

Pension Application for Robert Nolton

S.7272

State of New York

County of Herkimer SS.

On this eleventh day of February in the year 1833 personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Herkimer aforesaid the same being a court of record having by law a seal & clerk now sitting Robert Nolton a resident of the Town of Fairfield in the said County of Herkimer in said state aged seventy four 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 7, 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following names officers and served as herein stated.

In the year 1776 he resided at Bethlehem now in the County of Renssalaer [Rensselaer] in the State of New York and in the fall but he does not remember the month in 1776 he was drafted at Bethlehem aforesaid into Capt. Coles Company in Col. VanRenssalaer's Regiment in the State Service and was marched under the command of Capt Cole to Fort George and was stationed in barracks near said Fort and served on Sentry; and this deponent saith that he served two months under the command of Capt. Cole at said station and he was then discharged form the service about the time snow began to fall but he does not recollect the month any farther than that it was probably sometime in November in 1776—

The officers under whom he served were Capt. Cole, Lieut Breese, Maj VanBuren; Col VanRenssalaer.

And this deponent further saith that sometime in the summer but he cannot remember the month in the Year 1777 he this deponent enlisted as a volunteer at Bethlehem aforesaid into Capt. Cole's Company in Col. VanRenssalaer's Regiment in the state service for four months and he was marched with the company under the command of Capt Cole to Fort Edward and from thence to White Hall and stationed there until Col. VanRenssalaer's Regiment at said station were driven back by the enemy and the Regiment retreated to Fort Edward and made a stand until the enemy came and then the regiment were compelled by the superior force of the enemy to retreat and the whole American Army fell back under the command of Gen. Schuyler to Stillwater and there they took a position to wait the arrival of the enemy.

After some time and a good deal of maneuvering between the two armies the battle ensued in which Gen. Burgoyne with his whole army was captured—Gen Gates succeeded Gen. Schuyler and took the command in this engagement—Capt. Cole's company was placed in the rear of the army and the Continental troops were placed in the front under the command of Gen Arnold in the battle and Capt Cole's company was brought into the engagement on the left wing of the American forces.

Before the battle he this deponent was employed in scouring the woods for Indians; in standing sentry and guarding the lines—some few days after the battle Gen. Burgoyne surrendered his whole army—and this deponent saith that he served under the command of Capt Cole as aforesaid four months and he was then

discharged not long after the capture of Burgoyne's army and he believes it was in the latter part of October in the year 1777—

The battle was sometimes after the middle of October in the same year. And this deponent saith that he received no discharge in writing. The officers under whom he served were Capt. Cole, Lieut Breese, Maj VanBuren, Col VanRenssalaer, Gen. Schuyler commanded the retreat of the American Army from the Lakes to Stillwater and Gen. Gates commanded in the battle—He this deponent saw Gen. Schuyler, Gen. Gates, Gen. Arnold in the battle Gen. St. Clair.

And this deponent further saith that in the summer but he does not remember the month in the year 1778 he this deponent enlisted as a volunteer at Bethlehem aforesaid into Capt. Turner's Company in Col VanAlstyne's Regiment in the state service for two months and he was marched with the company under the command of Capt. Turner to Johnstown and stationed there and frequently served in scouting and on sentries and was also stationed at Fort Hunter on the Mohawk River and served in scouting and on sentry and this deponent saith that he served as aforesaid two months under the command of Capt. Turner and was then discharged from the service and he believes in the fall of 1778 but he cannot recollect the month.

He received no certificate of discharge in writing. The officers under whom he served were Capt. Turner. Lieut not remembered. Col. VanAlstyne.

And this deponent further saith that in the summer but he does not remember the month in the year 1779 he enlisted as a volunteer at Bethlehem aforesaid into Capt. Turner's Company in Col. Klock's Regiment In the state service for three months and he was marched with with [sic] the company under the command as he believes of Lieut Schermerhorn to Stone Arabia and was stationed there with Col. Klock's Regiment sometime and from thence he was marched with the company under the command of Lieut Schermerhorn to Fort Plank on the Mohaw[k] River and was stationed there and Maj. VanBuren had the command at Fort Plank and this deponent was employed in scouting through the woods standing on sentry and watching the approach of the enemy—

And this deponent further saith that he served three months and was then discharged as he believes in the fall of 1779 but he does not recollect the month—He received no discharge in writing—The officers under whom he served were Lieut Schermerhorn who commanded the Company; Col. Klock, Maj VanBuren.

And this deponent further saith that in the early part of the summer but he cannot recollect certainly the month in 1780 he enlisted as a volunteer at Bethlehem aforesaid into Capt. Magee's Company and from thence he marched with Capt. Magees Company and went to West Point to Garrison the fort and this deponent was an orderly sergeant in Capt. Magee's Company—

Sometime after the company arrived at West Point; there was a draft made out of the militia to march to New Jersey and this deponent volunteered as an orderly sergeant into Capt. Bleecker's company into Col. VanCortland's Regiment to go on an expedition to New Jersey and he this deponent was marched with Capt. Bleecker's Company and Col. VanCortland's Regiment to Tappan and was stationed there a

considerable time with the American Army and Gen. Washington & Gen LaFayette [LaFayette] were there at that time with the army and this deponent frequently saw them and this deponent was employed sometimes with small parties of men in scouting; and sometimes he was sent out with several companies on command under a Major or Colonel and at other times with several regiments on command under different Generals on the lines near the enemy, and at another time he this deponent was marched with a command under Marquis LaFayette to Bargain a large Village in New Jersey opposite the City of New York and there they took a great number of fat cattle belonging to the enemy and drove them to Tappan—

The British army lay during the summer of 1780 in the City of New York. And this deponent further saith that he was sent out with a party along in the fall as he believes to Hackensack in New Jersey & was there as he believes three or four weeks under the Command of Col. VanCortland and they then returned to Tappan.

