

Morrison's Pensions

Members ONLY



Pension Application for Eli Seely

S.22969

Private, Captain Moseman, Col. Thomas.

State of New York

Chenango County SS.

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Judge of Chenango Common Pleas, Eli Seely, who being duly sworn deposed and saith, that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades;--For the period of four years I served as a private;--For the period of five months I served as a corporal, and for such services I claim a pension.

The this deponent further saith that there is not clergyman in the village of this deponent with whom he has an acquaintance, who can make affidavit as required by the regulation of the War Department in regard to Pension and further this deponent saith not. (Signed) Eli Seely

Sworn and subscribed the 17th day of May 1833 before me. Levi Bigelaw.

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

State of New York

Chenango County SS.

On this 17th day of October 1832, personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Circuit Court of the Sixth Circuit of said State of New York and now holden in the said County of Chenango at the Court House in aforesaid in Chenango County Eli Seely a resident of Bainbridge in said County aged sixty eight 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 enlisted in the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

In the spring of the year 1778 (I might have been in June) I cannot with certainty speak as to the month at the town of Bedford, County of Westchester & State of New York where I then resided I entered as a volunteer in Captain Jacob Vermylea's Company or Captain Marcus Moseman's Company, which I cannot for certainty say. I served under both of them, but which first, I am in doubt. Both of said company's belonged to Col. Thomas Thomas' Regiment, Abijah Harris & William Brittine the Lieutenants, in Vermylea's Company, Gabriel Higgins and Cornelius Clark were Lieutenants in Moseman's Company. We were minute men. The company was formed & rendezvoused at Bedford aforesaid. At this time a Captain Pritchard of the Continental Establishment was stationed at Bedford. He was there about three years. Tho his men were relieved by a new set once about three months. I was understood that our company was to go into service whenever sent for by Britchard or when ordered by one of our officers. For more than three years I was engaged in this minute service on scouts, on guard, repelling the incursions of the Refugees or Cowboys & watching the movements of the enemy. At every call of the alarm guns, I immediately shouldered my gun & went to the required service. Some of the particulars of such service I proceeded to relate. In the fall of the year we were sent under Lieut. Brittine. Fifteen in the whole to guard the road leading from Bedford (new Purchase) to TarryTown on the North River. We arrived at the place about 9 in the evening. Between 11 & 12 being posted at the house of James Height in North Castle West Chester Co., NY. We discovered a party of refugees driving a drove of cattle, on being hailed by Lieut. Brittine, one of the Refugees discharged his musket at us. The ball grazed & slightly wounded me just below my knee & severely wounded Lieut Brittine, taking off one of his testicles. I & one of the company Robert DeForest discharged our guns at them & they fled. We took possession of the cattle about 35 head & drove

them to Bedford & left them & returned back to the place where we took them from the refugees. Here we found one of the Refugees (I think his name was Danford) in an orchard wounded, having two [sic] of his ribs fractured by a fall. We then returned home ready to go on any other call or alarm.

In the fall after I started with our company (on the call of Col. Palmer I think of the Continental Service) who was then stationed near Crum Pond in Westchester County between Bedford & Perkshill one hundred & ten in number, under Capt. Vermylea. We joined Col. Palmer who had about 100 men & marched together to Williams Bridge, between the White Plains & North River, below Tuckahoe we arrived here between 7 & 8 o'clock in the evening, all 110 men were all on horses. We stopped at Williams Bridge & were ordered to feed our horses but to let them eat with their bits in & stand ready. We were within a few miles of the enemy's picket guard. A few of our men went out to reconnoiter in the direction of the enemy's guard. We soon heard guns on which the reconnoitering party returned. We were ordered to retreat. We returned back to near White Plains. On ascertaining that the enemy had ceased pursuing us, we returned & between day light & sunrise we crossed the River & went down on the west side of the River to the Bridge. We crossed the Bridge & after taking 21 refugees & 21 houses, we returned—pursued by the enemy up to East Chester. In East Chester on our retreat for a number of miles we were hotly pursued & fought on the retreat. We lost two men one named Oakly I think & one Continental who was killed near Wards in East Chester. I do not recollect that any were wounded. Between Wards & White Plains the enemy quit the pursuit & we returned to Bedford where we entered into the Refugee camp & took them & horses. They were all asleep having been kept up by our alarms most of the night.

