

## **Pension Application for Daniel Woolsey**

R.11856

Declaration. In order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

State of New York

County of Madison SS

On this [blank] day of [blank] AD 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Judges of the Court of [blank] in and for the County of Madison aforesaid now sitting Daniel Woolsey a resident of the town of Fenmore in the County of Madison & State of New York, aged between Seventy six and seventy seven 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<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That he was born in November 1755 in a town then called Marlborough on the West side of the Hudson River a few miles above Newberg where he resided till he was about seventeen years old when, his father moved to Armenia in the County of Dutchess State of New York.

That in the Spring of 1778 as near as he can recollect,—he entered the service of the United States, by enlisting as a volunteer under Captain Melacton Smith (who was afterwards Major or the City of New York)

That such enlistment was for nine months-& that he served out his time fully—At the time he enlisted & for sometime after his company's rendezvous was at Pleasant Valley in Dutchess County & during the whole nine months either at Pleasant Valley or Fishkill a few miles distant.

During that time, great inconvenience was experienced by the Tories that vicinity carrying information to the British Army & forcibly opposing & dispersing the Committee of Safety (as he believes it was called)- The committee that formed the Committee that formed the local government in the American cause.

On one night the Tories surrounded the house where the Committee met for business & fired into the house.

The declarants Company or a part of it & among them the declarant was called out to protect the Committee. They marched to the house, about ten miles—took some of the tories who were surrounding the house, prisoners & dispersed the rest—a messmate of his shot one of the tories, who refused to surrender himself & was making his escape. The man who shot him was Aaron Lyons. The company were very frequently called out to put down the Tories.

When the nine months for which he enlisted had expired, Capt Smith agave him a written discharge—but he lost it a great many years ago—never thought it of any consequence.

Soon after his discharge by Capt Smith (does not recollect precisely how long, he enlisted, under one Captaint [Captain] Swark as a volunteer and served a year & four or five months.

Does not recollect the names of any of his company officers—except the Captain & does not know to what Regiment his company belonged—Immediately after his

enlistment under Capt Swart his company marched to Fort Constitution oposite [opposite] West Point & were employed there as a guard && on West Point—in its vicinity building Fort Putnam. During most of his term of service when Fort Montgomery [Montgomery] was taken by the British his company started to relive it but immediately after they started, an express met them & informed them the Fort was lost.

The company were ordered by Governor George Clinton to march immediately to Esopus to prevent the British from burning that town. They marched through the great marsh & through the mountain in the night to Fishkill—crossed over to near Newburg & marched up the west side of the Hudson River to Esopus. The village had been burnt the day before they arrived. They there joined by Governor Clinton—On their way up to Esopus a little above Newburg the detachment came in with a British Spy who was from Burgoyne's army from Gen Clinton and the declarant, stood guard over him two or three nights & at different times by day after they had been at Esopus some days. The spy was condemned by a Court Martial & hung upon an Apple Tree—which was done by putting him upon a hogshead under this tree & after the Rope was made fast about his neck, the Hogshead was called away.

The declarant cannot recollect date but recollects the circumstances distinctly Governor Clinton had command at Esopus. Does not recollect the names of any officers in other companies with whom he served.

After they left Esopus & marched down the river again they were several days secreted among the rock, shooting at the British as they came up the river. Soon after returning to Fishkill, the declarant was discharged – but never had any written Discharge—does not know the reason he did not have such written discharge. He served out his full time of enlistment.

He resided at both times when he entered the service in the town of Armenia County of Dutchess & State of New York – was a volunteer in both cases.

The declarant has no documentary evidence of his services & knows of no living person by whom he can prove them.

He has his father's family Records, showing his age which he produces here in Court.

Shortly after Burgoyne was taken he moved to Niskayun in Schenectady County State of New York—lived there about ten years moved to Delaware County NY & lived in the Towns of Stamford & Andes in said County till March or April 1831—moved into the town of Onondaga in Onondaga County State of New York remained there till July 1831, moved to Fenner in Madison county State of New York where ne now resides.

The declarant is known in his present neighbourhood, to Arnold Ballon Esq, David Baldwin, David Hutchinson, Benjamin Woodworth, Doct Daniel Pratt and all his neighbours can attest, to his veracity & their belief of his having been a Revolutionary Soldier. (Signed) Daniel Woolsey

Sworn & subscribed the day & year aforesaid in Court. A. S. Sloan, Clk

Letter in folder dated April 18, 1938, written in response to an inquiry.

Reference is made to your request for information relative to Daniel Woolsey of New Paltz, New York, who served in the Revolutionary War.

The data which follow were obtained from papers on file in the pension claim, R.11856, based on the military service of the only Daniel Woolsey that is found in the Revolutionary War records of this office.

Daniel Woolsey was born in November, 1756, in Marlborough on the west side of the Hudson River, a few miles above Newburgh, and lived there until he was about seventeen years of age when his father moved to Armenia, Dutchess County, New York. The names of his parents were not given.

Shortly after the capture of Burgoyne, Daniel Woolsey married to Niskayuna, Schenectady County, New York, and about ten years later he moved to Delaware County, New York, and lived in Stamford and Andes until March or April, 1831, when he moved to Onondaga County, New York, and in July, 1831, he moved to Fenner, Madison County, New York.

He applied for pension October 9, 1832, while living in Fenner, New York. He alleged that while living in Armenia, New York, he enlisted in the spring of 1775 or about 1776 and served nine months in Captain Melancton Smith's company in Colonel Southerland's regiment of New York rangers and was frequently called out to quell the Tories; that from December, 1776, he served three months with the New York troops under Captain Southerland; that about 1781 he enlisted and served one year and four or five months under Captain Swart and Miller in Colonel Robert Livingston's New York Regiment. The claim was not allowed as he failed to furnish proof of the alleged service, in accordance with the requirement of the pension law.

Daniel Woolsey moved to Harpersfield, Ashtabula County, Ohio, about 1834.

In 1841 one Henry Woolsey who was born June 13, 1767, was living in Willoughby, Lake County, Ohio, relationship to soldier not given. Reference was made to the soldier's mother, sister and brother, but their names were not given. There are no further data relative to the family of Daniel Woolsey.