

Primary Sources Battle of Bennington

Unit: New Hampshire Militia, Col. Charles Johnston, Capt. Post
Charles Crook

Pension application of Charles Crook S 17902

In Charleston, New Hampshire, his regiment

“joined General Stark’s Brigade and remained there about 4 days when we crossed the River and in the after noon we were order’d to march for Bennington in Vermont where we remained 2 or 3 days when we were ordered to march to half moon to join the Continental Army and we were embodied and marched out of Bennington about 2 miles when we were halted and ordered to march back to Bennington and on our return and after we had arrived at Bennington we were order’d to take off our Packs and then take our places in the Ranks when Colonel Gregg Beat up for Valenteers to go with him to Saratoga – who obtained I think about 90 and started off. The next morning we were embodied and marched towards Saratoga and 4 or 5 Miles when we met the enemy under the Command of Col Baum. The next day or the day after our army attacked Col. Baum in his entrenchments and carried the entrenchments and took or killd most of his men in preparing for the attack on Col Baum our army was divided into three parts, two hundred and fifty on each wing and the remainder in the center division and he this deponent was under the immediate Command of Col. Nicholas White in the engagement and thinks that there was about 300 Heßsians taken Prisoners the engagement was from the best of this deponents recollection on the 16th August 1777. And a few days after the Battle at Bennington we marched under General Starks and soon joined General Gates at Saratoga.”

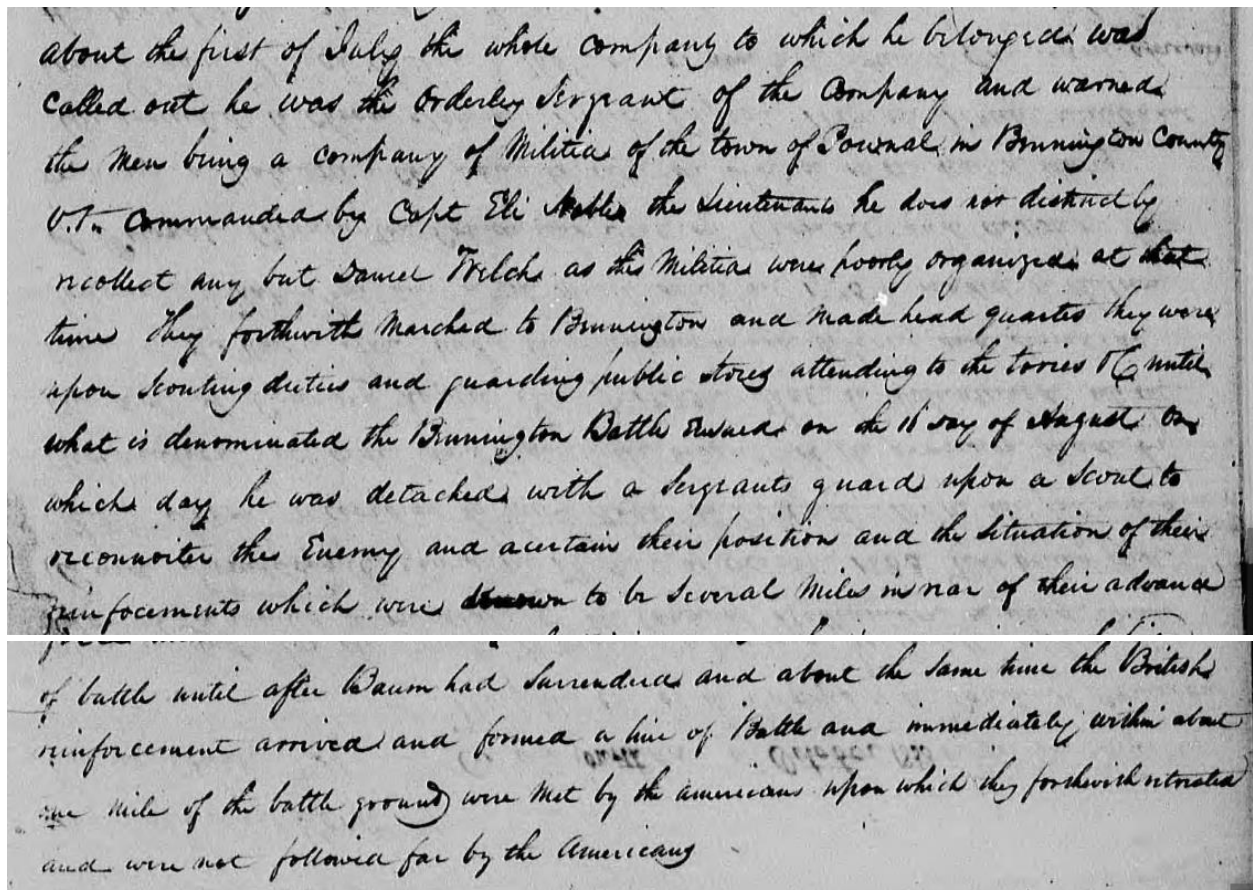
Crook was born in Haddam, CT on 19 September 1754.

