

Pension Application for Joshua Randall

W.27999 (Widow: Selah)

State of New York

County of Rensselaer, City of Troy SS

On this 9th day of August 1832, personally appeared in open Court, before the Mayor's Court of the said City of Troy, (now sitting), Joshua Randall, a resident of the town of Petersburg in said county and state, aged 76 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, and served as herein stated.

That he was born at the town of Hopkinton in the State of Rhode Island, in February 1756. He has no record of his age.

When he first entered the service, he was living at his native place; in 1776 he came to Berlin in said County of Rensselaer & after two years, removed to the town of Petersburg aforesaid where he has lived ever since.

In 1775, enlisted, to go to Block Island, in Captain Thomas Wells's Company, (of which Matthew Randall was Lieutenant) under command of Colonel James Rhodes; he served in company with Captain Ethan Clark's Company, in which Thomas Sweet was Lieutenant & Paul Herrington Ensign.

He marched from Hopkinton to Westerly, then took shipping to Block Island, & was there on service more than one month & was then discharged, but had no written discharge.

Early In 1776 he moved to the town of Berlin, in the County of Rensselaer aforesaid; & on the 1st September, same year, he was called out in the militia under Captain Caleb Bently & Lieutenant Samuel Shaw. The regiment was commanded by Stephen I. Schuyler, Colonel; in this company he marched to fort Edward & fort Ann, where he was in service three months; when he was discharged; but received no written discharge.

In December 1778, he went to Rhode Island & was there called out, at Hopkinton, to go with the Rhode Island Militia; marched to Westerly, then to Charlestown, then to South Kingston, and remained there In the service for four months, during all which time he served as sergeants; the had no warrants;--he was then discharged, but received no militia discharge. Then came back to Berlin aforesaid l(then Little Hoosick) in May 1777 was called out in Captain Caleb Bently's Company, in Colonel Stephen J. Schuyler's Regiment, of which the active command was held by Lieutenant Henry K. VanRensselaer.

He marched to Fort Ann, & met the enemy there, & was present at a skirmish in which Henry K. VanRensselaer was wounded; then marched to Fort Edward, then to Saratoga & was at the battle of Bemos [Bemus] Heights, then marched to Stillwater, where he was discharged in August, having served three months; but received no written discharge.

In 1781, (September) then living at the said town of Petersburg, he was called out, in Captain Austin Odell's company, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin Randall; marched through Cambridge, Salem, Granville, & Whitehall, & then into Vermont one night, came back to Granville, there remained, & was there discharged after having served two months, as sergeant; but had no written discharge.

Of the persons swearing to the accompanying affidavits, Stephen Millard [or Willard] resides at a great distance, & is very old & infirm & could not without great expense & inconvenience be produced in open court, his affidavit was procured sometime since, when very urgent business brought him into this country and Samuel Shaw is at least 80 years of age, land quite infirm, & cannot be brought into court.

He has no documentary proof to produce. He is well known to Zebulon Lewis & Aaron Worthington of said town of Petersburg; to Ziba Hewitt of the town of Grafton in said County of Rensselaer & to George Gardner Esquire of the City of Troy; each & all of whom could testify to his character for veracity; & their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution.

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) Joshua Randall

Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open court. D. Gardner,
Recorder of Troy

Letter in folder dated June 13, 1935, written in response to an inquiry.

The data contained herein are obtained from the papers on file in the Revolutionary War claim for pension, W.27999, based upon the military service of Joshua Randall in that war.

Joshua Randall was born in February 1756 in Hopkinton, Rhode Island. The names of his parents are not stated.

While a resident of Hopkinton, Rhode Island, he enlisted in September 1775 and served over one month in Captain Thomas Wells' Company, Colonel James Rhodes' Rhode Island Regiment. While a resident of Little Hoosick, later Berlin, Rensselaer County, New York, he enlisted September 1, 1776 and served three months in Captain Caleb Bentley's Company, Colonel Stephen J. Schuyler's New York Regiment. He enlisted and served four months as sergeant in Captain Thomas Wells' Company, Colonel Noyes' Rhode Island Regiment and was discharged in April 1777. He enlisted in 1777, served three months in Captain Caleb Bentley's Company, Colonels Henry VanRensselaer's and Stephen J. Schuyler's New York Regiment and was in the engagement at Fort Anne and the battle of Bemus Heights. While a resident of Petersburg, New York, he enlisted in September 1781 and served two months as sergeant in Captain Austin (possibly meant for Augusten) Odell's Company, Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin Randall's Regiment. In 1782 he was elected an ensign in Captain Austin Odell's Company, Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin Randall's (no relationship stated) Regiment, served at various times, six months in all and to the close of the war in pursuit of Indians and Tories.

He was allowed pension on his application executed August 9, 1832 while a resident of Petersburg, Rensselaer County, New York.

He died June 12, 1837, in Petersburg, New York.

Soldier married March 20, 1786, place not stated, Selah who was born February 12, 1768, place not stated. She was the daughter of Elisha Reynolds, the name of her mother not given.

Soldier's widow, Selah Randall was allowed pension on her application executed October 30, 1838, while a resident of Petersburg, New York.

She died March 21, 1842, place not stated.

They reared a large family; the only children referred to are: their first child, whose name is onto given; their second child, Joshua Randall, Jr. was born December 24, 1787, and was residing in Petersburg, New York, in 1838; Phebe was born October 28, 1789; Elisha was born August 25, 1791; and Thomas was born April 28, 1793. He was in Rensselaer County New York, in 1843.