

Pension Application for Jonathan French

S.8516

The State of Ohio
Licking County SS.

On this 30th day of October AD 1832 personally appeared in open court—before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas within and for the County of Licking and State of Ohio aforesaid Jonathan French resident of Lima Township in said County aged eighty one years on the 22nd day of September last was born in the year 751 State of New Hampshire Township of Dunstable, had his age set down in a small book together with the ages of his children—but that it is lost or destroyed, he does not know where it is, who being first duly sworn doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress of June 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States as a volunteer on the 21st day of May 1775 at Cambridge in the State of New York in a volunteer company for the purpose of going against the enemy & elected for officers Capt. Jas. Wells, 1st Lieut. Edmondson & Ensign John McCleery & marched up the North River to Fort Edward & from thence to Fort George crossed the Lake to Ticonderoga & from thence to Crown Point, thence down to the Isle of Noix from there on over to within seven miles of St. Johns, from thence home again in about six weeks, two weeks after his return home he enlisted in Capt. Joseph McCracken Compy of the 2nd Battallion New York troops (furnished his own gun) for the term of six months was promised clothing & wages but rec'd neither marched up the North River to Fort Edward & from thence to White Hall (then called Scanesborough) thence to Ticonderoga—Crown Point—thence to a place then called the Isle of Nore in Canada there General Montgomery took the command of the troops remained there for some time – when the drums beat up for volunteers to go against St. Johns about 1200 amongst whom was deponent volunteered and went landed at the upper breast work had some skirmishing & returned next morning to the Isle of Nore lay there about a fortnight & then went against St. Johns Lapraire Montreal & Quebec—Deponent states however that he was taken sick & did not himself go farther than St. Johns that he remained at the hospital at Fort Johns that he remained at the Hospital at Fort George about 6 or 7 weeks when his health was sufficiently recovered he rec'd a furlow to go home he was out in this campaign 6 months lacking fifteen days.

Deponent states that about the beginning of the war he signed his name as a member pledging his life fortune &c in the defence of his country, the association paper he was also a member of a company of minute men during the war always holding himself in readiness to march against the enemy at a minutes warning in which capacity he performed various services entirely too tedious to enumerate a great portion of which from his extreme age & infirmity he is not able to give a satisfactory relation.

Deponent states that some time in the year 1778 he thinks (being a member of Captain George Gillmore's Company of Col. VanVotes [sic] Regt of the Militia) he rec'd

a commission as 1st Lieutenant signed by George Clinton Governor of New York in which capacity he served for about one year and a half when Captain Gillmore died of small Pox.

Deponent states that he then rec'd a Captain's commission signed by the same Governor which commission he held during the war. Said commission he has not now in his possession whether he will be able to procure them or not he is unable to say— He sent them on together with a certificate signed by (David French certifying in relation to his services) to the Hon. Wm. Stanbery, Rep. in Congress for the purpose of getting said Stanbery to procure him a Pension he has not been able to see Mr. Stanbery is in hopes that he still has the papers in his possession.

Deponent states that when he held the commission as captain he was sent on to Schenesborough at the head of a company against the enemy and performed various other services under his commissions was sent out frequently against the Tories too thirteen prisoners on one occasion who were rendezvoused in a log house in Cambrdige Township recruiting for the purpose of joining Burgoyne at Saratoga there were twelve of us that surrounded the House & took them was stationed at a Picket Fort in Palmerstown for some time as a guard &c.

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 an agency in any state.

He states further that for the last two years past he has been entirely blind & for three or four years previous thereto his eye sight had become so much impaired that he was scarcely able to see to walk, that he is now entirely dependent upon his son for support—who is not in circumstances to enable to do so without inconvenience having himself a large family to support. (Signed with his Mark) Jonathan French.

Sworn and subscribed in open court. Witness Mr. M. Coffee Dept. Clk

Letter in folder dated November 15, 1935, written in reply to an inquiry.

Reference is made to your letter of November 11, 1935, requesting the Revolutionary War record of Jonathan French of Ohio.

The data which follow were obtained from papers on file in the pension claim, S.8516, based upon the Revolutionary War service of Jonathan French.

He was born September 22, 1751, in Dunstable Township, New Hampshire. The names of his parents were not given.

While a resident of Cambridge, Washington County, New York, he served with the New York troops as follows: from May 21, 1775, six weeks as private in Wells' company; from about July 20, 1775, at various times amounting to five and one half months in all as a private in Captain Joseph McCracken's company and was at the siege of St. Johns, Canada; on July 4, 1778, he was commissioned first lieutenant in Captain George Gilmore's company in Colonel VanWoert's regiment in which capacity he served at various times until the close of the Revolution, amounting in all to cone and one half years; on October 3, 1786, he was commissioned captain in Lieutenant

Colonel John Younglove's regiment of New York militia, no further data given relative to this service.

He was allowed pension on his application executed October 30, 1832, at which time he was living in Lima township, Licking County, Ohio.

Jonathan French died May 17, 1838, and was survived by children. The name of the only child given was that of a son, John B. French, who was fifty-three years of age in 1833.

[In handwriting] His service as Capt. during Rev., he contradicted in second deposition. Perhaps he had it confused with service as capt. in 1786.