Primary Sources Battle of Bennington

Unit: Vermont Militia, Capt. Samuel Robinson
Josiah Dunning

Pension Application of Josiah Dunning S 23207

Lives in Pownal, Vermont when he first enlists "some time in the month of April 1775".



about the first of July the whole company to which he belonged was called out he was the orderly sergeant of the company and was ordered to bring a company of militia of the town of Pownal in Bennington County Vt. Commanded by Capt Eli Abbot the lieutenant he does not distinctly recollect any but Daniel Welch as the militia were poorly organized at that time they forthwith marched to Bennington and made head quarters they were upon scouting duties and guarding public stores attending to the Tories till what is denominated the Bennington Battle ensued on the 16 day of August on which day he was detached with a sergeants guard upon a scout to reconnoiter the Enemy and ascertain their position and the situation of their reinforcements which were known to be several miles in rear of their advance of battle until after the day had surrendered and about the same time the British reinforcement arrived and formed a line of battle and immediately within about one mile of the battle ground were met by the Americans upon which they forthwith retreated and were not followed far by the Americans

"After (illeg.) of the wounded and prisoners and making some preparations the company under Command of Colonel Saml Robinson proceed into the State of New York and crossed the North River at Stillwater. We encountered a few Indians near Sulls Mills who suddenly fired upon our Men and killed two Men who were at the time some little distance from the Main body baking."

Primary Sources Battle of Bennington

Unit: Green Mountain Boys Col. Samuel Herrick, Capt. Dewey
Samuel Eaton

Pension Application of Samuel Eaton R 3212

In June 1777 started for Ticonderoga under Capt. Joshua Martin and marched as far as Washington, New Hampshire and there received orders that we were not wanted and returned home, was absent about ten days, A few days after arriving home at Goffstown, declarant was warned to a training and was there drafted and immediately marched to Charlestown (No.4) stayed there about one week from there marched to Manchester, VT under command of Capt. McConnell stopped there about one week and then marched for Bennington. Arrived there' on Sunday and on Monday was called out on a Scout under Col. Graigue and marched to Rainbow Mills, N. York, twelve miles from Bennington and there made a Stand. And took up the Bridge to prevent the Enemy from crossing but the project failed and we then retreated back to Bennington where we met General Stark with the main Army and then made a Stand for a few days.

Also quoted in Gabriel, Soldiers and Civilians, p. 47.

Primary Sources Battle of Bennington

Unit: New Hampshire State Militia, Col. James Read, Capt. Solomon Stone
Thomas Emery

Pension Application of Thomas Emery W 21069

Marched "through Chesterfield over the green mountains to Bennington and was there under Col Reads & Col Stark – I was then engaged in the Battle against the Germans under Lieut Col. Baum. – After the Battle we remained at Bennington a few days and went thence to Stillwater."

