

Pension Application for James Seely

S.1366

Private, Captain Moffatt, Col. Nichols

State of New York

Tioga County SS.

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace in and for the said County of Tioga James Seely who being duly sworn deposes 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; from the month of August 1777 to the first of September 1780, I served six months as a private in each year against the Indians and Tories which added to the first year of my service makes two years and six months as a private and for such service I claim a pension; and that I am unable by loss of memory to give a more detailed account of my services than is contained in my declaration hereto annexed. (Signed) James Seely

Sworn & subscribed before me this 8th day of Nov. 1832. W. Maxwell, Justice of the Peace, Tioga County, N.Y.

State of New York

Tioga County SS.

On this 4th day of September 1832, personally appeared in open court before the judges aforesaid being a court of record because made so by the Constitution and Laws of the State having by law a Clerk and Seal now sitting James Seely a resident of Southport in the County of Tioga and State aforesaid aged seventy-two years the ninth day of July last 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 enlisted in the month of July 1776 for one year under Captain Thomas Moffatt but when he started on his march to New York his Captain was unwell and Lieutenant Joshua Brown took the command of the company—he was under the general command of Col. Isaac Nichols who then lived in Goshen, Orange County—he was marched to the City of New York where Genl Sullivan and Lord Sterling commanded the American Forces—The country through which he passed during this term of service was at the City of New York and its vicinity and along up the North River—he was in the battles of Kingsbridge and White Plains and was at Fort Washington, which was under the command of Col. Mass[?] when it was surrendered to the British last in the fall, he served out the term and was regularly discharged—soon after the expiration of this term he volunteered to go against the Indians and Tories on the frontier of Orange County and upon the Delaware River and especially in that region called the Minisink Country—he turned out for no definite period, but for as long as circumstances might require—he cannot designate any particular officer or company to which he was attached as he was at times under different officers and attached to different companies—he understood that their orders issued mainly from Col. Jacob Stroud—That the general nature of his service was garrison duty scouting parties, watching the Tories [?] out the Indians by occasionally pursuing their trail—he was in many skirmishes and one or two [?] brushes with the Indians. In this way he continued and in this kind of service for upwards of two years and was not finally dismissed till in 1780.

He has no documentary evidence of his services—neither does he know of any person except Silas Hall whose testimony he can procure who can testify to them.

And to the several interrogatories put by the court to him he says that he was born in the town of Oxford in the County of Orange and State of New York on the ninth day of July in the year 1760—that he has a kind of memorandum or family record of his age somewhere in his possession from which and

his full recollection of it as handed him by his parents he verily believes his age to be as stated—that when he entered the service he lived at a place called Smith's Clove in the County of Orange aforesaid—that after the close of the Revolutionary War he lived several places in Sussex County New Jersey from which place he moved to the Town of Elmira, now Southport upon the waters of Seely [cove?] where he has lived upward of forty two years—that in all his service he was a volunteer that he knew Gen. Sullivan, Gen Clinton and Col. Stroud—that he never received any other discharge than a verbal dismissal.

That he would refer to his honor the first Judge of the Court, his father Capt. William Baldwin and Thomas Maxwell, Esquire of Elmira to Caleb Beker Esquire, Col. Solomon L. Smith, Doct Agates White and William Jenkins Esqr of Southport as persons acquainted with his reputation for truth and veracity and their belief in the truth of the foregoing declaration—he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. (Signed) James Seely

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid. Green M. Tuthill, Clk.

Letter dated August 10, 1939, written in reply to a request for information.

Reference is made to your letter in which you request the Revolutionary War record of James Seely, who was a pensioner of Tioga County, New York, in 1832.

The data which follow were obtained from the papers on file in pension claim, S. 11366, based upon service of James Seely in the Revolutionary War.

James Seely was born July 9, 1760 in Oxford, Orange County, New York; the names of his parents were not given.

While residing in Smith's Clove, Orange County, New York, he enlisted sometime in July 1776, and served one year as private in Captain Thomas Moffat's company, Colonel Isaac Nicoll's New York regiment, during which he was in the battle of White Plains, the surrender of Fort Washington and in the battle of King's Bridge. He enlisted sometime in August 1777, served on different tours until September 1780, amounting in all to one year and six months, with the troops under command of Colonel Jacob Stroud; during the period of this service, he was engaged against the Indians in the Minisink Country, also against the Tories, and was in frequent skirmishes.

After the close of the Revolutionary War, the soldier resided for several years in Sussex County, New Jersey, after which he moved to Elmira (called later Southport), Tioga County, New York.

James Seely was allowed pension on his application executed September 4, 1832, at which time he resided in Southport, Tioga County, New York; he had resided there forty-two years. He made no reference to wife or children.