

Pension Application for Joseph L. Rowley

S.7408

Conn. Sea Service

Conn., & New York

Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress, passed June 7th 1832.

State of Ohio

Lawrence county SS.

On this 12th day of march 1834 personally appeared in open court, before the Court of Common Pleas now sitting, Joseph L. Rowley, a resident of Fayette Township, in the County of Lawrence & State of Ohio, aged eighty three years & nearly eleven months, 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.

Firstly—sometime in the month of April 1776, declarant then residing in Middle Haddam, in Middlesex County State of Connecticut. He was drafted to perform a tour of one months service, into Capt. Eliphlet Buckley Compy, marched soon after (the time he cannot precisely state, but he believes that at least as early as the first of May) to Fort Trumble, New London. He was there employed in building the fort & guarding the town—and continued faithfully in the service until near to the expiration of said Term, when he enlisted into said Capt. Bulkley Compy (whose compy he joined when he first came to said Fort)—for the term of nine months, in to the Regt commanded by Colo Wolcott, (the No of the Regt he does not remember) of Connecticut State troops.

From the time of his entering the service till the 20th July 1776, he served as a private—on which day he was appointed third Sergeant by warrant signed by said Capt Buckley (which warrant is hereto attached) after said 20 July he served as sergeant aforesaid at the same place till about the first day of November (the precise day he does not remember) when being sick of the quinsy, he received a furlough placed under the charge of Doctor [South?] to the best of his recollection of Colchester, who was a surgeon or physician for the army. This Doct attended upon declarant, & as soon as he was recovered so as to be able to perform duty, by the direction of said Doct, he returned to the fort, according to the best of his recollection he was absent one month, he believes the time did not exceed one month.

On his return (say the 1st December 1776) one Starks, was acting as sergeant in the place declarant was appointed to & he being unwilling to return to the ranks, & declarant being unwilling also, to serve except in the rank to which he had been appointed—he having done no act of perfect his rights of office—It was proposed by the Capt. that one of us (Searjeants) [Sergeants] should enlist into the naval service, as a call was then being made to man an armed ship called the “Defence” which was commanded by Seth Harding & then lay in the Harbour of New London, the vessel was owned by the State of Connecticut.

On or about the first of December 1776—the Declarant being discharged from the service into which he had before enlisted by Capt. Bulkly, he again enlisted for a voyage on board of said vessel, Brig Defener and he immediately entered on board of said vessel & did his duty. He entered as Coxswain & did the duty of that officers—He remained on board of said vessel about one month before she sailed. She sailed as declarant believes, on the first January 1777, (or within a day or two of that time) went to the south within two days sail of Jamaica, cruised about one month when they fell in with a convoy of British ships—pursued & followed two or three weeks & took for prized—two Briggs—one Bark (Carrying 10 guns) & one scow. The four prizes were brought in safely—two to Bedford, one to Plymouth, & the other he believes to Boston.

[blot] fleet from which these prizes were taken was convoyed by one 74 & one 60 gun ship. Before the defense fell in with this fleet—she encountered two British [British] armed ships—one of 22 guns & the other of [?] at the same time—It was supposed these ships were Merchantmen till the Defense got too near to retreat—she therefore went down beside the 22 gun ship fired into the main mast & cut it down so that she the ship was rendered unmanageable & could not bring a gun to bear upon the defense. The Defense then turned round & fired a broad side into the cabin [cabin] & bore off & lay to one whole day for the 18 gun brig to come & attack the Defense by which the Defense hoped to take it & then return & taken the 22 gun ship. The Defense carried 18 guns—two of which were not mounted at the time, but were in the hold for ballast—16 guns only that were of service.—The ship Defense completed her voyage sometime near the last of April, the precise day to does not remember, arrived at Bedford—in Rhode Island--& as soon as declarant was discharged, he returned immediately home & arrived at home, (at Lebanon, Goshen Parish where his family there were residing) on the first Monday in May 1777 this period he well recollects—The “Defense” was commanded by Capt. Saml Smedley—(Capt. Harding by sickness left the ship before she sailed) Declarant saith that in the manner before stated he served one full year faithfully except one month during his sickness during which month he was unable to serve or perform actual service—but being under the charge of the officers, he thinks that his being at home, under the circumstances stated, will not be considered as actual service. When said shop “Defence” arrived in part as aforesaid he was discharged by Capt. Smedly by verbal order.

