the day he cannot recollect in 1778 for nine months.

That he then enlisted in the town of Paulding in the County of Dutchess in a company of state Troops, commanded by Captain William Pierce & of which Stephen Hunt was Lieutenant, that he joined his company at White Plains where he remained stationed until his time expired that he thinks his colonels name was Dubois his given name not recollected. Gen. Sullivan commanded & General Putnam part of the time he thinks he then served out his time nine months & was discharged.

That he next enlisted at the same place in the spring of 1779 in the month of May he thinks but cannot recollect the day for nine months in a company of state Troops under command of Captain Williams, his given name not recollected and of which Abraham Diteman was Lieutenant.

That he then joined his company at White Plains aforesaid where he remained until his time was expired when he was discharged. That he thinks his colonels name was Bircham his given name not recollected, does not recollect of being under command of any general at this time, thinks his regiment was the only one there that time.

That he next enlisted at the same place for three months in the year 1780, the month or day of the month he cannot recollect but that it was the latter part of the spring or the fore part of the summer, that he enlisted in a company of State Troops under command of Captain Thomas Lee & of which Henry VanDerborough was Lieutenant that he was marched to west Point where he joined his Regiment under Colonel Brown his given name not recollected & from there marched to Stoney Point & from there to Haverstraw & from there marched to Stone Robby on the Mohawk River & there had an engagement with the British, Tories and Indians. That in this engagement general VanRensselaer commanded in chief. That his Colonel Brown was killed and his Lieutenant VanDerborough wounded in the battle. That the enemy retreated & they followed them five days through the woods & then returned to Schenectady where he was & then returned to Schenectady where he was discharged having served out his time for this he last enlisted as above.

That in the last of the summer of fall of the same year but the month or day he cannot recollect, he again enlisted at the same place for three months in a company of state Troops under command of Captain William Pierce, he thinks one Elliot was Lieutenant, his given name he cannot recollect.

That he joined the Regiment at Fishkill which was commanded by Colonel Graham his given name not recollected. That he remained stationed there until his time expired & was then discharged.

That he has no documentary evidence whatever of any of the above services neither is there any person living that he knows of who is personally knowing to his having served as a soldier of the Revolution at any of the times above specified.

That he is verry [very] infirm and blind and unable entirely in consequence of bodily infirmity to go from home at all and that he has been so far nearly two years

past and that the Courts of Record in the county in which he resides are held at the City of Troy about 23 miles from his residence .

1. That he was born in the town of Paulding in the County of Dutchess and State of New York in the year 1760.
2. That he has no record of his age.
3. That he was living when he entered the service in the town of Pittstown in the County of Rensselaer and State of New York—and that he has lived since the Revolutionary War in the town of Paulding aforesaid for ten or twelve years & from there he [moved] to the town of Hoosick in the County of Rensselaer & State of New York & where he has ever since resided & still continues to reside.
4. That he entered the service by enlisting & was a volunteer.
5. That the names of the regular officers who were with the troops where he served and such Continental & militia regiments as he can recollect and the general circumstances of his service are as fully and particularly stated in the above declaration as he can from his recollection & knowledge state the same.
6. That he never received but one discharge from the service as above stated & which he thinks was signed by his captain whose name was Thompson that his captain gave it to him & that it is lost or destroyed & he does not know what has become of it never having preserve d it.
7. That the names of persons to whom he is known in his present neighborhood & who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution are Seth Parsons, Joseph Dorn, Abraham Ford & Rev'd Luther P. Blodgett

He hereby relinquishes very claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is onto on the pension roll of the agency of any state. (Signed with his mark) Benajah Miles

Sworn to & Subscribed the day & year aforesaid. Geo. R. Davis one of the Judges of Rensselaer County Court. Counsellor at Law Sup. Court.