

Pension Application for Ezra Swain

S.23016

State of New York

County of Washington SS.

On this 4th day of December 1832 personally appeared in open court before us the Judges of the Court Washington County Common Pleas now sitting Ezra Swain a resident of the Town of Fort Ann in the County of Washington and State of New York aged seventy years the 29th day of May last who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain he 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 while he lived in the town of Fort Edward and in the month of April A.D. 1779 he entered the service as a substitute for Charles Robinson in the New York State Troops under the command of Captain Chipman, Lieut Moulton and Ensign McClorey in Col. Warner's Regimen, Hopkins was the Major of said Reg. for eight months and he was stationed in the Fort at Fort Edward and was employed [employed] in doing Garrison duty and sent out in scouting parties to [?] Patten Skeenborough and lake George, South Bay on Lake Champlains and Palmertown where then was a black house with about one hundred men does not remember the name of the officer commanding then at one time he was sent with others to [?] Patten to destroy the canoes or water crafts in the North River which belonged to the Tories and the enemy that lived there he with the party sent did go and cut to pieces all the water crafts then there were of every description that there were some small skirmishing during the summer and he remained in the service until in the month of November and was discharged by parole and he served and performed his duty as a private soldier eight months—

And this declarant further states that Col. Warner was a part of his time at Fort George about 12 miles and in his absence Capt. Chapman commanded the garrison—That the militia from different posts frequently came there—and remember that Col. Gansevoort's Reg was at one time there and remained there several days who were called Green Mountain Boys with the Green Sprig in their hats but he cannot remember the officer commanding those other companies or troops that were there occasionally.

And this declarant further states that while he lived in Fort Edward aforesaid and in the month of June A.D. 1781, he with Daniel [Lulye?] was by a party of forty in numbers Tories clad in the Indian habits taken prisoner and taken to the summit of Fort Edward till when Ephriam Crocker & his brothers Thomas Dunker, Henry Bitely, John Bitely, Silas Bristol, Elijah Dunham and one more also brought prisoners of war by another party of Tories and he with all the rest were prisoned with ropes and fastened together one before the other and driven through the woods to the east side of Lake George and there was taken in boats and went to the 14 mile Island and encamped [encamped] for the night and the next day went down the Lake to Ticonderoga and into Lake Champlain and down the lake in boats to Grand Island and on Dutchmen's Point where they remained a few days and was taken to St. John's and imprisoned in the Fort after being put in I was from there was drove to Montreal barefoot at the point of the Bayonet and again imprisoned and he was conveyed from one prison to another and he remained there in Canada until the first of August A.D. 1782 when having an opportunity he with two others ran from and left them and came through the wood to on the West Side of Lake Champlain to Ticonderoga when they found an old boat and crossed the Lake to Mount Independence, he then hail a boat sailing to WhiteHall and went on board once to WhiteHall from thence to Fort Edward home was gone fourteen months and suffered many privations and cruel treatment—That he resided in Fort Edward until the year of 1784. He then moved to the town of Kingsbury where he resided until in the year 1800 he then moved to Fort Ann when he now lives and has lived ever since.

1st That he was born in the Nine Partners Dutchess County State of New York on the 29th of May in the year of 1762.

2nd That there is no record of his age to his knowledge.

3rd That when he entered the service he lived in the Town of Fort Edward aforesaid and since the Revolutionary War he has lived in Fort Edward, Kingsbury and Fort Ann.

4th That he entered the service as a substitute for Charles Robinson.

5th That the names of the officers and regiment he cannot more distinctly remembers than is mentioned in the body of his declaration.

6th That he never received a written discharge.

7th That there is no clergyman in the neighborhood where he resides and that he is known in his present neighborhood to John Hadlock, William Brown and many others who can testify to his character for truth and veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution.

That he has no documentary evidence and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service other than those whose affidavits are hereto annexed.

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 or Territory. (Signed) Ezra Swain

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid J. S. Leigh Clk.