

Pension Application for Ebenezer Robinson or Robertson

S.23401

Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.
State of New York
County of Chenango SS.

On this 17th day of ;March in the year of our Lord 1834, personally appeared before me Hezekiah Read, one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the said County of Chenango Ebenezer Robinson, a resident of the Town of German in said County of Chenango, aged seventy four 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 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States, under the following named officers, and served as herein stated.

That he was born in Frederickstown in the County of Dutchess (now Putnam County) and State of New York, in the year 1659.

That he has a record of his age in his family Bible at home, and he knows of no other—

That he was living at said Frederickstown each and every time, he was called or went into the service, as hereinafter set forth, land until the war closed—That soon after, he removed from there to Danbury in the State of Connecticut, and resided there about seven years & then he removed to Castleton in Vermont and resided there several years—and then returned to said Danbury and resided perhaps seventeen years, land removed again to Frederickstown aforesaid & resided a few years—and from thence he removed to Guildford in the County of Chenango in the State of New York and resided there fifteen years, and from thence he removed to German in said county of [line cut off] resided ever since, being nearly four years.

That, as before stated, he was residing at Frederickstown aforementioned, and the company of Militia to which he belonged was divided into classes—each class to furnish a man—and that he volunteered as the man for his class, he believes, in April 1776, and went with a small number of men, and he thinks under the command of a Sergeant, whose name, he thinks was Samuel Rice, from said Frederickstown direct to Kingsbridge and there joined some company, but officers of which being entirely strangers to him, and being after change, or under the command of different men, he cannot remember the names of his company officers—

That he was however immediately removed and entered on duty. That he was set to work building Fort Independence remained here at work on said Fort a while, when he was detached with others and sent to Morrisana Point, on East River and there joined the Regiment of Col. Lasher or Lasure—

That he remained there two or three months or more guarding some stores, until the enemy arrived in September or October, he believes September that it may have been October and after a short skirmish, the troops, with which he was, retreated to Kingsbridge and from thence, the next day, after destroying the Bridge, retreated to Fort Washington—stayed there a short time, when his Regiment under

Col. Lahser crossed the Hudson to Fort Lee, in Newburgh—remained at Fort Lee until Fort Washington was taken by the enemy, when Fort Lee was abandoned, and he, with his regiment, marched up the North river on the west side to VanPlank's Point, as he thinks it was called, where they crossed the river on to the east side, when, his time being out with a few days, and his and the troops generally, being in great distance for want of clothing as well as provisions, being in a state of real suffering, were allowed to go home. The dismissal obtained was verbal.

This he thinks was in December, 1776, having been absent this tour in said service over eight months, and nearly nine. It was called nine months service. He states, as respects the officers, that during this campaign he as under two or three, or more, different company officers, and he cannot recollect their names. That he can only remember the name of the Colonel of the regiment—That when he first arrived at Kingsbridge in April, as he thinks, many troops were there. That which he was at Morrisana Point, no other Regiment was there in company.

That while there heard of the battle on Long Island, and also that of White Plains. That after leaving Morrisana Point and coming to Kingsbridge, he there saw Gen. Putnam & heard him give orders. His regiment he thinks was a volunteer one, and not annexed to any brigade, as he was not under and General Officer during this campaign.

That he again in the year, 1777, he believes, entered the service, under the command of Capt Nathaniel Scrivner of said Frederickstown as a company of Rangers for the term of three months and served said term out, under said Capt. Serviner—by whose authority the company was raised he does not know, but thinks it acted under orders from Col. Henry Luttington, ltheir duty was to guard the country against the Tories, refugees, or Cowboys, as they were called.—they were during said three months, went as far as the lines near White Plains in pursuit of some refugees who had been stealing horses, retook the horses, but the refugees escaped—came so near the refugees as to have a skirmish with them, and Capt. Scribner received a musket shot in one of his arms for which he rec'd a pension afterwards, as declarant understood and believed.

Once also during said three months went in the night by order of the Captain to Col. Luttington's with eight others, and accompanied Col. Luttington in capturing a man by the name of Turner (he believes) who as raising or enlisting men to go to New York to join the enemy.

They succeeded and also took several whom he had enlisted—Our regular station, this short tour, was at Frederickstown—from whence we went on scouting parties—at the end of three months was dismissed verbally—No other troops in company.

