

Pension Application for James Bothel

W.21691 -- James Boughhell and Mary Wilson were married May 31, 1779, both residents of Oakham. James died November 20, 1841.

State of New York

Washington County SS.

On this twelfth day of September 1832 personally appeared before John Moss one of the Judges of the County Courts in & for said County of Washington James Bothel a resident of the Town of Granville in the County of Washington and State of New York aged seventy three years and upwards who by reason of bodily infirmity is unable to appear in open court to make his declaration for a pension 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.

That while living at Oakham in the County of Woodstock in the State of Massachusetts in the last of May or first of June 1776 he enlisted or volunteered for the term of six months he believes in a company commanded by Capt. Daniel Warner, Lieut. Samuel Warner and Ensign Densmore, the Regiment he has forgotten but remembers Major Sears was the Major, that he so enlisted or volunteered at New Braintree adjoining the town of his residence in the State troops he supposes does not remember what brigade but thinks it was General Fellows that he marched to Brookfield and passed muster and from thence marched on for New York through Hartford and New Haven in Connecticut and then went on board of Sloop and sailed to New York, staid there a few weeks and then removed about four miles from the city towards Kingsbridge into barracks, and after staying there a few weeks, marched to Harlaem Heights and after a short stay went to White Plains and was in the battle at that place and after the battle went to Crotons bridge where he staid until the British went into winter quarters at New York and his company and the regiment he believes were there disbanded and dismissed about the first of December of the year last aforesaid.

That in this campaign he knew Col. Nixon's Regiment and General Nixon's Brigade of the Continental army he believes, that he believes he served on this occasion six months.

And he further states that while he lived at Oakham aforesaid in the forepart of April in the year 1777 he enlisted or volunteered in the State troops he supposes at Braintree adjoining Oakham for the term of three months in Captain Hodge's Company Lieutenant Kinnecum & Ensign Hodge to go to Rhode Island to guard the shores, there was no regiment formed as he knows of the troops were stationed along the shore a great distance and several miles apart. That they marched to Wooster Massachusetts to pass muster from thence to Providence Rhode Island where they staid a short time then to a place called Oblax Newtown about twenty or thirty miles from Providence where they continued until the expiration of his term when they were dismissed in the month of July having performed three months service. That the Regiment if there was one never came together during this period to his knowledge and don't know the Col. or other regimental or company officers except his own.

And he further states that the latter part of August 1777 just after the Battle of Bennington he remembers, he again enlisted or volunteered in the Massachusetts State troops he supposes at Braintree in Massachusetts aforesaid for the term of three months in Capt. John Craford's company, Lieutenant Warner the ensign was sick as understood and did not join them in Col. Cushings Regiment Major Rann & Major Bowman, they had no Lieut. Col. in in [sic] General Warner's Brigade of Hardwick Massachusetts that they marched to Bennington from there to Manchester in Vermont and from thence after some stay at Manchester to Stillwater near Bemus' Heights and followed Gen. Burgoyne up the River Hudson after the Battles was present at his surrender saw the troops march out as prisoners without their arms after which he was marched to Albany and after about a week to Catskill and from thence near Esopus where they went on board a Pettinger and went to Tarrytown and then march[ed]

to White Plains where he continued two or three weeks or more and he remembers two days before his time was out they heard a firing towards Kingsbridge they were marched there to reinforce the troops but the British were beat back over the bridge before their arrival there, they were then marched back to White Plains where he with his company were disbanded the latter part of November of the year aforesaid after he had served three months in this campaign he remember at Saratoga a Col. Nixon & General Nixon of the Continental Army he believes and that he was near Genl Nixon the next morning after the last main battle with Burgoyne his horse was killed under him by a cannon shot from the British also remember Gen. Glover then Col. Morgan's Riflemen & Col. Jackson's Regiment and Genl Patterson's Brigade all being at Saratoga at the taking of Burgoyne.

That a year or two after the surrender of Burgoyne he removed from Massachusetts to Salem in the County of Washington & State of New York and lived there during the remained of the period of the war that he was while there frequently called on and went out on alarms which were frequent by reason of tories plundering the inhabitants and taking some prisoners and carrying them off on these occasions he remained out four [for] two to three and more days and sometimes weeks at a time and in the whole term of the remainder of the period of the war he spent as much as three months of time—and one occasion he remembers there was an alarm of tories have gone to Arlington in Vermont and was on the retreat over the mountains and many scouts turned out and seventeen tories were taken a few miles east of Salem—at the close of the war Doctor Williams of Salem informed him he had got tickets for him for three months services as a scout which he sold to the Doctor at a discount and took his pay of him in goods.

That he has no documentary evidence never having received a written discharge and he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure to testify to his service.

To the questions prescribed by the War Department he answers:

1. That he was born in the Town of Oakham in the County of Worcester in the State of Massachusetts on the 3rd September 1758.
2. That he has a record of his age in his Bible at home.
3. That when he entered the service he lived at Oakham aforesaid and after the taking of Burgoyne removed to Salem and continued there until after the war and from thence removed to Granville his present residence about 36 or 37 years ago where he has ever since resided.
4. That he always volunteered was never drafted, and did not serve as substitute for any person.
5. That he cannot state the officers & regiment more fully than he has done in the body of his declaration above.
6. That he never received a written discharge from the army.
7. That he is known by the following persons who can testify to his character for truth & veracity to wit: Nehemiah Hulet, Andrew Hawk, Asa Northrum Esq, Noah Day & many others.

That he is entirely helpless unable to get in or out of bed or to raise out of a chair or dress or undress himself without help, and is without property and therefore unable to attend Court.

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 whatever. (Signed with his mark) James Bothel

Sworn & subscribed the day and year aforesaid before me. John Moss.