

Pension Application for Joseph Mott

W.15104 (Widow: Clarinda) Married Thursday March 15, 1787. Joseph died July 20, 1843. They had eight children, the oldest Betsey, and youngest Phebe.

State of Vermont

Grand Isle County SS.

On this 15th day of September AD 1834 personally appeared before me, John M. Sowles a Judge of the County Court within & for said Grand Isle County Joseph Mott a resident of Alburgh County & State af'd aged eighty 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 he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers & served as herein stated. I enlisted in the army of the United States the precise day of the month I do not recollect but it was in the month of June 1775 in Colonel James Clinton's Regiment New York Troops Lewis Dubois was my Capt. I enlisted for six months we went to Albany New York where we lay a short time we went from there to Lake George from there to Ticonderoga & after staying there a short time we went to St. Johns & which place surrendered to our army the last of Oct or the forepart of Nov'r 1775.

I was not at St. Johns at the time of the Surrender the company to which I belonged & one other Company commanded by Capt Nichols previous to the time of the Surrender were sent on to Laprarie Eighteen miles beyond St. Johns & nine miles from Montreal as a Guard Colonel Warners Regt these lying a Long [Gueil?] a place so called nine miles below Laprarie opposite Montreal on [blot] River St. Lawrence after the surrender of St. Johns to General Montgomery in the month of Nov'r we went over to Montreal & arrived there I think in the 8th or 9th of Nov'r which also surrendered & here my time of Enlistment expired I there enlisted again for four months in the same Regt commanded by Colonel James Clinton in the third Battallion [Battalion] New York Troops my Captains name was Benscouten from Powkeepsie [Poughkeepsie] Captain Dubois being raised to a Major we then went to Quebec & arrived there & our army joined General Arnold's some time the forepart of Dec'r 1775 after being there a short time we made an attempt to take the place but were defeated but were encamped during winter above Quebec & in the Spring after retired from Canada & I arrived in Albany New York or got my discharge I think in the month of June 1776 a few days after receiving my discharge in the same month I enlisted in what was called the Batteau Service my company was commanded by Capt. Tillman of Albany and was employed on Lake George boating provisions military & naval stores from Lake George Landing provisions military & naval stores from Lake George Landing to the Block house & sometimes to Ticonderoga to Arnold's Fleet until the Lake froze up I then went to Albany & got my discharge.

Where & in what year were you born.

Ans. I was born upon Long Island in the year 1752 on the 8th day of Nov's.

Question. Have you any record of your age if so where is it.

Ans. I have no record of my age nor every had.

Question. Where were you living when called into service where have you lived since the Revolutionary War & where do you now live.

Ans. When called into Service I lived in a place then called Half Moon on the North River N.Y. now called Waterford & now & ever since the Revolutionary war I have lived in the Town of Alburgh County of Grand Isle & State of Vermont. I always went into Service as a volunteer.

Question. State the names of some of the Regular Officers who were with the troops where you served.

Ans. I always went into Service as a volunteer.

Question. State the names of some of the Regular Officers who were with the troops where you served.

Ans. Coll Campbell or Col. Richmore commanded the 1st Battallion & Capt Cheeseman belonged to it I think he was Capt. the 3rd Bazttallion was commanded by Col. Clinton. I recollect Capt. Nichols, Capt. Denton, Capt Billings, Capt Dubois, & Capt. Cooper belonged to it. The 4th Battallion was commanded by Col. Livingston. I recollect other officers who were with the troops (to wit) Genl Montgomery [Montgomery] who was killed at Quebec, Genl Wooster, General Schuyler & a Maxfield whether he was Col. or what officer he held I do not recollect.

Quest. Did you ever receive a Discharge from the service fi so by whom was it signed & what has become of it.

Ans. When my first enlistment was out at Montreal & Rec'd no discharge but immediately enlisted again at the end of my Second enlistment I rec'd a Discharge from Capt. Benscouten at Albany but have lost it I rec'd no other discharge from the service.

I have no documentary evidence of my service.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state or territory. (Signed) Joseph Mott

Sworn and subscribed the day & year afs'd before me John M. Sowles Judge of Grand Isle County Court.

J.L. Edwards Esqr.

In answer to yours of the 22d day I send you the additional Declaration of John Clark and the affidavit of Ashley Clark, with the Count Clarks certificate of the Good Character of P. Ashley. If doubts are entertained as to John Clarks character I would sejest [suggest] that the Hon Benjamin Swift of the US Senate and Herman Allen of the house of Representatives, now at Washington must have long been personally acquainted with John Clark.

