

Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed
June 7. 1832.

State of New York

County of Clinton. On this 11th day of October 1832 personally
appeared in open Court before the Judges of the Court of Common
Pleas of the County of Clinton now sitting John Palmer John War-
ford Miles Stevenson James W Wood & Seth Balkins being Judges
thereof John Wells a resident of Peru in the County of Clinton
and State of New York aged Seventy two 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 7. 1832.

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

I was born in Middle town County of Hartford and State of Connecticut June
21. 1760. I have no record of my age, my Father's Bible contained it
where I have frequently seen it. The Bible is lost and it is wholly out of
my power to obtain it or state where it can be found. I resided at
Lanesborough Mass and enlisted at that place in May 1776 for five
months as a volunteer private into Capt Root's Company Col Smith's
Regt Mass State Troops Lt. Newell (don't remember the other). I marched
from thence to Pittsfield Mass where the Company was embodied, mar-
-ched from that place through Stock Bridge, Sheffield Salisbury, Sha-
-ron. Dover Nine Partners and Kings Bridge to New York City where I
remained about a month during which time the British fleet came
into New York and we retreated to Kings Bridge and from thence to
White Plains N.Y. The British ships came up the East River and
endeavoured to cut off our retreat. we lay entrenched some
time at White Plains until the latter part of September when we
had a battle at that place in which I was engaged. General
Washington commanded at White Plains. our Regiment was com-
-manded by Col Smith & Company by Capt Root - after the Battle I
marched to Croton Bridge New York where I was discharged in October
1776 having served in said Company and Regiment five months
the term for which I enlisted. I received no written discharge. I
then returned to Lanesborough Mass and remained there until May 1777
when I again enlisted at that place for three months as a volunteer
to guard the frontiers under Capt. (don't recollect any of the officers names)
& Capt. Miles Powell's Regt. of Massachusetts Militia. marched
to Pawlet Vt. where the Company was separated into small
parties to guard the northern frontiers. I remained at Pawlet Vt.
Wells Vt. and Granville N.Y. alternately employed in scouting and guard-
-ing the inhabitants for three months including the time I was
on the march from Lanesborough Mass. at the end of which time
in August 1777 and after I had served my three months
for which I enlisted fully out I was discharged at Pawlet Ver-
-mont. I had no written discharge.

5. 11.

3. m

I then returned to Lanesborough Mass at which place I again enlisted
as a volunteer into Capt Newell's Company Col Smith's Regt of Massachusetts

8. m

State Troops or militia on or about the tenth day of August 1777. I marched from ~~Lanesborough~~ Lanesborough through Ashford Williamstown Mass. and Personal to Bennington Vt. where I was engaged in the Battle at that place under said Officers, my Father was killed in the Battle after serving three weeks during which time I was employed in marching fighting and guarding prisoners I was discharged at Bennington Vt. about the first of September 1777. I had no written discharge I then returned to Lanesborough Mass. where I remained until May 1778 when I went to the High Lands East of West Point where I enlisted on the ninth of June 1778 into Captain Cleaveland Co. Col. Jackson, Regt. Massachusetts line Continental establish-

9 m

ment for nine months. I served in that Company and Regt. until March 9. 1779 when I was honorably discharged at Peekskill N.Y. my discharge and that of five others was on one piece of paper signed by Col. Jackson. William Bennet who served with me during said nine months took the discharge to Lanesborough and I have never seen it since April 1779 when he left that place. He is since dead. The names included with mine in said discharge were William Bennet William Powell Amos Boston Moses Barnes and one Parker These persons are all dead as I am informed and believe to be true. It was an honorable discharge and stated that we had served our time fully out. The Paymaster (dont recollect his name) paid me sixty dollars in Continental money for my nine months service which was of no value to me whatever. After my discharge I returned to Lanesborough Mass and then moved to Manchester Vt. where I resided until August 1780 when I went to Castleton Vt. and enlisted at that place for three months as a substitute for Waterman Wells into Captain Allen's Company Lt. Smith and Cox. had no Colonel. (Normant militia). I was stationed at Castleton Fort and was engaged in scouting about there until about the middle of September 1780 when we were removed from Castleton Vt. Fort to Pittsford Vt. Fort where I continued in service under the same officers until November 1780 when I had served my ~~three~~ months fully out I was discharged at Pittsford Vt. had no written discharge. I dont recollect whether Lt. Smith went to Pittsford Vt. with us or not. I rather think he did not.

3. m

After my discharge I returned to Manchester Vt. and remained there until April or May 1781, ^{when} I enlisted as a volunteer into Captain George Saxtons Company Lt. Blanchard dont recollect his name, Vermont State Troops or militia for seven months marched to Skenesborough N.Y. and went into a fort up East Creek about a mile and a half from Skenesborough now Whitehall N.Y. and served in that Fort and in scouting parties about there until November or December 1781 and after serving my seven months fully out I was discharged at that place. had no written discharge.

7 m

27. m. d. w.

I then returned to Manchester Vt. and resided there until about the year 1781 when I moved to Ticonderoga Essex Co. New York where I remained about a year and then went to Clinton County New York and resided there about two years and then moved