Primary Sources Battle of Bennington

Unit: Green Mountain Boys Col. Samuel Herrick, Capt. Dewey
Jesse Field

p. 172:

[we] crossed the river over against the camp, went over the hills, forded the river again below the enemy, and came up on their rear. When we came in sight of the enemy's works we halted, and it seemed that the rear of our party had been detained for some cause. We stood but a short time when the firing commenced from the party on the north. I recollect hearing Lieut. ----- exclaim, 'My God, what are we doing? They are killing our brothers; why are we not ordered to fire? In a moment our adjutant came up and ordered us to advance. We pressed forward, and as the Hessians rose above their works to fire, we discharged our pieces at them, [we kept advancing & about the 2nd fire they left their works &]

p. 177:

ran down the hill to the south and south-east. We ran over and round their works after them, and continued the pursuit until they were all, or nearly all, killed, or taken. The day was very warm, the Hessians were in full dress, and very heavily armed, and we in our shirts and trousers, and without our knap sacks, and thus had greatly the advantage in the pursuit. After we passed the redoubt there was no regular battle, — all was confusion, — a party of our men would attack and kill, or take prisoners, another party of Hessians. Every man seemed to manage for himself, and, being attached by chance to some squad, either under some officer, or without any, would attack every party that came in their way. I should think I did not continue in the pursuit over half a mile, though some parties went further, — probably nearly down to Runsellan's Mills."

p. 182:

When the prisoners were collected, they were sent off under a guard to Bennington. Our men were scattered all over the field of battle, some resting them selves, some looking up the dead and wounded, and others in pursuit of plunder. An hour or two before sunset I heard the report of cannon, and news soon came that our men were attacked by a body of Hessians who had come to reinforce Baum. I with others went down on the side-hill north of the road. When we came in sight of the enemy, they were marching up the road this side the brick factory, their cannon in front clearing the way. Our men kept collecting in front and on the left. The party I was with took post with others 'on the side-hill above the road, within from twenty to thirty rods of the enemy, and kept up n constant fire generally from

behind trees. The road appeared full of men, and It was like firing into a flock of sheep. The enemy kept firing upon us, but we were greatly protected by the trees. The battle continued till about dark, when the enemy retreated and were not pursued far.

Isaac Jennings, *Memorials of a century. Embracing a record of Individuals and Events chiefly in the early History of Bennington, VT. and its First Church* (Boston: Gould & Lincoln, 1869)

Jesse Field gave this deposition to Hiland Hall in 1828 quoted in Gabriel, *Soldiers and Civilians*, pp. 51/52.

I Jesse Field ... say that previous to, [and] at the time [of]... the battle of the 16th of August 1777 I had resided in Bennington. Previous to the battle some barracks & store houses had been erected in Bennington by the Govt. of Vermont, in which a quantity of provisions was deposited, & I think some had been brought from Berkshire Co. Mass.-the quantity of stores I am not able to tell, but should think it was not large. General Clark arrived in town 4 or 5 days previous to the 16th- A few days before the battle say the 12th or 13th the scouts brought information that a body of Hessians Tories & Indians were approaching Bennington & were within 12 or 15 miles of the town. On the 14th Stark marched in the direction of the enemy & sent a party in advance who met Baum near Rensselaer's Mills & retreated. I cannot tell exactly how far Stark advanced with the main body that day but he encamped on the farm now owned by David Henry.