In the spring of 1779—Declarant removed to New Canaan in New York State.—In the latter part of the summer (he believes) had assembled & ravaged the country, somewhere on or near Lake Champlain—Declarant was attached to Capt. Kelloggs Compy in the Regt commanded by Colo Wm Bradford Whiting—then of New Canaan the no of the Regt not recollected—Two other Regts were raised viz—Colo VanNess & Colo VanRensaliers [Rensselaer]—marched immediately & went on to the ground when Genl Burgoyne surrendered—when it was found the invading party had retreated--& the Declarant & his compy & Regt returned home & were discharged by verbal order by Colo Whiting. The declarant believes he served not less than three weeks—he knows that he nor the compy did not served the whole time of one month.

Sometime after, whether the same year (the month or day he can't tell), he does not remember but it was at the time when the German Flatts were burnt he was drafted for one month again, into the same Capt Kellogg's Compy & Colo Alden Regt (the No of Regt don't remember, marched from New Canaan (where he still resided) to Cherry Valley—joined the Regt there—he stayed there on full month—he was from home near six weeks—He was in no battle—often German Flatts was burnt, declarant volunteered with twenty others to pursue the enemy & they took three torys & 20 head of fat cattle & brought them into the camp—after the expiration of the term of service he was honorably discharged by the capt--& returned with him.

From old age & the consequent loss of memory he cannot state precisely the time or length of each term of service, but to the best of his recollection & belief he served.

While he resided in Connecticut not less than one year provided the month of sickness be allowed or eleven month if that period be rejected—and in the state of New York he served not less than one month & three weeks.

He served as a private these two last terms.

In answer to the interrogatories put in the regulations of the War Department he answers severally to each question as follows.

1. Born in Colchester, Connecticut April 16, 1750.
2. The record of his name was in his father's bible & from that copied into his.
3. Firstly in Middle Haddam Con't 2d & 3d in New Canaan, N. York, since the Revolution War—remained in New Canaan eight or the years, then removed to Hoosac? N. York, remained there about four years—then removed to Genesee & then removed to Westmoreland County Pennsylvania—where he remained two or three years, then removed to Allegany County Pennsylvania & remained about ten years—then to Westmoreland County —then to Allegany County again, thence in 1820 removed to this county where he now resides.
4. Firstly drafted then volunteered then drafted aforesaid.
5. Remembers—In Connecticut the following named officers—Col. Walcott, Capt Bulkly (Capt. S. Harding of Ship Defense) no genl commanded at Fort Trumble—Capt Smiidly of Ship Defense, don't remember and others. In N. York Capt Kellogg—Colo Whiting—Col VanRAnselier or Van Buren, Col Van Ness—Colo Alden—who was killed at Cherry Valley, Colo Starke who was taken prisoner at same place. Adjutant which kept the fort at the same place.
6. He never received any written discharge. He has no documentary evidence of his service except a warrant appointing him Sergeant, which is hereto attached—He has no knowledge of any person now living by whom he can prove his service—He has since he resided in this county, lived in a remote secluded place, is acquainted with but few persons -- & did not know until within a few days that he was entitled to a pension or of the existence of the law under which he now claims. On entering the service of the ship

Defense, he was appointed Cockswain. He was afterwards appointed sergeant of marines on arriving at Capt Hatteras he believes about two weeks after he sailed, according to the best of his recollection.

7. He can state the following names of persons who he believes will testify of his character for veracity & their belief of his services as a soldier in the revolution to wit. Genl Joseph Davidson & Mr. Richard Morrison.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. (Signed with his name and mark) Joseph L Rowley

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid in open court . Jos. Wheelen
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Letter in folder dated July 17, 1934, written in response to an inquiry.

Reference is made to your letter in which you request the revolutionary War records of five pensioners, of that war, Ebenezer Cuurrier, Joseph L. Rowley, William Neal, R.C. Rowley, and Samuel Smead.

Because of the great demand for Revolutionary War data and the limited clerical force available for furnishing such information, it has not been possible to make a series of investigations and reports for one person, pertaining to soldiers of that war. The records of Joseph L. Rowley and Ebenezer Currier are given herein as found in the respective claims for pension based upon their service in the Revolutionary War.

