

Pension Application for John Sweet

S.14631

State of New York

Chenango County SS.

On this ninth day of October A.D. 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Court of Common Pleas of said County & now sitting, Present:

Jno. Tracy

Nathan Taylor

Levi Bigelsey

Hezekial Reed

Charles York. Judges.

John Sweet a resident of Otselic, Chenango County NY, aged about seventy 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 7, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States, under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

1st In the month of July, in the year (he cannot name the year, but it was before Burgoyne was taken) he enlisted at Beekmantown Dutchess County, N.Y. for five months in the New York Troops in a company of Militia commanded by Captains Rosecrans, Lieutenants Lee & Algood, Holmes was the Colonel of his Regiment. In a few days after enlistment he marched with his company to Poughkeepsie and took shipping for Albany. They lay at Albany a few days -- when the main part of the Regiment marched on to the North and he with his company was stationed to work on the road to make [?] roads for baggage wagons—He marched with his company through Stillwater & Halfmoon, where they remained during the summer and fall with his company—at Stillwater he was stationed at [Eussigns?] During the season, they worked the roads &c. A short time before his time was out he was taken sick and was placed in the hospital at Albany a little time when Captain Rosecrans gave him a written discharge, which he has lost.

John Sweet, Orderly Sergeant of the company and Amos Sweet were in the same company with him and served with him—Amos was discharged with him—He was discharged in the fall at Albany, a little time before his 5 months had expired and immediately went home to his friends at Beekmantown. He was out on this trip between 4 and 5 months.

2nd In the next year, in the forepart of the year he enlisted at Dover, Dutchess County N.Y. for 5 months into the New York Troops in a company of Militia commanded by William Pierce Captain; Jonathan Elliott Lieutenant; the regiment under Colonel Swartwout, and the whole under the command of General Clinton. Almost immediately after he enlisted he joined his company and marched to White Plains with the Regiment General Washington lay with the army at White Plains a part of the time—He served the greatest part of the time at White Plains standing guard and remaining in readiness for battle. A short time before his discharge his regiment removed from White Plains to Peekskill, where he lay till he was discharged, which was early in the fall, as he thinks, but can't remember the precise time. He was discharged by Col. Swartwout who gave him a written discharge which he has lost. Sam'l Woodward & Ephraim Woodward were in the same Company with him during this term of service after his discharge, he went home to Beekmantown.

3rd In the next summer after (he thinks) he enlisted at Beekmantown, into the New York Troops for four months in a company of Militia commanded by Capt. Israel Veal; Swartwout was the Colonel of the Regiment, after his enlistment he marched with the company to Fort Constitution on the North River, where, his company lay with three other companies under the command of Captains Wyncoop, Captain Hill, and Captain Chamblin—they lay there in the Fort until the four months had expired which, he thinks, was sometime in October when he was discharged—He had no written discharge.

Nathan Sweet, Robert Sweet, & Vaeger Denny were in the same company with him during this tour—Vaeger Denny lay in the same [?] with him in the fort. After his discharge he went home to Beekmantown again.

4th About the first of January following he enlisted at Beekmantown for four months in the New York Troops in a company commanded by Captain William Clark—Lieutenant Benjamin Knox & Tyne Cornell—Swartwout was Colonel of the Regiment and General Clinton had command of the Brigade. He marched with his company to New York where he was stationed in Broadway Street in a Brick House—His business as to stand guard nights and to prevent the British from landing—The British Vessel that lay there were the Asia—The Phoenix—The Rose and the Dutchess of [Gordon?]. The British did not land—His time was out in the month of April and he was discharged at New York by his officers.

John Sweet his cousin was an Orderly Sergeant in the same company. Mat Carey and George Kittredge were also in the same company.—He returned to Beekmantown after his discharge.

5th In sometime after this but can't remember the precise time, he enlisted at Beekmantown NY in the New York Militia for five months in a company whose officers he cannot recollect. Swartwout was Colonel of his Regiment – he marched after enlistment down to Kingsbridge where he lay until his time had expired and was discharged verbally by his officers in October he things. He was engaged in no fight during that time—his business was to stand sentry &c General Clinton & General Putnam were with the troops at Kingsbridge.

After this bit the time he does not know, he was in Rhode Island and enlisted for a month a company—he don't remember the names of the officers—He was engaged at Warwick Neck, guarding the shore to keep the British barges from landing.

He has no documentary evidence of his services except the accompanying affidavit of William Yarrington, and knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service except the said William Barrington.

In answer to the interrogatories prescribed by the War Department to be put to applicants for pension he states as follows, viz:

1. He was born in Kingston, Rhode Island in the month of June (as he has understood) but the year he does not know. As he has always understood, he must be now 78 or 79 years of age. He was called 22 or 23 years of age when he first entered the service. His father died during the old French War of the Camp distemper, when he was very young.
2. Has no record of his age.
3. He lived at Dutchess County in Beekmantown each time he entered the service except when in Rhode Island. Since the war he has lived in Dutchess County until about twenty years ago when he removed into Smyrna Chenango County and from there he removed into the town adjoining, Otselic Chenango County where he now resides.
4. He volunteered each time he entered the service.
5. He knew General Lee in New York City and he knew General Putnam and General Clinton, Don't' recollect any regiments that he served with. This question is answered as fully in the body of the declaration as he can answer it.
6. His discharges are all lost.
7. He gives the names of Elder Comfort Record of Smyrna –Elder Nathan Card, Harvey Talcott of Smyrna, Pease Stokes, Captain Cooley of Otselic as men living in his present neighbourhood to whom he is known and who can testify to his veracity and to their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution

He further states that he is a man of no learning and cannot read or write. His memory is not so perfect that he can remember dates, and in the foregoing declaration he may have confounded dates and circumstances—but as to the different length of time for which he enlisted and served he is confident he is not mistaken.

He states that he cannot without too great inconvenience to himself and expense produce his clergyman and witness in open Court as he is a very poor man.

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 with his mark) John Sweet.

Sworn & subscribed the day and year aforesaid, J. K. Pike, Clk