The 15th was a rainy day & the main body remained in camp. Scouring parties were, however, out all day & there was some skirmishing, but I am not able to give the particulars. I belonged to Capt. Dewey's company of militia. On the morning of the 16th a body of troops was detached to attack the enemy on the north, & Col Herrick with his regiment of rangers & a part or the whole of Col. Brush's regiment of Militia including Capt. Dewey & Cap. Saml. Robinson's company of militia from Bennington crossed the river nearby agt. [against] the camp went over the hills & forded the river again below the enemy & come up in their rear from the south west I was on or near the right & front of the party-When we came in sight of the works we halted, & it seemed that the rear of our party had been detained for some cause & did not come on so quick as they ought to have done- We stood but a short time when the firing commenced from the party on the north. I recollected of hearing Lieut. [blank] exclaim- "My God what are we doing-they are killing our brothers-Why are we not ordered to fire" - In a moment our adjutant rode up & ordered us to advance-We pressed forward & as the Hessians rose above their works to fire we discharged our pieces at them, we kept advancing & about the 2nd fire they left their works & ran down the hill to the south or S. East - We followed on over their works & pursued down the hill. The day was very warm, they were in full dress & very heavy armed, & we in our shirts & trousers & thus had much the advantage, in the pursuit.

Primary Sources Battle of Bennington

Unit: New York, Col. Devoe, Capt. Joseph Gifford
Nathan Franklin

Pension Application of Nathan Franklin W 8207

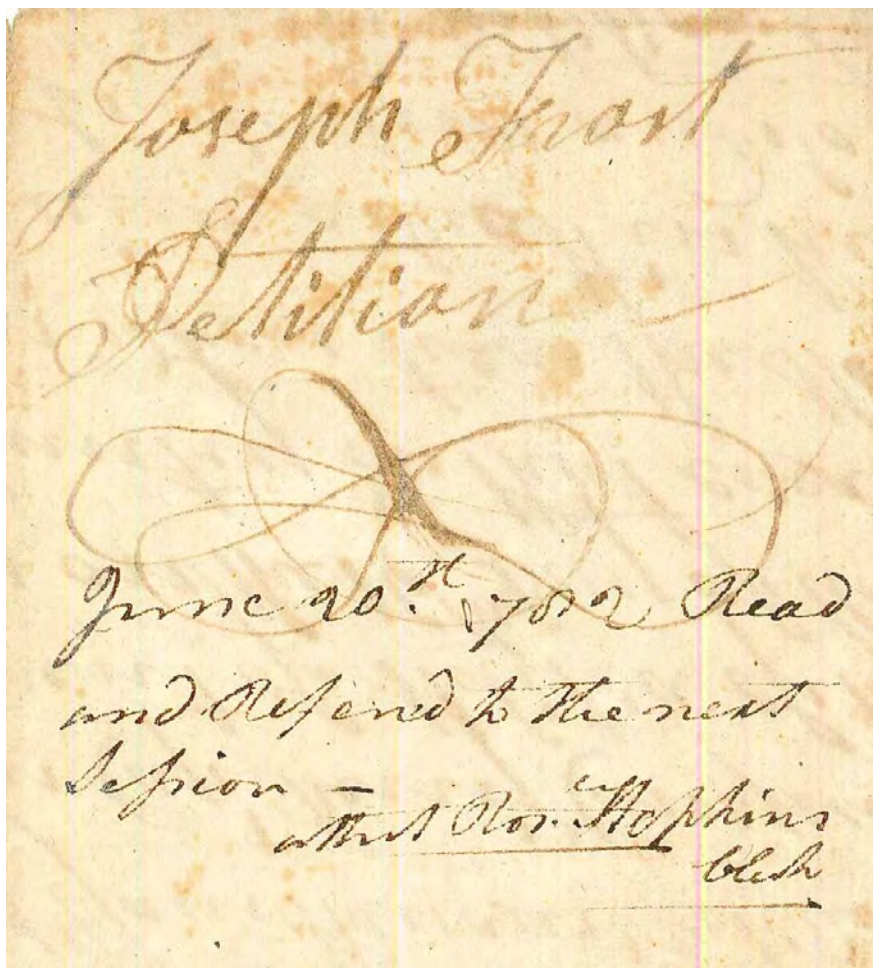
"I was born in the year 1763 (as appeared by a record in my Fathers bible) at a place called 'Quaker Hill' what county I cannot tell", which means that Franklin around 14 years old when he enlisted in August 1777 and fought in the Battle of Bennington. He died 89 years old on 21 June 1854. Quaker Hill is a hamlet within the town of Pawling in Dutchess County, New York.