Ebenezer Currier
W.724

The date and place of birth and the names of the parents of Ebenezer Currier are not shown in the papers in the pension claim. He was referred to as Ebenezer Currier, 2nd.

Ebenezer Currier enlisted, place not shown, in August 1776, and served one year as a private in Captain Timothy Clement's Company, Colonel Peiree Long's New Hampshire Regiment.

He was allowed pension on his application executed April 23, 1818, while residing in Andover, Hillsborough County, New Hampshire. In 1820, he was aged sixty-four years. In 1831, he had moved to Norwich, Windsor County, Vermont.

He died October 15, 1840, in Norwich, Vermont.

Evenezer Currier married November 14, 1816, at Springfield, New Hampshire, Mrs. Mercy Quixly. He was then of Andover and she of Springfield, New Hampshire. They were married at the house of William and Marcy [or Mercy, can't tell which] Quixly; no relationship was shown nor are there any data in regard to Mrs. Mercy Quixly's former husband.

Mercy Currier was allowed pension on account of the services of her husband, Ebenezer Currier, on her application executed April 30, 1853, at which time she was aged eighty-seven years and resided In Norwich, Vermont.

She died November 21, 1855, place not shown.

In 1820, the soldier referred to two children aged sixteen and thirteen years, who were then residing with him but did not give their names, nor is the name of their mother shown. In 1831, the soldier referred to his children who were then living in Norwich, Vermont, but gave no names.

In 1863, one Samuel Quixly was town clerk of Springfield, New Hampshire in 1855, William and Mary Quixly lived in Norwich Vermont. No relationship of the above named person with surname Quimly to the widow, Marcy Quixly Currier was shown.

There are no further family data.

Joseph Langrell Rowley

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Joseph Langrell Rowley [in handwriting: *Langrall appears on sergeant's warrant*], was born April 16, 1750, at Colchester, Connecticut. The names of his parents are not shown in the papers In the pension claim.

While residing at Middle Maddam, Middlesex County, Connecticut, Joseph Longrall Rowley enlisted in April, 1776, and about May 1, 1776, went to fort Trumbull where he served one month under Captain Eliphalet Bulkey [in handwriting: *He said Col. Wolcott but as Heitman [?] book show that it was Wadeworth omitted Colonel's name.*] in the Connecticut Troops and assisted in building Fort Trumbull and guarding the place; on July 20, 1776, he received a warrant as 3rd sergeant, and served as such sergeant until about November 1, 1776, when he was taken sick, received a furlough and went home where he remained for about one month, when he returned to his company; on December 1, 1776, he went on board the brig, "Defence", a Connecticut vessel, commanded first by Captain Seth Harding, then by Captain Samuel Smedley; the soldier entered as coxswain and was later appointed sergeant of marines; the vessel sailed to the south and was in an engagement with two British armed vessels; also in an engagement about two days sail from Jamaica in which four prized were taken, all of which were brought back to New England; Joseph Langrall Rowley served on board the "Defence" until May, 1777, when he was discharged and went to Lebanon, Goshen Parish, state not shown, to which place his family had moved; in the spring of 1779, he moved to New Canaan, New York, enlisted there the following summer and served several tours in the New York Troops, one under Captain Kellogg and Colonel William Bradford Whiting, exact dates for these tours not shown.

[In handwriting: *Lynched this NY serv. As he was all mixed in his dates. He stated he was under Col. Alden who was killed at Cherry Valley. Col. Alden was killed in 1778—before he states he went to N.Y. so omitted Col. Alden.*]

After the Revolution, he remained in New canaan, New York for eight or ten years; then moved to [?] New York, and lived about five years; thence to Genesee, state not given; thence to Westmoreland county Pennsylvania, and lived for two or three years; thence to Alleghany County, Pennsylvania, and lived for ten years; then

returned to Westmoreland County Pennsylvania; again moved to Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, land in 1820, moved to Lawrence County, Ohio.

Joseph Lanrall [sic] Rowley was allowed pension on his application executed March 12, 1834, while residing in Fayette Township, Lawrence County, Ohio.

It is not stated that soldier was ever married.

Joseph L. Rowley, Certificate No. 26487, issued July 18, 1834, rate \$51.65 per annum, commenced March 4, 1831, Act of June 7, 1832, Ohio Agency.