

Pension Application for Ezra St. John

R.9145 (Widow: Abigail)

Declaration—in order to obtain the benefits of the third Section of the Act of 4th of July 1836, and of the first Section of the Act of 3d of March 1827.

State of New York

Onondaga County SS.

On this 18 day of May 1838 personally appeared before Grove Lawrence Esquire a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in and for said County; Abigail St. John, a resident of the Town of Salina in said County and State, aged eighty five 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, explanatory of said act passed March 3d 1837.

That she was married to Ezra St. John who was a First Lieutenant in Capt. Elisha Barlow's Company and Col. Roswell, Hopkins Regiment of the State of New York, General Clinton commanded the Brigade, she thinks in the line of the Revolution, she says she was married to the said Ezra St. John on the 27th day of November 1768, in the town of Northeast, County of Dutchess and State of New York by Elisha Culver or Elisha Colva Esquire; and she further states that no persons were present at the said marriage except said Culver or Colva's Family, all of which are now dead, that were present; that she or her said husband had a record of their marriage in a Family Bible which has been lost or destroyed a number of years since, and that she has no Documentary evidence of her said marriage or her said Husband's service in the Revolution. That her said husband the aforesaid Ezra St. John, died on the Twenty second day of July 1824 of a general debility and that she has remained a widow ever since that period, as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed. She says her name was Abigail Spencer before she was married; she says Capt. Barlow aforesaid commanded a Volunteer Company at said line, in the Militia and that her said Husband belonged or was attached to said Company; that he entered the service according to her best recollection in said company as aforesaid on the first day of May 1776 he went from said Northeast in said County and State the most [sic] direct route to the City of New York and was there when Independence was declared, was drove from there by the British to Fort Washington on the River Hudson from there he marched to White Plains, and was in the action of said White Plains in 1776, when the place was Burnt, from there he marched to Peekskill where they took up Winter Quarters. That on the First day of December 1776, he was brought home to said Northeast, sick, and remained sick at home, during the rest of the winter, that according to the best recollection, she thinks her said Husband volunteered under said Capt. Barlow for nine months, or one year; she says she distinctly recollects of seeing his commission, several times and that it was signed by George Clinton then Governor of the State of New York. That said commission has been lost or destroyed long ago. She thinks her said husband served honestly and faithfully in the line of his duty, from home, at the above time as much as seven months at least; that he never had a written discharge to her knowledge.

That in the Spring of the year 1780, her said husband and his family which consisted of this declarant and five children moved from said Northeast to Stillwater in the County of Albany in said State, arrived there on the First day of May 1780, that her said Husband was frequently out on alarms as a private soldier in the Militia under the command of one Abraham Sent, who was the only officer she knew, that she well recollects of her said Husband being out as a private on a tour of duty thirteen days after Sir Johnson, thinks it was in 1780b was ordered out by Sergeant Sint and went to Crown Point. She thinks her said husband went one excursion from said Stillwater to Cherry Valley against the Indians, he was gone as much as five days, that time, but who he went under, or the time when, she cannot now recollect.

That in the year 1781, she distinctly recollects that her said Husband went as an Ensign in the company commanded by Capt. Holtum Dunham, and Samuel Bacon 1st Lieutenant and Elias Palmer Second Lieutenant, and she thinks from the best of her

recollection that he served at least three months if not more. The aforesaid facts set forth by her, she recollects, from her personal knowledge and information at the time of their taking place. (Signed with her mark) Abigail St. John

Sworn and subscribed before me this 18th day of May 1838. Grove Lawrence First Judge of Onondaga County.

Letter in file dated June 14, 1940, written in reply to a request for information.

Reference is made to your request for information relative to Ezra St. John who served in the Revolutionary War from New York and Andrew Nye who served in the War of 1812.

The data which follow were taken from papers on file in the pension claim, R.9135, based on the Revolutionary War service of the only Ezra St. John that is found in said records.

The data and places of birth of Ezra St. John and the names of his parents are not shown.

Ezra St. John married in Northeast, Dutchess County, New York, November 27, 1768, Abigail Spencer.

He died July 22, 1824.

His widow, Abigail, applied for pension May 18, 1838, at which time she was eighty-five years of age and was living in Salina, Onondaga County New York. She alleged that while living in Northeast, Ezra St. John enlisted May 1, 1776, and served at least seven months in Captain Elisha Barlow's company in Colonel Roswell Hopkins' New York Regiment and was in the retreat from New York City and in the battle of White Plains. She stated that in the spring of 1780, Ezra St. John, with herself and five children, moved from Northeast to Stillwater, Albany County, Ne York, where they arrived the first of May 1780, and that he was frequently called out on alarms and served as private in the militia under Sergeant Abraham Lent in 1780 and that he served as ensign in Captain Holton Dunham's New York Company in 1781 for at least three months.

Abigail St. John's claim for pension was not allowed as proof of the alleged service of her husband was not furnished in accordance with the requirement of the pension law.

It was stated that Ezra and Abigail St. John had at least seven or eight children but no names are definitely stated other than that of their son, Enos St. John, who was living in Milan, Huron County, Ohio, in 1838 and was sixty-eight years of age, Enos St. John stated that he remembered that after the defeat of Burgoyne, his father moved to Eason, Washington County, New York. In 1838, Elias Woodworth, aged fifty-five years and resident of Salina, New York, stated that he married the daughter of Ezra and Abigail St. John, (her name not stated) but one [not clear] -worth, aged fifty-three years was living in Salina, New York, in 1838 and signed along with Elias Woodworth, an affidavit in behalf of Abigail St. John.

In 1845, the widow's brother, Honorable Ambrose Spencer, was referred to as late of the Supreme Court of New York State.

There are no further data relative to the family of Ezra St. John.

The records of this office fail to show a claim for pension on file on account of the War of 1812 service of an Andrew Nye.