"In the month of August 1777 I enlisted at Pittstown N.Y. as a soldier for 9 months in the Company of Capt. Josph Gifford in Col. Devoes Rgt of Continental troops [...] I joined my company at Stillwater & soon marched to Bennington Vt. where we had a battle with a detachment of Burgoynes Army under Col. Baum – We returned soon after the battle to Stillwater".

Primary Sources Battle of Bennington

Unit: Vermont Militia, Col. William Williams, Capt. Perry
Joseph Frost

Petition for reward for "loss of blood and limbs" which he sustained at the Battle of Bennington, August 16, 1777; filed "Last Thursday of January 1782", i.e. 31 January 1782.



Joseph Frost
Petition

June 20th 1782 Read
and Referred to the next
Session —
attest ^{by} Rev. Hopkins
Clerk

To the Honourable the General Assembly of the State
of Vermont to be convened at Bennington on the last
Thursday of January 1782

The Petition of Joseph Frost of Westminster
in the County of Bennington and State of Vermont
Humbly Sheweth

That Your Honour Petitioner in August 1777
was a Soldier in Capt Perry's Company and Col. John
Williams Regiment of Militia of this State and was call'd
forth into Action on the 16th Day of August afore said in
Defense of his Country in that ever Memorable Battle
of Bennington where was the Misfortune of Your
petitioner to receive a shot in his left Arm which
cut the sinews of said Arm and so far shattered the
Bones as rendered Your petitioner unable to do any
manner of Work for six Months

Your Honour Petitioner would further Remark
that he has intirely lost the use of his Thumb and
Little finger on said Arm which greatly Obstructs Your
petitioner in procuring a Support by the Labour
of his hands on which he solely depended

Your petitioner would therefore pray
Your Honours to take his Case into Your Wise Consi-
derations and for the Loss of Blood and Limb which
he has sustained in Defense of Your Honours Sovereign-
ty Grant him some Reward as to Your Honours
Gratitude just and Your petitioner as in
Duty Bound shall ever pray Joseph Frost

At Genl. Assembly June 20th 1782

The above petition referred to the next Session art.

RECORD, VOL. 17. P. 53.

Attest Jos. Hopkins Clk

On 10 June 1785, "Joseph Frost, badly wounded in battle at St. Koick [San Coick], on the 16th of August, 1777, awarded the sum of thirty five pounds, for his personal service in the company, and as compensation for his sufferings, cost &c."¹

Other wounded veterans applied as well, viz. on 12 October 1778, the Vermont legislature "Granted the petition of Joseph Tyler, Esqr, for the sum of eleven pounds, twelve shillings, expence in curing wounds he received in the battle of Bennington" (Ibid., p. 771) and on 2 March 1784 it "Resolved, that the Treasurer be and is hereby directed to pay unto Jonathan Haynes, the sum of fifty pounds, lawful money, for the cost and damages he sustained in being wounded in the Bennington battle." (Ibid. p. 776)

In 1794, Frost also applied for an invalid pension from the Federal Government:

Applicants' names.	Rank and regiment.	Disability.	When and where disabled.
Joseph Frost,	Private, Col. Williams's militia.	Wounded in his left arm by a musket ball,	August 16, 1777, Bennington.

American State Papers, 1789-1838 38 vols., (Washington, DC 1831-1861), Class 9: Claims 1789-1809, vol. 1, p. 162. The American State Papers are available on-line; the Frost claim at <http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=llsp&fileName=036/llsp036.db&Page=162> The volume contains claims by dozens of servicemen wounded in the Battle of Bennington.