In the same fall I think I started from Bedford with about 45 of us under Lieut. Higgins. In the Town of North Castle we overtook a company of refugees driving away to the enemy cattle & sheep. We gave the Refugees one round of our pieces. They fled we took possession of the cattle about 35 head & of the sheep about 300 head. All this time Lieut. Jane (who belonged to Col. Sheldon's Regiment of Dragoons, who then lay in the east part of the Bedford or in Poundbridge with his regiment) with three men joined us. We sent some of our oldest men back with the Cattle & Sheep which the refugees had plundered & we pursued the refugees to the heights near TarryTown, where we found we were surrounded by a great number of the Refugees. Seventeen of our men were taken & some of them badly wounded. Lieut. Jane was severely wounded in his head & arms a brother of mine Thadeus Seely was also wounded in his head & both wounded with a sword. For which he drew a pension until he died which happened in the fall of 1830. I succeeded in making my escape, with about thirty others & returned to Bedford. After the French army had been encamped at North Castle Corners a few weeks, I with six others of our company, one Golden, my brother Thadeus, John Raymond I think the others & I cannot recollect were detached from our company, to act as guides for the French army. They being about to march, we went to the French camp & went with the French army from North Castle Corners to the White Plains where we staid with the army about ten days during which time I was employed most of the time in guiding scouting parties of the French [?] White Plains the army returned to North Castle Corners again & myself with them & from thence I went with them to Crumpond about seven miles from North Castle Corners, where I left them & returned to Bedford. I was out at this time about three weeks after the above service I started with 15 others of our company under Lieut Abijah Haines from Bedford on a scouting party to watch the enemy & Refugees. We went to near TarryTown in the night about 12 o'clock at night, we were hailed & fired upon by a party of Refugees—My horse was killed (for we were all mounted & one man Dodge was slightly wounded. It was quite dark not knowing the force of the enemy & not being able to see them we returned—about Christmas (I cannot recollect the year) myself & a few others Amos Goldin, Thomas & John Raymond & John Peers, went out on a scout, we started from Bedford & went to the house near White Plains at a place called Tuckahoe, we made prisoners of three refugees one was named John Prossor, one Gidney (Solomen or Davy & one Montgomery. We took them to Bedford & delivered them to Capt. Pritchard of the Continentals.

I could relate a great many incidents that occurred in the many different excursions which are not detailed. The nature of the service (being that of a minute man) was such that I would be at home a short time & then on an alarm in service when the object was effected I again returned & was again soon called into service & this for more than three years nearer four years. It is impossible for me to say with precision, what the aggregate of the different periods I was in the service would amount to. I have no doubt I was engaged in the whole in active service two years after peace was proclaimed. I met with all our company & other companies at Col. Hobbies in North castle West Chester County & were paid off in soldiers certificates at the rate of eight dollars per month. The certificate I received for my pay was eighty pounds. I kept this certificate a short time & then sold it to General Thomas (I think for five shillings on the pound amounting to about Fifty dollars.)

I have no documentary proof of my services. I never received any written discharge. The nature of the service & places [?]

I know of no one by whom I can prove my aforesaid services except Enoch Raymond of Bedford County of WestChester & State of New York. He is well known to them & was knowing to some of the incidents above related.

I have stated how I entered the service & as to the manner of my discharge.

I was born in Bedford aforesaid on the 9th day of October one thousand and sixty four.

I have no record of my age. My father had a family record his house was burned the year before the war & I believe it was burned with it.

I continued to live in Bedford aforesaid until I removed to Bainbridge aforesaid where I have ever since resided and where I now reside.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. I am well acquainted with Levi Bigelow & Jotham Bixby both of Bainbridge aforesaid who can testify as to my character, age, and belief of my Revolutionary Services. (Signed) Eli Seely

Sworn & Subscribed this 17th day of October 1832. Robt. Morell, Circuit Judge.