

Pension Application for Caleb Barton

W. 15565 (Widow: Elizabeth) Married December 16, 1787. He died May 1836.
Declaration, in order to secure the benefit the Act of Congress, passed June 7, 1832.
Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
County of Worcester SS.

On this sixth day of September in the year of our Lord, eighteen hundred and thirty Two personally appeared in open Court, before Nathl Paine, Judge of Probate for County of Worcester now sitting Caleb Barton a resident of Leicester in the County of Worcester and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, aged seventy six 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 entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

That in the year 1774 in the month of Sept he left the town of Oxford in Massachusetts where his father resided and went to the town of Union in the state of Connecticut, then in the month of December he associated himself with about 35 or forty others who elected Samuel Marey for their Capt. And formed themselves into a minute company, and held themselves in readiness to march at the shortest notice, and on the 20th day of April 1775 about 4 oclock in the morning news came of the Battle at Lexington, and about 8 oclock of the same day we marched for Cambridge and the next day reached Cambridge and there performed military duty twenty days, and then returned home and there found enlisting orders, and about the 16th of May he enlisted into the State troops for 5th term of eight months to go to Cambridge under the command of Capt. Obidiah Waterman of Canterbury & Lieut Thomas Grovener of Pomfret & James Sprague of Union Ensign and on or about the 19th they march'd on Cambridge and there joined Col. Putmans Regiment from Connecticut and was stationed at Cambridge the whole term of their inlistment the names of our Chaptain [Captain] was Rev'd Mr. Leonard, on the 16th of June he volunteered with about 20 others under the command of Lieut Grovener to go to Charleston and in the disk of the evening they marched on to Bunker Hill & here they joined the the troops and spent the night in erecting a fort and on the next morning he was engage in the memorable Battle of Bunker hill of the number which marched on the hill with him, one half was killed, and wounded.

1776. He gives the following names of the Col. Belonging to other Regiments station'd at Cambridge. Col Ward of Shrewsbury Mass, Col Brown from Mass, he thinks Col Whitcomb & Col Garish no matter where from he was a coward and does not come on to the hill but hid himself behind a cock of hay.

The declarant further states that in 1776 in the month of June he enlisted to join the Continental army & march'd about the 20th of the same month under the same month under the command of Capt Reuben Marcy of Ashford Connecticut Lieut Samuel Marcy and Ensign Knowlton;--and marched from Union through Stafford Tolland East Hartford & to New Haven and then by water to New York City, then he joined Col Chester Regiment and was stationed in the City about three weeks. That whilst they were there

part of the Regiment was detached to go on to long Island [Long Island] and soon after that he volunteered with about thirty others under the command of Lieut Marcy and went on to the Island and the same night he went on Picket guard with Lieut Marcy, the next morning about the break of day they were attacked by the British dragoons when the Battle began at flat Bush [Flatbush] and our troops were under the command of Gen. Sullivan and he was defeated with great loss of men and was taken prisoner at the same time. Col Huntingtons Regiment were all killed, wounded or taken prisoners but sixty or seventy he thinks, and Col. Smallwoods Regiment suffered extreme loss on the night of the 29th of August they left the Island & crossed over to New York City stayed there a few days then removed to [Turtle?] Bay in a few days two British troops of war sailed up the east sound against our encampment and they expected the British would land their troops under the cover they left the Island & crossed over to New York City stay'd there a few days then removed to Turtle Bay in a few days two British troops of war sail'd up the east Sound against our encampment and they expected the British would land their troops under the cover of their canon and they sprung up an entrenchment in the night when forty of their brigade lay to prevent the British landing in that place, but they land'd above them a place called Harlam heights in the night undiscovered by the Americans, and a severe action begun on the last of our own brigade and in a short time a retreat was ordered from Gen Wardsworth for every man to take care of himself and God for us all, and then rode off & left us to take care of ourselves & the only way to make an escape was to break through the ranks of the enemy which they did with the loss of many lives and taken prisoners among the prisoners taken Lieut Col. Molten and son of the Militia, then the Regiment he belong[ed] to retreated off the Island on to Valentine hill and in short time march[ed] from there through East Chester to White Plains and he was in the Battle at White Plains, and two men kill'd with one cannon ball by his side, one of them Benj Langor belonged in the same company with him, quick after the Battle they marched to Millers Patent, there stay'd about a month or longer near as he can recollect after this their Regiment was divided some went to New Jersey and some at different stations guarding stores at different points, he was at Fishkill at the expiration of the enlistment & was not discharg'd with the rest of the company on account of staying back to take care of a sick soldier by the name of Jacob Burly and then he was discharg'd & s'd Burly with him the 15th of January 1777.

And he gives the following names of the Col's belonging to other Regiment while at New York Col. Huntington of Norwich Col. Smallwood of Maryland he thinks Col Knowlton of Ashford Connecticut Continental troops was killed in the retreat out of New York. Col. Smith Col Poor & Col. Graton all of Newhampshire all State troops he thinks.

The declarant further states that in the month of March 1777 he engaged as a substitute for one Squire Derby of Union State of Connecticut who was drafted for two months on a tour of duty to go to Rhodeisland and that bout the fifth of March he marched through killing took Ashford Pomfret to Killingly to Providence and staid there about one week and then marched over a ferry to Warren, and were there stationed in the house of one Carr the ferryman, and the Capt name was Elijah 'Robinson of Stafford.

Timothy Holt, 1st Lieut Noah Dickenson 2d Lieut Ensign Daniel Jewell he thinks, there were no field officers no other company was there. Gen Spencer was there most of the time, & chief recruiting officer; the duty was that of guarding store ammunition &c but no fatiguing duty was performed by the company at the expiration of the term of two months. They were march[ed] back to Providence and there discharged and is confident he served the full term of two months.

The declarant further states that about the fifth of May 1777 he was drafted for two months to go on a tour of duty to New London in Conn. in Capt Solomon Walkers company of Union and Col. Samuel Chapman Regiment and marched about the 7 of May through Weston Ashford Mansfield Windham Plainfield Mehegan &c to New London where we joined the rest of Colo Chapman Regiment on their arrival he was chose a Sargent in said Company and performed that until until his time of service expired. The first duty he performed he was sent with a corporal & 18 men to guard a number of beef cattle which were kept at New London (great neck, so called) about 6 miles distant; the duty of his guard was to guard the beef cattle & other stores. The duty performed by the Regiment was repairing the for guarding stores, &c &c

And at the expiration of term of two months he was discharged when he returned to the town of Union and in the month of May he removed to the town of Linster County of Worcester Commonwealth of Mass where he has resided ever since to the present time.

He further states that he was born in Oxford in the County aforesaid in the year 1756 on the 17th day of December and is now this day 76 years 8 months & 19 day on September 5th 1832.

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) Caleb Barton

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid before Nath'l Paine Judge of Probate for the County of Worester.