The website of the Library of Congress states that "The Claims volume of the American State Papers proves particularly valuable in the case of pre-1800 Revolutionary War pensions. A fire in the War Department on November 8, 1800, destroyed all Revolutionary War pension and bounty land applications that had been submitted up to that date. Much information on these applicants would have been lost were it not for several War Department reports based on original applications that the secretary of war sent to Congress between 1792 and 1795. The lists for 1792, 1794, and 1795 are printed in the Claims volume and contain name, rank, disability, date and location where disabled, residence, pension entitlement, and other remarks."

<http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2005/summer/state-papers.html>

¹ Record Series: SE-118, Vol. 17, p. 53, Record ID: 39624, Manuscript Vermont State papers, 1777-1946, Vermont State Archives, Montpelier, VT; *Rolls of Soldiers* p. 777.

Primary Sources Battle of Bennington

Unit: 2d PA Regiment, Col Joseph Wood, Capt. John Huling
Joseph W. Gabel

Pension Application of Joseph W. Gabel S 31052

Gabel enlisted in Hagerstown (?) ca 26 December 1775 "following the retreat from Ticonderoga – he describes the naval battle and was on the "Greyhound" until the middle of January 1777, when he marched with his regiment to Philadelphia

"where we remained the remainder of the winter in the Spring following we heard some Brittish Vessels were Ascending the Delaware when the declarant with a party of Volunteers went down to Mud fort, where we heated Balls fired them into a ship & blew her up. two others in Company descended the River & made their Escape. we Returned to the Barracks in Philadelphia, from whence we went into New Jersey, was in Company of Some teams Moving Some Cannon. When A Man that was driving One of the Teams got wounded & declarant took his place till another driver was procured in managing an unruly Ox he Struck him in the Belly with his horns, Broke the Rim of his belly which caused an incurable Rupture which has ever Since disabled him from performing any kind of hard Labour. While in Jersey he had in Charge a parcel of United States Horses, Our Regiment at this time was much broken up. Craig commanded the Company, from New Jersey we went to Bennington was there with Generals Stark & Warner was in the Battle at the taking of Col. Baum & his division. We from there went to Saratoga."

Gabel lives in Natchitoches in Louisiana when he files his application on 14 September 1832.

There is much confusion in this application, esp. since Bennington is on 16 August 1777 and the events at Mud Fort outside Philadelphia took place after Bennington, not before.

Primary Sources Battle of Bennington

Unit: Green Mountain Boys, Capt. John Warner

Thomas Galusha

Pension application of Thomas Galusha S 23648

“joined the Company at Manchester in the State of Vermont commanded by Capt. John Warner Lieut Eastman, cannot remember the Ensign’s name and was attached to Col. [Samuel] Herrick’s Regiment [...] that he was Stationed at Manchester as a Guard over the Military Stores and was imployed in Scouting and was sent out in Small parties to Lake Champlain [...] untill the 16th day of August when he was Marched to Bennington and arrived there in the Morning of the 17th and was sent across Bennington river in the rear of Col Baum’s Regiment who was sent there by gen Burgoyne to cut off the retreat and they first commenced and attacked Col Baum in his intrenchments and he was soon drove from his intrenchment and they were made Prisoners and killed the Most of them that Col Baum was wounded and died. That Daniel Warner his Capt’s brother and several other of his Company were killed that in the afternoon there comes a reinforcement from Burgoyne’s army commanded by Col Beihman when he retreated untill Col Warner come up with his regiment of Continental Troops and there was a battle which continued untill dark that about half of Beihman’s Regt were killed and Several of his own men also killed that he was in both battles.”

Born in 1756, he lived Williamstown, Mass.