And this deponent further saith that he served five months under the command of Capt. Bleecker as above stated and that he served about one month under Capt. Magee before he volunteered into Capt. Bleecker's Company at West Point and he this deponent was discharged at Tappan in the fall but he does not remember the month in 1780—

He this deponent did not receive a discharge in writing when he was discharged—

He frequently saw Gen. Washington, Marquis LaFayette, Gen. Knox, Gen. Lord Sterling, Gen. McDougal, Col. Burr and this deponent frequently did orderly duty as a Sergeant at Marquis LaFayette's marker by night & lby day & carried letters for him & other officers stationed in the camp. The officers under whom he served were Capt. Bleecker's Lieut. Not remembered Maj. DeGrace as he believes his name was called who was a French officer Col. VanCortland.

And this deponent further saith that in the fall quite late but he does not remember the month in 1780 he enlisted as a volunteer at Bethlehem aforesaid into Capt. Cole's Company in Col. VanRenssalaer's Regiment in the state service for one month and he was marched to Saratoga Barracks and stationed there and he this deponent served on sentry and on guard under the command of Capt. Cole for one month & he was then discharged near winter but he received no discharge in writing.

And this deponent further saith that in the fall quite late but he does not remember the month in 1780 he enlisted as a volunteer at Bethlehem aforesaid into Capt.; Cole's Company in Col. VanRenssalaer's Regiment in the State service for one month and he was marched to Saratoga Barracks and stationed there and he this deponent served on sentry and on guard under the command of Capt. Cole for one month & he was then discharged near winter but he received no discharge in writing.

The officers under whom he served were Capt Cole, Lieut Bruse?. There were only a few companies stationed at Saratoga Barracks at this time.

He thinks this deponent further saith that early in the spring and he believes in March 1781 he enlisted as a volunteer at Bethlehem aforesaid and went to West Point & there he entered as a volunteered into Capt Bates Company in Col. Campbell's

Regiment & from thence he was marched with the company under Capt Bates & the Main Army under Gen. Washington by land down the North River to Kingsbridge & this deponent was engaged with Col Campbell's Regiment in taking a redoubt from the enemy—

The redoubt was situated on high ground a short distance from the river and Col. Campbell's Regiment marched up to the redoubt on low ground so that the enemy fired over them and the redoubt was taken without the loss of a man on our part and from Kingsbridge Gen. Washington's whole army marched back to KingsFerry and crossed the north river and then the army marched through New Jersey to the City of Philadelphia and from thence to the head of Elk on the Chesapeake Bay and there the army embarked on board of vessels and sailed down the Chesapeake and landed on the shore of Virginia as he believes but he does not remember the place where they landed and from thence they marched by land to Yorktown in Virginia where Lord Cornwallis lay.

The engagement which followed between Gen. Washington's Army & Lord Cornwallis forces was confined mostly to the Artillery except that the French were engaged in taking several redoubts.

This deponent was not brought into actual engagement in the battle of Yorktown.

And this deponent further saith that Col. Campbell was killed soon after his arrival at Yorktown one night while he was patrolling the guards.

And this deponent further said that he was in Gen. Washington's army in the company under the command of Capt. Bates at the time Lord Cornwallis surrendered with his army to Gen. Washington. And this deponent further saith that he served under the command of Capt. Bates as aforesaid nine months and he was discharged shortly after the surrender of Cornwallis, at Yorktown as this deponent believes in November 1781 after his term of nine months which he served had expired and he received a discharge in writing. The officers under whom he served were Capt. Bates, Lieut not recollected, Col. Campbell, Maj Gibbs. And he saw Gen. Washington, Gen. LaFayette and several other general officers.

And this deponent further saith that he was born at Poughkeepsie in the State of New York on the 10th of February 1759 and he this deponent has a record of his age in a bible entered by his father; and which said Bible he saw a few years ago at Poughkeepsie in the possession of his sister Mrs. Duffie living in Poughkeepsie—

And this deponent further saith that he resided at Bethlehem Renssalaer [Rensselaer] County in the State of New York during the war of the revolution when he was called into the service and since the Revolutionary War he this deponent resided in Milton in the County of Saratoga in the State of New York a number of years and from thence he removed to Fairfield in the County of Herkimer in the State of New York and has resided at Fairfield aforesaid about thirty six years now last past and still resides at Fairfield aforesaid in said County of Herkimer.

He was drafted into the service in the year 1776 & and [sic] he enlisted as a volunteer during the residue of the time he served in the war of the Revolution as hereinbefore stated.

He has herein stated some of the regular officers whom he saw in the service such as Gen. Washington, Marquis LaFayette, & others.

He never received a discharge in writing from the service except at the time he was discharged at the surrender of Lord Cornwallis and then Maj Gibbs gave this deponent a written discharge who took the command of the Regiment after the death of Col. Campbell; but this deponent saith that said discharge has been lost for destroyed.

And this deponent further saith that he knows of no persons living who was in the service with him by whom he can prove his services in the war of the Revolution except that Ephraim Knowlton a brother of this deponent, whose affidavit is hereunto annexed knew that this deponent went into the service and was gone in the war as he has stated.

And this deponent further saith that the following are the names of persons viz: Lodowick Moyer & Hiram Nolton to whom he is known in his present neighborhood and who can testify as to his character for truth and 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 and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. (Signed) Robert Nolton.

Subscribed and sworn to this eleventh day of February 1833 in open court.
Julius C. Nelson, Clerk