

Pension Application for Elias Palmer

W.6850 (Widow: Mercy S.)

B.L.Wt.36555-160-55

State of New York

Saratoga County SS.

On this fifth day of September personally in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty two, personally appeared in open Court before the Court of Common Pleas now sitting at the Court House in the Village of Ballston Spa in and for the County of Saratoga aforesaid Elias Palmer of the Town of Stillwater in said County aged seventy seven years who being duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

That he is seventy seven years of age and has resided in the town of Stillwater aforesaid since the year 1764 which place was then called Saratoga District.

That in the early part of the year 1775 at the said place he joined as a volunteer Militia Man a company then and there raised by voluntary agreement, composed among others of the following named persons, Ebenezer Marvin, Simeon Barber, Ezekiel Roberts, John Wilbert, Preston Denton who are dead, and of John Neilson, Elisha Andrews and Ezra Buel, then living at that place and and [sic] who have ever since remained his neighbours and the only survivors of the company that he remembered.

That the said Marvin and Barber were children by the company, the first named Captain and the last Lieutenant, the Ensigns name is not recollected.

That about the first day of May in 1775 the company marched from said place to Ticonderoga, by the way of Lake George to assist the Eastern Troops In taking that Fort from the British, which a few day sbefore the [?] there, had surrendered to Colonel Klein [?] the company in their march furnished their own supplies and was the first troops that went from this frontier of New York to fight the enemy at the north at the breaking of Revolutionary War.

That they remained at Ticonderoga doing duty about two weeks, when Genl. Arnold arrived there from the north with prisoners taken at St. Johns which his company guarded from that place into the country south towards Albany and deponent remained.

That a few days after deponent returned to Stillwater, that deponent after being home about a week, went again for the north with several of his neighbours, voluntarily and promiscuously, and armed and did duty as a soldier under Genl. Arnold – marched by land from Ticonderoga to Crown Point when he embarked aboard of a Sloop Arnold had taken from the enemy, which Arnold commanded himself and was employed in going to and from Crown Point to Ticonderoga transporting stores.

The principal direction of affairs was under a Committee of Safety for which deponents Father George Palmer was Chairman—Besides Arnold, Col. Henman from

Connecticut and Col. Elmer Captain John Watson, Lieut Titus Watson of the Connecticut troops were there at Ticonderoga.

Deponent thinks and verily believes he was absent on this tour of duty for about three months, for he remembers that on his arrival home the farmers had about finished their harvesting, which operation was generally over about the middle of August. He signed up written agreement nor did he receive any written discharge.

That in the month of January one thousand seven hundred and seventy six a company of militia was formed in Stillwater and Alexander Baldwin was chosen Captain, Samuel Bacon Lieutenant and deponent was chose Ensign, but had no commission – It was a volunteer company organized for the purpose of going to Johnstown and in Montgomery County N. York, and capturing or dispensing the Indians and Tories, which Sir John Johnson was collecting in that quarter. The company marched from Stillwater to Albany and it and all the Militia and Volunteers assembled or were collecting for that expedition were under the command of Genl Schuyler—The troops marched from Albany to Schenectady, thence to Tripes Hill thence to Johnstown was present when Johnson and his white adherents surrendered to Genl Schuyler, remembers Johnson broke his parole of honor—from the distance travelled and services performed deponent thinks and believes he was out at this time about two weeks.

Deponents Company and the Albany Volunteers who were dressed in uniform were sent to collect and received the Arms which the enemy had given up—was in no battles—recollects John Neilson was out in this expedition—Deponent says that shortly after his return home, he was appointed Ensign in a company for which Job Wright was Captain and Holton Durham Lieutenant both of whom are dead, and commenced the recruiting service he verily believe[s] in the month of March 1776, aforesaid. This company belonged to Col. Gothes, or Goose VanSchaicks Regiment and were enlisted to serve for nine months—recollects he enlisted to serve for nine months—recollects he enlisted Michael Dunning now living in Sempronius, Cayuga County, deponent believes is now on the pension roll and Jesse Dunning, David Hull, Joseph Corps and others to the number of thirteen, but who are now dead.

That the recruits were marched by deponent to Albany and inspected by Col. VanSchaick and there he received orders to march them to Fort George, which he did, where they were consolidated into VanSchaick's Regt then and there commanded by Peter Gansevoort the Major of the Regt.—He never saw the Col. There—Job Wright, the Captain and Holton Dunham Lieutenant were there—remembers of his company who were at Ft George doing duty, those above mentioned and Simeon Rockwell, Combs and Cornelius Baldwin both Corporals. Peter B. Tierce the adjutant of the regiment—and remembers besides the officers above named Captions Fish & Martin, Ensign Brown, remembers Lieut Col. TenEyck was at the Fort doing duty.

