

Pension Application for Elijah Robbins or Robins

S.32490

State of New York

County of Schenectady SS.

On this ninth day of October personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas In and for said County of Schenectady now sitting, Elijah Robins a resident of the town of Rotterdam in said County aged seventy three years and upwards, 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.

He was born in the town of Lyme New London County, in the State of Connecticut on the twelfth day of August 1760. He has no record of his age.

When called into the service of the United Sates in the army of the revolution, he was living at a place called Great Nine Partners in the county of Dutchess in the State of New York; since the revolutionary war he has lived in the place last aforesaid and he now resides in said town of Rotterdam. He entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated.

In the spring of the year 1778 he the declarant was enrolled at Great Nine Partners aforesaid in a company of militia commanded by Captain Humphrey, his other company & field officers he does not recollect except Cornelius Humphrey Colonel, & Jonas Parks Lieutenant.

From the aforesaid Company of Captain Humphrey he the declarant was detailed some time in the spring of the year of the year last named, the exact time not recollected, to perform fatigue duty, as a place called "Oblong" adjoining Great Nine Partners aforesaid. At this place he assisted with other soldiers detailed from said company, to erect a block house and other works of defence.

If this declarant remembers right he understood the fact to be, that a certain number of members from each militia company in the beat to which he belonged was at this time detailed for the purpose aforesaid. The detachment thus formed was placed under the command of Lieutenant John McNeill. In this engagement he the Declarant served for a term exceeding forty days.

In the year 1779, he the declarant continued to serve in the aforesaid company of Captain Humphrey, and performed garrison duty under the officers of said company at Oblong aforesaid, and at other posts & passes in the vicinity of the place where he resided, and where attacks from the enemy were expected.

The period for which he thus performed garrison duty as aforesaid during the year last named & also in the beginning of the year 1780, exceeds two months.

In the month of August 1780, at Great Nine Partners aforesaid, the declared enlisted in a Company of State troops or levies commanded by Captain Colby Chamberlin under Colonel Lewis Dubois. His other company officers whom he recollects were first Lieutenant James Betts – 2d Lieutenant Mandeville Duell [blank] Shaw Orderly Sergeant. He the applicant after his enlistment as aforesaid marched to Fishkill—thence to West Point, thence to Kingsferry—Haverstraw—Crompond—thence

back to Kingsferry—thence to Poughkeepsie—thence to Albany—thence to Schenectady—thence up the Mohawk river to Fort Paris, where he performed garrison duty until the term of his enlistment had fully expired; to with three months.

About this time, to wit, in the month of November 1780, Sir John Johnson came from the Oneida Lake with a strong party –attacked Schoharie by surprise, and thence marched to Fort Hunter on the Mohawk River & from that point devastated every thing on both sides of said river as far west as Palatine. Colonel Brown with some state troops, was stationed above the enemy at Fort Paris where the applicant then was with some detachments of militia.

The Militia from Claverack & Schenectady had been collected under command of General VanRensselaer and arrived in rear of Sir John Johnson the next day. The applicant although his term of three months as aforesaid had fully expired, volunteered on this occasion & took part in the skirmishes which ensued after the defeat of Colonel Brown who lost his life. In this expedition the applicant served for a term not less than six days.

In the year 1779 in the fall of the year, he the declarant engaged to serve as a substitute for one Richard Wiley in the Company of State troops commanded by Captain George Head—Parks Lieutenant—Simmons Ensign. He then marched to Fishkill where said company was stationed and when he arrived there he with other levis were dismissed—their services not being required.—In this engagement he was under arms only fifteen days and then returned home.

The declarant was under arms on many occasions before & after the year 1780 as a scout, and with patrolling & reconnoitering parties, the particular occasions of which & the length of time he served in each engagement he can not possibly recollect or specify & therefore makes no account of them. He claims a pension only for the period of service herein before specified, to wit, a period exceeding two hundred days, besides those enumerated, the following are the names of some of the regular officers whom he knew or who were with the troops where he served & not continental & militia regiments as he can recollect—Colonels Graham, Gaansevoort, Payn, Willett, Adjutant Hugh Cowley, General VanRensselaer, Colonel Brown, Colonel Lewis Dubois & other companies & Regiments they commanded.

He never to the best of his recollection received any regular discharge from the service, and engaged in no battles or skirmishes other than those before stated except [sentence ends here.]

He has no documentary evidence & knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services except the one whose deposition is hereunto annexed.

Jonathan Herrick and the following are the names of persons to whom he is known in his present neighbourhood & who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. (Signed with his mark) Elijah Robins

Subscribed & sworn to the day & year first aforesaid in open court this 9th day
of October 1833 before me John S. Vrooman, Clerk