

Pension Application for Asher Ford

W.7296 (Widow: Jane)

B.L.Wt.17725-160-55

State of New York

Warren County. SS.

On this tenth day of September in the year aforesaid 1833 personally appeared in Court before the Hon. Seth C. Baldwin, First Judge and Hiram Barber, Thomas Pattison and Freeman B. Hicks Esquires Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of the said County of Warren & State aforesaid, which said Court is now sitting. Asher Ford a resident of the town of Queensbury in the said County of Warren aged seventy one 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.

And the said Asher Ford saith that he was born in Armenia Precincts in the County of Dutchess in the State of New York on the twenty third day of November in the year of our Lord 1761, that he entered into service during the Revolutionary War under the following named officers and served during said war as is hereinafter stated.

And the said Asher Ford further saith—In the month of July 1776 I lived in what was then called Oblong in the said County of Dutchess about four miles east of Armenia where I was born, and in the said month of July 1776 I enlisted for five months as a Fifer in the New York State Troops in Colonel Morris Grahams Regiment, Captain Elisha Barlow's Company, in which Ebenezer Carter was First Lieutenant—Britton Prime was another Captain in the same Regiment.

Our Regiment joined at Fishkill in the said County of Dutchess and marched from there to Peekskill and from there we marched to Kings Bridge in Westchester County where we built two rows of Barracks—While we were there, a report came that the British were entering the eBay of New York, and the whole Regiment marched down to the City of New York, but on arriving there, we found that the report was false and so returned to Kingsbridge.—From Kingsbridge we marched to White Plains and had an engagement with the British in the month of October, called the Battle of White Plains—General Heath was the first in command and General George Clinton the second as I think.

We took six field pieces from the British in the engagement. In this battle I received a [?] in my right leg which made it necessary for me to have it amputated some years after—From White Plains all the forces marched to North Castle in a snow storm and there we took the Pews and seats out of the church and used it as a Hospital for our sick and wounded—From North Castle we marched back to Peekskill and built Barracks and there I was discharged on the first day of January 1777—I then received a discharge from Captain Barlow but it has been worn out and lost. Moses Harris of the town of Queensbury aforesaid had a brother who was a private in Captain Pains Company before mentioned during the whole of my five months service and can testify to it, but he has been confined to his bed by sickness for the last year and cannot now appear in Court to testify—I do not know of any other person who can testify to this service.

After I was discharged at Peekskill I returned home to Oblong and a month afterwards I enlisted again as a Fifer for six weeks under Major Britton Paine (who was Captain in my Regiment during my services in 1776) in Captain William Mead Company—There was no Colonel of the Regiment during this service.

I went down to New Rochelle where the regiment joined and there we remained during the whole six weeks guarding the lines—there were frequent skirmishes between our scouts and the enemies but no regular engagement—we took a number of horses and sleighs containing beds, bedding and provisions going to the enemy. I was discharged at New Rochelle at the end of the six weeks in the month of March 1777, and received a discharge from Captain Mead, but it has been worn out and lost. Moses Harris above named was a private in the same company with me in this last service and can testify to it, and he is the only person I know of who can.

After I was discharged at New Rochelle I went home to Oblong, in the same month of March (1777) I went to Easttown in the County of Washington in this state, to reside and during that spring the militia were called out on an alarm that Burgoyne was coming down from the north and I volunteered and went out as a Fifer and carried a gun strung to my back although not obliged to carry anything but a pilot. I was in Colonel Daniel Dickinson's Regiment and Captain VanVoorts company—one Thompson was Major—We went to Fort Edward—Burgoyne was then at Fort George—We remained at Fort Edward a month and over, when one part of the Regiment was discharged but I received no written discharge—I do not know of any person who can testify to this part of my service.

After I was discharged at Fort Edward I returned to Easttown and in June 1777 went to Oblong aforesaid and there I enlisted as a Fifer for Four months in Colonel David Sutherland's Regiment in Captain Roger Sutherlands Company.

The Regiment joined at Fishkill in the month of July and marched to West Point and there we were employed in Building Forts Lee, Putnam and Arnold and in building redoubts on the River Hudson.