Primary Sources Battle of Bennington

Unit: New Hampshire Militia, Capt. Isaac Clark
William Gilmore

Pension Application of William Gilmore S 8571

“That on the 13th of August the same year when Col. Baum’s detachment came out from Saratoga to Bennington he went to Bennington and there volunteered and fell into Captain Isaac Clarks company of that place – that there was not much ceremony about the organization of the volunteers – that he with said company marched that afternoon back to Cambridge and encamped in the woods that night about two miles from the camp of Col Baum – The next day they retreated before the enemy to or near to the Bennington battle ground and there met general Stark with his forces. That on the 15th they were all drawn out and formed for action but there came on a rain and the attack was deferred to the sixteenth when the Bennington Battle so called was fought and in which he was engaged through the day – That he helped the next day to bury the dead and continued in said service in said company till the 27th of the same month and was then dismissed to go home.”

Gilmore was living in White Creek, New York, less than 10 miles to the north of Walloomsac, when he heard of Baum approach and decided to join the fight.

Primary Sources Battle of Bennington

Unit: 11th Massachusetts Regiment, Col. Ebenezer Francis
Captain Moses Greenleaf

Saturday 16th August 1777. [...] this evening an Express arrived from Bennington says they had a Battle took some field pieces from the enemy & four Hundred men were still engaged.

Sunday 17th August. This day Rainy [...] another express from Bennington Informs that our Militia had defeated the Enemy. had kill'd & Took upward of 1000 & four Brass field Pieces

Monday 18th August. This day pleasant Colo Brewer set of for Bennington with an 100 Men

Tuesday 19th August. This day pleasant built up my Tent

Wednesday 20th August 1777. This day pleasant set off [from Albany] at 2 oClock with 58 Men for Bennington to guard Medicines Lodg'd at Widow Williams In Tomhanock this evening Showry

Thursday 21st August 1777. This day pleasant arrived at Bennington at Genl Lincoln's Quarters at 4 oClock P.M. this evening Showry

Wickman, Donald H. "‘Breakfast on Chocolate’: The Diary of Moses Greenleaf, 1777" *The Bulletin of the Fort Ticonderoga Museum* vol. 15 No. 6 (1997), pp. 483-506, p. 501.

Primary Sources Battle of Bennington

Unit: Vermont Militia, Col. Nichols, Capt. George Galushka
Eli Griffith

Pension Application of Eli Griffith R 4324

Griffith seems to have joined the military out of a sense of adventure and served in the militia of three different states. While he was living in Granville, New York in 1775, "a body of Connecticut militia [...] came through Granville he volunteered there [for 3 ½ months] and in July entered as a private" and marched with the regiment to Fort Ticonderoga. Following a number of shorter term with the Connecticut militia, "About the first of April 1777 he was drafted at said Granville in the New York militia and participated in the retreat from Ticonderoga.

"The country being filled with alarm and the British troops under General Burgoyne being daily expected through Granville, said Eli Griffith took his family and hastily fled to Great White Creek (a place so called) about twenty-five miles south-westerly from Granville, leaving most of his property behind for which he intended to return but never did and it was destroyed. For in attempting to return he found that the Americans would not let him pass a line they had formed to stop Burgoyne. He then about the middle of July 1777 volunteered and entered the ranks at White Creek and continued there in service over three weeks in Captain Mattisons company of Vermont militia. Wood was the Lieutenant as far as recollected- in Colonel Williams regiment – his Major was Armstrong. He asks pension for three weeks for this service.

He had friends residing in Shaftsbury, Vermont, and preferring that station he asked and obtained permission of Colonel Williams to leave Captain Mattisons Company to join the Vermont Militia at Shaftsbury. About the first of August 1777 he entered the company of Captain George Galushka at Shaftsbury as a volunteer – the Lieutenant was John Blakslee – there was no Ensign – the company was in Colonel Moses Robinson's regiment of Vermont militia – Josiah Brush was the Lieutenant Colonel – all were under General Stark. In about three weeks General Stark concluded to attack the British under General Redsill [Riedesel] he thinks (or nearly that name) at Maloonscot (about four miles northwest of Bennington) where they lay encamped on a high ground along the stream and marched over the militia (among whom was said Eli Griffith) from Shaftsbury to that place about one and a half mile. General Stark planned his attack for Friday but rain prevented.– he had sent Colonel Allen with one division of the American troops north and Lieutenant Colonel Brush west, to march around and he in the British as they retreated. He hastened the attack because the