Deponent says that he remained at Ft George doing duty in his said regiment till late in the fall of the year 1776 which his company was marched to Saratoga Barracks and discharged and verily believes he served his full tour of nine months at this time as Ensign. He received his commission as ensign from Major Gansvoort at

Fort George, but by whom it was signed does not remember—It was burned in this father's house in 1777.

And Deponent says also, that when the news of Burgoyne's invasion in 77 had reached the inhabitants in this section of country it was thought advisable to remove to Connecticut, a place of greater safety, he assisted not only his Father's family but the neighbors generally in their removal, and returned to Stillwater—that deponent fought each of the battles between the American and British armies in the fall of 1777—besides being in several intermediate skirmishes and was present at the surrender of Burgoyne at Saratoga – this service was performed as a volunteer, and deponent was attached to no particular company.

Deponent says that the affidavit of Simeon Rockwell hereunto annexed was made by Simeon Rockwell of his company.—

That he has no documentary evidence of his service in his possession and knows of no persons except those herein mentioned who can prove his service.

To the interrogatories propounded by the court, the applicant made the following answers.

1. He was born in the town of Norfolk Litchfield County Connecticut he thinks in the month of September 1755.
2. He has records of his age in his family Bible at home which has got from his parents.
3. When he was called into service he was living at Saratoga District Albany County now the town of Stillwater in the County of Saratoga & state of New York where he has resided ever since the Revolutionary War & where he now resides.
4. He entered the service as a volunteer.
5. Major Gansevoort commanded at Fort George. Pieter B. Tierce was adjutant of VanSchaicks Regiment, Capt. Job Wright was his Captain, Lieut Holton Dunham – Capt. Fink had a company there. Capt Edmonds & Capt. Hicks. There were no other regiments at Fort George, the general circumstances of his service he cannot state more fully than above set forth.
6. He never received any written discharges from the service.
7. Elisha Andrus, John Neilson, William Seymour, [?] Bartlett.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. (Signed) Elias Palmer.

Sworn & subscribed to in open court the 5 September 1832. Thomas Palmer, Clerk

Letter in folder dated March 17, 1936, written in response to an inquiry.

The record of Elias Palmer is furnished you herein, as found in pension claim, W.6550, based upon his service in the war of The Revolution.

Elias Palmer was born in the month of September, 1765 in Norfolk, Litchfield County, Connecticut; he was the son of George Palmer, name of his mother not given.

While residing in Saratoga District, Albany County, New York, which was later Stillwater, Saratoga County, New York, he volunteered early in 1775 and served two or three weeks as a private in Captain Ebenezer Marvin's New York company, and marched to Ticonderoga. ; after being home about one week, he volunteered and served about three months as private under General Arnold, and was employed in transporting stores from Crown Point to Ticonderoga; this service was under the direction of a Committee of Safety, of which his father was Chairman. He volunteered sometime in January 1776, and was chosen ensign in Captain Alexander Baldwin's New York Company, served about two weeks in an expedition against the Indians and Tories and was at the surrender of Sir John Johnson at Johnstown. He enlisted in 1777, served as ensign in Captain Job Wright's company, Colonel Goose VanSchaick's New York regiment, was stationed at Fort George a part of the time, length of this service more than nine months, was discharged in February, 1777. Later in 1777 he was in both battles of Saratoga and at the surrender of Burgoyne, officers' names and length of service not stated.

The soldier, Elias Palmer, was allowed pension on his application executed, September 3, 1832, then residing in Stillwater, New York, having resided there "since 1764". He died in Stillwater in the month of November, 1838.

Elias Palmer married April 2, 1826 in Montgomery County, New York, Mercy S. Keyes.

She was allowed pension on her application executed July 30, 1855, then aged eighty years and living in Geneva, Ontario County, New York.

It is stated that there were no children by this marriage.

A son, George Palmer, was fifty years of age in 1833, and was Justice of the Peace for Saratoga County, New York at that time; the names of his mother is not given, and there are not data on file relative to her.

Thomas Palmer in 1832 was Clerk of the court of Saratoga County, New York, and in 1833, Ashbel Palmer was Justice of the Peace for Saratoga County; it is not shown that they were related to the soldier, Elias Palmer, or that they were related to each other.