That he again, in the spring, being early in the spring, but he cannot say what month, enlisted at said Frederickstown, under the command of Capt. Cannon, his Christian name not recollected, that soon after this enlisting, went to Albany, and there the company was mustered, and marched under Capt. Cannon to Ballstown. This was in the spring of 1781.

The object of going there was to guard that place against the Indians and Tories, who had before committed depredations there. The company consisted of about 50 men as he believes—We continued there in a picket Fort, which was previously built there, as such guard, until the time expired for which I enlisted, which was for eight or nine months—eight at least—It was called nine months, as we were termed nine months men—That at the end of said term, the company marched to Albany, and there met other companies of Militia, and said companies were paraded there together. He recollects the adjutant who paraded the companies was of the name of Welch.

Soon after being paraded this, the several companies were discharged by the adjutant verbally. This he thinks was in December 1781. There were no other troops or company of men at Ballstown this campaign—He supposes the companies which paraded as stated at Albany, were some others who had been on other stations during the year—While at Ballstown he well recollects they had a day of rejoicing on hearing the news of the taking of Lord Cornwallis.

This last tour the declarant served as a private about four months, and the residue as a Corporal.

That he again in the early part of the spring, he thinks, the forepart of April 1782, enlisted as a private, under Capt. Lamb, having the promise of a Sergeants Warrant, at said Frederickstown, for the term of nine months.

That he immediately went to West Point, where he very soon received a Sergeant's warrant in Capt. Lamb's company as had been promised him. That he believes Capt. Lamb's company belonged to the Regiment commanded by Col. Lamb. That he remained at West Point with his company doing common garrison duty a part of the time—and a part of the time he was out in different places in the recruiting service with Capt. Lamb, occasionally returning to West Point.

That he thus continued to serve until the latter part of September or forepart of October in said year, 1782, when he had permission or orders from Capt. Lamb to go out recruiting & he went and while thus out was taken sick with the ague and fever—that he thereupon gave notice to his capt. and was returned as sick and unfit for duty, and thereupon had permission to go home. That he did then go home and remained there very unwell until his company and regiment was dismissed, and many months after—his health was so low, and so much infirmed that he did not again [?] for nearly a year, so as to be able to attend to any business at all.

That he recollects Gen. Knox being at West Point while he was there. He recollects Gen. Knox being at West Point while he was there, he recollects that many troops were there—That Col. Lamb was there. But he cannot with distinctness and certainty state the names of other officers—it is with great difficulty he can remember names—nor can he state with precision and certainty the exact period of time he was in the service. This is owing to his old age and infirmities, and the consequent loss of memory. But according to his best recollection he served as a private, as above related, not less than one year and three months as a corporal, no less than four months, and as a Sergeant, not less than six months for which service he claims a

pension. And to the letter he supposes he ought to have added, the three months of time he was at home sick with fever and ague, as he was such length of time, if in health, subject to serve, land should have served, if in health.

That he never received any written discharge from the service. He was always dismissed by parol as set forth above. That he received a regular written warrant as Sergeant for and in his last tour of service. That he had the same in his possession until within about twenty years past, when with other old papers, supposing it could be of no use to him thereafter, he thinks he burnt it.

That he has no documentary evidence In his possession of his services—nor does he know of any person living, who was with him in the service why whom he can prove the same. That he has lived in so many places, and such are the changes in life by removals, as well as by death—and he is so far from the places where he lived during the war, and following it, that he does believe he could find no person to give direct proof of his services. And besides his state of health is such, by means of bodily infirmities, that he cannot go about the country. He is weak and low in health, being unable to ride, and walks but short distances at a time. That he is so decrepit and infirm that he does not feel able to attend the sitting of the court to make his declaration.

That he is known to John Nicholson & Chancey Smith of McConough—in his present neighborhood, who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution.

That he will accompany this declaration with the best traditional evidence in his power, and submit his case to the War Department—requesting most respectfully, that; if the Department cannot, by its wiles, allow him for all the services he claims, it will for such part as is satisfactorily made to appear, as he is satisfied for the reasons before mentioned, he cannot procure additional evidence—besides he is poor and unable to incur expense.

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 with his mark) Ebenezer Robinson

Sworn to, and subscribed, the day and year aforesaid, by the applicant making his mark, through inability to write, on account of his sign being too much impaired. John Nicholson, Chancery herewith, the head Judge of Chenango County Courts of Common Pleas.