Benedict Arnold was in command at West Point. During this four months service Major Andre was taken and Arnold made his escape to the British Ship Vulture lying in the Hudson River a little below West Point—fourteen of our men (of which I was one) crossed the River to overtake Arnold but could not—After Arnold got aboard of the Vulture. She set sail and went down the River—Andre was brought back to West Point—General Washington arrived while Andre was there at the Court Martial was held of which General Green was President, and condemned Andre to be hung—General Washington made sever proposition under a flag, to the British commander at New York (Sen. Henry Clinton or Admiral Howe) to deliver of Andre in Exchange for Arnold—I remained at West Point during the four months service and received a discharge from Captain Sutherland but it has been worn out and lost. Moses Harris above named was with me in this four months service and can testify to it and he is the only person I know of who can.

After I was discharged at West Point I returned to Oblong and remained there until the spring of 1778 and then enlisted for nine months as Fife Major in Colonel

albert Pawling's Regiment (John Benschouten was Major, John Ellsworth Adjutant) in Captain Robert Woods Company of which John McBride was first Lieutenant –

The regiment joined at Esopus in Ulster County in this state and from there we marched to Marbletown two miles below, and from there to Wawassing where the Regiment encamped—Captain Woods Company was detached to go to [Pessackten?] to guard the settlements.

From [Pessocten?] we returned to Wawassing and joined the eRegiment and started for the West to meet General Sullivan—We marched to Tuscarora but General Sullivan had left there from days before we arrived as we learnet [learned] from a paper stuck to a tree, and we returned to Wawassing and from there marched back to Esopus where we got aboard of a sloop and sailed down to Stoney Point and worked on the Fort there repairing it. At Stoney Point I was discharged in the winter of 1779 of (1778).

I received a discharge from Captain Wood but it has been worn out and lost. I do not know of any person who can testify to this part of my service. Colonel Pawling, I believe is now living in the City of Troy in the County of Rensselaer, his mind is impaired and enfeebled by age and he cannot recollect one or swear that I am the identical Asher Ford who served in his regiment. I saw him about eighteen months since and then recounted to him the incidents of this service and from my account he had no doubt that I was with him in the above mentioned nine months service and his Regiment.

I have no means to enable me to go to Troy to see Colonel Pawling or to get his testimony.

After I was discharged at Stoney Point I returned to Oblong and in the month of March 1779 I came up to Eastown aforesaid.

And in the month of April following went to Stillwater in the County of Saratoga in this State and Enlisted in the State Troops for Three years as Orderly Sergeant, in Colonel John McKinstry's Regiment, Captain Job Wright's Company—The Captain enlisted me. Ephraim Fish was Ensign of this company—the Regiment joined at Saratoga—and fro there we marched to Little Britton Southwest of Albany and from there to NewBergh, Orange County, and from there to FishKill where we lay in the Barracks a long time, and from there to Peekskill where we remained some time, and from there to Stoney Point where we remained sometime, and there the Regiment was disbanded two months and one day before the expiration of the three years for which I enlisted—

I received a discharge from Colonel McKinstry and twenty nine years ago I annexed this discharge to a Petition which I presented to the Legislature of this State for a tract of land in the Military Bounty Land—A bill was passed through a second Reading in any form but the Legislature adjoined before the third reading of the bill and it fell through on that account—the discharge has been searched for by the Secretary of State of this State but cannot be found and he states that all the petitions presented to the Legislature are not in his office and that regular files of petitions are not always preserved.

I do not know of any person who can testify to this last service.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a Pension or annuity except the present & declare that my name is not on the Pension Roll of any agency in any state.

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In answer to the Interrogatories proposed in the instructions of the Secretary of War the said Asher Ford further saith.

1. I was born in Amenia Precincts in County of Dutchess in this state on the 23d day of November 1761.
2. I have a record of any age which I snow provided to the court, it is a copy of the church record in Amenia taken by me about twenty years ago.
3. I lived at Amenia before & when I entered the service & for the last twenty years I have lived in the Town of Queensbury aforesaid.
- 4.
- 5.
6. 6. My answers to the Fourth, Fifth & Sixth Interrogatories are stated before in this my Declaration.
7. Hiram Barber Esquire one of the Judges of the court of Common Pleas of this country, Enoch H. Rosekrans, District Attorney and King Allen Deputy Sheriff of said County are person known to me in my present neighborhood who can testify to my character for veracity and their belief of my services as a soldier of the Revolution. There is a clergyman in the vicinity where I live, by the name of Allen Andrews whom I am acquainted with and whom I can produce in Court to testify as above.

(Signed) Asher Ford.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid in open Court. Thomas Archibald Clerk