I would direct your attention to the deposition of old Mrs. Woil attached to the first declaration. She states that she learned from John Clarks father, in the time of the revolution, that John Clark was in the Revolutionary Service, and that he lived a man out of the family she resided in to work for him in consequence of the aplicants [applicant's] living in the army.

The great lapse of time renders it difficult [difficult] to procure the highest degree of evidence, but I hope on reviewing the evidence and examining what I here send you will be satisfied with the proof, but if not please let me know where in, as early as convenient. Respectfully your very humble servant [servant] Giles Harrington, Albany 19th Sept. 1837.

In conversation with a few of the Revolutionary pensioners and the general talk of the people of this town & vicinity has let me to State in relation to Joseph Mott (who I am told draws a pension) what I have learned from his contemporaries of his Revolutionary service. That he was during nearly the whole of that was a Tory, and leader among the Indians of the enemy, John Clark tells me that when the Indians made a descent upon [upon] the Mohawk Country mentioned in his declaration Joseph Mott was one of the leaders, and since they both settled in this country he has often heard him boast of setting fire to 7 buildings with one broom at that time. I suppose Mott was once in the Revolutionary Army, and, I suppose it is upon the strength of that that he has proved up his claim. It is said that Mott was apprehended as a Tory & imprisoned, and when the expedition was fitting out against Quebec Mott enlisted out of prison, and was put into the division under General Arnold who passed from Maine up the Kenebec River, to Quebec, and Mott had no opportunity to escape from the American Army until he arrived [arrived] at Quebec at which place he made his escape to the enemy. It has become a mystery [mystery] who certified that he was reputed a soldier of the revolution, and what he could have stated in his declaration.

If you should feel anxious to know the facts of his being all, or worse than what I state, it can easily be proved. Mott has a very large circle of relations in town who have old Tories and their descendants, and beyond them I think no man can be found acquainted with Mott and his former character, but what will say he minted a [?] more than a pension from this Government.

I am aware those are broad statements and that I do not wish to incur the displeasure even the vicious if it can be conveniently avoided, but if you find it necessary to use my name in finding out the truth you will be a liberty to do so. Yours respectfully, Giles Harrington. Albany the 19th Sept. 1837.

Joseph Mott was placed upon the Vermont Roll under the act of June 7th 1832, at the rate of \$30 per annum, for nine months service in the New York troops, in the Regiment of Col. Clinton and in the Companies of Capt. Dubois and Vanbenscoten, in 1775 and 1776. In 1838 his pension was suspended for the reason that a caveat was filed by Giles Harrington of Alburg Vt., in which it was alleged that Mott was a Tory during the Revolution "and as a confederate of the Indians in murdering our citizens, and in burning their property". Various unsuccessful efforts were made to disprove the allegations of Harrington during Mott's lifetime—and the claim remained upon the suspended files until Mott's widow Clarinda, applied in 1855 for the benefit of the act of July 7th 1828. The last letter relative to it (papers No 4) was written on the 12 of December 1855, when the claim was again reconsidered upon testimony obtained from the office of the Comptroller of New York. One re-examining the claim this

morning I discovered and original Roll of Capt. Dubois for September 1775, which confirms Mott's allegations as to his service under that officer, and also have found among the papers, but when filed does not appear, a certificate from the Comptroller of New York (paper No. 5) which shows that Mott was in Vanbenscoten's Company from No 15, 1775 to Febr'y 16, 1776. Thus the service alleged by Mott, has been satisfactorily shown; and the question is, did Mott go over to the enemy as alleged by Harrington? He states that Mott was apprehended as a Tory, and imprisoned as such at the time the expedition to Quebec was organized (enlisted out of Prison) went with it to that place, and there escaped and went over to the enemy. The troops under Arnold arrived before Quebec Nov 7th 1775. That the post was attacked by the American troops, on the 31 of December 1775, when they were repulsed. Now, if Mott did desert from the American troops after their arrival at Quebec, his defection could not have been known to his commanding officer; for as stated, he is returned on the Roll from November 15th 1775 to February 16th 1776. If he did desert it must have been after the last date, but there is no testimony with the exception of the allegation of Harrington, that he did so. But it will be seen by a letter from Harrington dated May 24th 1855, to CK Averill (paper No. 6) that he "hopes Motts widow will get a pension", and says he "will not stand in her way". And yet her husband was according to his statement, a traitor to his country and a murderer of helpless women and children! N. May 23d 1856.

The proof of marriage in the widow's case is still defective.

Proof of marriage satisfactory subsequent to this brief.