

Pension Application for John Brewer

W.1706 (Widow: Mary)
State of New York
County of Chenango SS.
Sixth Circuit Court District

On this 13th day of August 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Hon. Robert Monell Vice Chancellor of the Sixth District Court of the State of New York at a Court of Chancery held in said District said Court now sitting, John Brewer a resident of Plymouth in the County of Chenango and State of New York aged 70 years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on her 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.

1st on or about the first of February 1777 he volunteered in a Militia company commanded by Captain Silas Gray in Colonel VanVechtens Regiment at Saratoga in the State of New York & continued in said company until the first of January 1778 when he was discharged at Saratoga aforesaid during this period he was employed in scouting to the northward of & in fortifying at Saratoga until the approach of General Burgoyne's Army was at Saratoga during the siege of & at the surrender of Burgoyne after this event until the time of his discharge he was employed as before & that he received a written discharge from Capt. Gray.

2d That on or about the first of March 1781 he enlisted at Saratoga aforesaid in Captain Wrights Company in Colonel Marinus Willet's Regiment of the New York Line for three years & served in said Regiment until the time of its discharge which according to the best of his recollection was the last of May or first of June 1782 at Schenectada in the State of New York, that while in this service he went north to Fort Edward, Fort Ann, Wood Creek, Fort George & Schroon Lake, that he was in one skirmish near Fort George, that in the fall he went west to Forts Plain & Herkimer & continued there through the winter in the spring returned to Schenectada and was there discharged received a written discharge received a written discharge from Capt. Wright.

That in addition to the above mentioned periods he was during the Revolutionary War frequently out in alarms in the Militia once six weeks & others less but cannot detail them particularly.

That he has no documentary evidence, his house having been burnt about 13 years since and his discharges burnt in it.

That he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services except Seth Rowley who as his Sergeant while in Colonel Willet's Regiment & whose affidavit will accompany this declaration.

That he was born at Colabarack Westchester County State of New York in the year 1762 & is now 70 years of age. That he has no record of his age.

That he was living at Saratoga State of New York when called into service & during the whole Revolutionary War & until the year 1790 removed to Cambridge Washington County State of New York & lived there until the year 1808. He then removed to Plymouth Chenango County where he has since resided and where he now resides.

He hereby states the names of the following persons living in his neighbourhood to whom he is known & who can testify to his character & belief of his services Viz Silas Holmes Esqr, Robert Colwell & Col. William Munroe.

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) John Brewer

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid. Robt Monell Vice Chancellor

The following questions now propounded by the court to the applicant.

First where and in what year were you born.

Ans. He was born in the year 1762 in the month of August at the town of Colabarack in the County of WestChester and State of New York.

2d Have you any record of your age.

Ans. Has no record of his age nor never had.

3d There were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the Revolutionary War, and where do you now live.

Ans. Was living at Saratoga all the times he was called into service, and has since the Revolution lived in the Town of Cambridge Washington and State of New York and then moved into the Town of Plymouth in the County of Chenango where he now lives and has lived for twenty four years.

4th How were you called into service were you drafted did you volunteer or were you a substitute and is a substitute for whom.

Ans. Volunteered in Captain Gray's Company and enlisted for one year and then enlisted for three years.

Fifth. State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you were called into service such Continental and Militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your services.

Ans. That he knew General Gansevoort, and General Schuyler, and Col. Willet and Col. VanVectan, Col. Van Cortland, Col. VanSchaack, who were with the troops where he served, does not recollect of any Continental Troops except there under the command of Gen. Sullivan & St. Clair, recollects that there was a regiment commanded by Col. VanVoort a Militia Regiment the general circumstances of my services are recollected only as stated in my declaration.

Sixth Did you ever receive discharges and if so what has become of it.

Ans. That he did receive a discharge from Captain Silas Gray for the years services, and that when I was discharged at the close of the war in my three years tour. I received a discharge from Captain John Wright and has lost them both by his name having been burnt and that they were burnt at that time.

Seventh. State the names of some of the persons in your neighbourhood who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the revolution.

Ans. Col. William Munroe, Silas Holmes Esq, Robert Callwell of Plymouth, Percy Randall of Norwich General Thomson Mead & Col. John Randall of the same place.

We Col. William Munroe and Samuel Prentice of the town of Plymouth in the County of Chenango and State of New York and residing in the same place and Thomas Hadlock of Norwich same county (hereby certify that we are well acquainted with John Brewer who has signed and subscribed and sworn to the above declaration and that we believe him to be seventy years of age and that we believe him to be seventy years of age and that he is reputed and believed in the neighbourhood where he resides to have been a soldier of the Revolutionary War and that we concur in that opinion. (Signed) Wm.Monroe.

Sworn & subscribed the day and year aforesaid, Robt. Morell, Vice Chancellor

Letter dated July 31, 1911, written in reply to an inquiry.

In reply to your letter dated the 21st and received the 24th instant, you are advised that from the papers in the claim, Wid. File No. 1706, it appears that John Brewer was allowed pension on his application executed August 13, 1832, while a resident of Plymouth, Chenango County, New York.

He was born at Colabarack, West Chester County, New York, August 23, 1764, and resided at Saratoga, New York, when he enlisted February 1, 1777, as a Private in captain Silas Gray's company, Colonel VanBechten's New York regiment, was at the siege of Saratoga and surrender of Burgoyne, and served until January 1, 1778.

Between 1778 and 1781, he was called out on various alarms under Captains Sherwood, Ephriam Woodworth, Cornelius Baldwin, Peter VanVoort, Hezekiah Durham and Washburn.

Enlisted May 1, 1781, and served under Captains Holt Dunham, Silas Gray and Job Wright, and Colonel Marinus Willett, until June 1, 1782, when he was discharged at Schenectady, New York.

His brothers Henry and Jacob, and father Henry Brewer, all deceased prior to 1822, engaged in the same service.

It is also stated that John Brewer, was called out about September 1, 1812, served three months as a private under Lieut. Colonel Thompson in the 17th regiment New York Militia in the War of 1812.

Soldier married in 1784, Mary ----, born June 27, 1766; he died November 29, 1846, and she was allowed pension on her application executed March 15, 1850, while a president of Plymouth aforesaid. The date of her death is not shown.

Their children were:

Jacob T. born September 2, 1784.

Joseph D. born April 24, 1786.

Henry born December 2, 1787.

David born October 20, 1790.

Joel F. born September 7, 1791.

Nancy born June 16, 1798.

James W. born February 19, 1795.

John, Jr. born February 22, 1797.

Zara born February 19, 1799.

Jesse L. born January 19, 1800.

Peter P. born June 13, 1803.

Merit born April 6, 1805.

Esther born June 18, 1807.

Polly born October 7, 1808.

Olive born November 18, 1811.