

Pension Application for Ezra Wheeler

S.11753

State of New York

County of Rensselaer SS

On the third day of October 1832 personally appeared before the Judges of the Mayors Court of the City of Troy in said County of Rensselaer in open court now sitting Ezra Wheeler a resident of Nassau in said County aged Seventy five years who first being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain he benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

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

On the first of May 1776 he entered as a volunteer under Captain Husted in Colonel Bailey's regiment was marched to Fort Constitution a little above West Point and worked at the building of said fort except when on guard & other duty, for the full term of his enlistment which was six months & was dismissed in November and returned home.

In February 1777 entered under Captain Isaac Finch to go to Canada. Marched to Albany and rec'd counter orders he was put to driving a continental team his team his team was pressed was employed transporting troops for a while and then put to drawing wood from Troy to Albany for the use of the troops then and served one month & was dismissed in March and returned home.

In October 1777 he thinks about the first executed as a volunteer under Captain Roger Southland & Colonel David Southland march to Red Hook. The British squadron under command of General Vaughan lay opposite in the river about this time they burned Esopus some of the British troops landed had some skirmishes and they returned to their shipping & dropped down the river and he was dismissed sometime early in November serving one month.

In August 1778 he enlisted as a volunteer under Captain Willard & Colonel Dewitt marched by Esopus crossing the river there & thence by Mamakating Hollow to Minisink between the drowned lands & the Delaware and were guard at Colonel Dewitts house there was another company also from Dutchess County the other commanded by Captain Waters both of which came under Colonel Dewitt on arriving at his house was aforesaid and became subject to his order there were two other companies stationed further south one company of Continentals were with them a short time while he lay there took two men in Indian habit & colour sent them to Poughkeepsie and they proved to be while men they went taken near Cohection was principally employed in scouting and preventing Tories and Indians from annoying the inhabitants served four months and was dismissed in December following & returned home.

In May 1780 entered as a volunteer under captain Smith Southland Lieutenant Stephen Hoyt & Colonel Roswell Hopkins marched to Peekskill to guard the lines and prevent vessels from passing up and down the North river with orders to suffer now to

pass the point unless going to put in at Peekskill landing and was dismissed in November following serving six months and was dismissed and returned home.

In August 1781 he enlisted as a volunteer under Lieutenant Joel Hoskins (no other officer as he recollects at all events he commanded for three months but marched to Fishkill and was put to boating wood from Fishkill to West Point and served two months only & was dismissed in October following and returned home.

He resided at Stanford in Dutchess County N. York, and about eight miles from his residence and in the neighborhood of Philip Heart & Esqr Fralick were a nest of Tories who gave quarters and comfort to some of Delancey's Cavalry commonly called Cowboys among whom were Isaac Hudd Enton Hoag and Quail who were there very often annoying the inhabitants and he wheeler was frequently called out to pursue them and was out from two to six days generally till at length Huddleston was taken & hung at Poughkeepsie and frequently was called out on alarms on other occasions. In all of which he verily believes he was in actual service during the revolution as much time as served make at least three months of continued service not before detached.

He has no documentary evidence and knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service.

He was born at Tolland in Connecticut June 3rd 1758.

He has no record of his age except in his family bible, but thinks his age is recorded in Tolland town Clerk's office.

He resided in Stanford in Dutchess County New York during all his said enlistments from thence he removed to New [Le?] and from thence to Nassau where he now resides and has for the last thirty years.

He always entered the service voluntarily.

He does not remember ever receiving a written discharge. He never received a commission.

Names of persons residing in his neighborhood who are known [to] him and who can testify as to their belief of his services as a soldier in the revolution and as to his character for veracity Simon Finch, James Hoag, Abm Bull, Elisha Egleston, Benjamin Murphy, Elisha Buny, Abel Cumming, Silas Ambler, Russed D. Dumming, John St. Deusenbury.

He hereby relinquishes every claim what ever to an annuity or pension except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. (Signed) Ezra Wheeler

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. Archibald Bull, Clerk.

Letter in folder dated October 12, 1929, written in response to an inquiry.

I advise you from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim, S.11753, it appears that Ezra Wheeler was born June 3, 1753 in Tolland, Connecticut.

He stated that while residing in Stanford, Dutcher County, New York, he enlisted and served with the New York Troops as follows:

From May 1, 1776 six months in Captain Husted's Company, Colonel Bailey's Regiment, and was in the battle of White Plains; from in February 1777 in Captain

Isaac Finch's Company, where he was detailed to drive a Continental team, and served one month; from October 1777 one month in Captain Roger Sutherland's Company, Colonel David Sutherland's Regiment; from in August 1778 four months in Captain Willard's Company, Colonel DeWitt's Regiment, in scouting against the Indians and Tories; from in May 1780 six months in Captain Smith Sutherland's Company, Colonel Roswell Hopkins' Regiment; from in August 1781 two months under Lieutenant Joel Hoskins. He also served about three months, a various times, on alarms.

He was allowed pension on his application executed October 3, 1832, at which time he was residing in Nassau, Rensselaer County, New York, having lived there thirty years.

Later, upon a re-examination of the claim, it was found his pension had been inadvertently allowed and it was suspended for further proof of service. Satisfactory proof of six months service, as required by the pension law, was never furnished.

The soldier died January 28, 1840, leaving a widow, who was his second wife. Her name is not given, nor is the name of his first wife stated.

In 1836 Isaac was living in Nassau, New York, aged forty-three years; and in 1853 it is stated he was the only surviving child.

Samuel Wheeler is referred to as a son-in-law. There are no further data as to children.