British expected reinforcements. The British retreated, but Colonel Brush missed his track – Stark's plan failed, the British were not intercepted but marched about two miles where they met their reinforcements. In this action the British General was killed. When the British retreated Stark, expecting no more fighting had returned to his quarters in town of Bennington one mile off. The British when reinforced returned driving back the Americans made a stand and a smart engagement preceded [?]. the Firing was Kept up on both sides until dark when the British retreated and went off to their main army. This is called the Bennington Battle. It may have been the British general Baum killed, but it seems as if Gen Redsell."

Born on 9 March 1750, Griffith is 82 years old when he gives this deposition on 4 October 1832.

This is also one of the few applications where women testify to the military service of husbands or in-laws. Sarah Curtis, "a sister in law by Marriage of Eli Griffith" testified on 25 June 1832 "that at the battle of Bennington the said Griffith and her husband were in the battle: that they were both out together in the service about three months".

Primary Sources Battle of Bennington

Unit: Vermont Militia, Col. Eli Bronson, Capt. Samuel Fletcher
Bradley Gilbert

Pension application of Bradley Gilbert R 21698

Gilbert was in Sunderland, VT “until the first of June 1777 by which time I recovered my health. I then again volunteered at that place as a Sergeant in the same Company and Regiment as before [...] I was in Bennington Battle & took some pompous Proclamation out of Col Baum’s pocket as he lay on the field of battle. He was a Heßsian & Col of Cavalry.”

“I remained at Manchester, Sunderland Arlington Shaftsbury & Bennington till the middle of August 1777 when I marched to Bennington V^t and was in two battles at that place fought in one day. Co^l. Baum of the British Army was killed in the first battle. I saw him dead on the field. He was a heßsian. I was a sergeant in said battle.”

Gilbert was born on 9 September 1757 in Guilford, CT. He later served for six years in the Vermont Legislature.

At some point he mentions Timothy Bronson (1734-1798), Eli’s brother, as the colonel of the regiment.

Primary Sources Battle of Bennington

Unit: Medical Department
Francis Hagan

Bennington, Sept. 21, 1777

Dear General:

Every opportunity of writing affords me pleasure, and believe me the present situation of affairs renders me very anxious to hear from you.

I would willingly mention several things to you, but I know your mind at present is so taken up with matters of importance that you cannot attend to small affairs. It may not be amiss to mention the disagreeable situation of the wounded prisoners, which the approaching season seems to threaten every day, and I'm confident that it will be impossible to procure any other house for them than what they at present occupy.

I have discovered from a German officer, who is a cornet of horse, and left here to see the patients well treated, that the greatest discord prevails between them and the British, and he is much disobliged that General Burgoyne did not write to him, and declared to me in confidence if the Germans knew they were so much despised (as he finds they are) by the British, it would be attended with the most dreadful consequences. One night, while Bacchus made us both laugh, he told me Burgoyne had more Germans in his army than British, and if ever he lived to return, the behavior of the British officers should be no secret to General Riedesel. You must know the whole blame of the late expedition is attributed to the Germans. The British officer, who is my patient, has hinted to me that he believes General Howe and his master would be very glad if General Lee was not in their possession, and I find it is the prevailing opinion among them that very soon he will get leave to slip away. Yesterday I heard that we had taken 250 of the enemy, and when I told it to the German officer, and that they were British, he expressed the greatest satisfaction, and wished with all his soul their whole army might meet with a defeat, such is their jealousy.

Believe me to be sincerely

Your humble servant

Francis Hagan

"Biographical Sketch of Doctor Jonathan Potts." *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register* vol. 18 (1864), pp. 21- 35, p. 33.

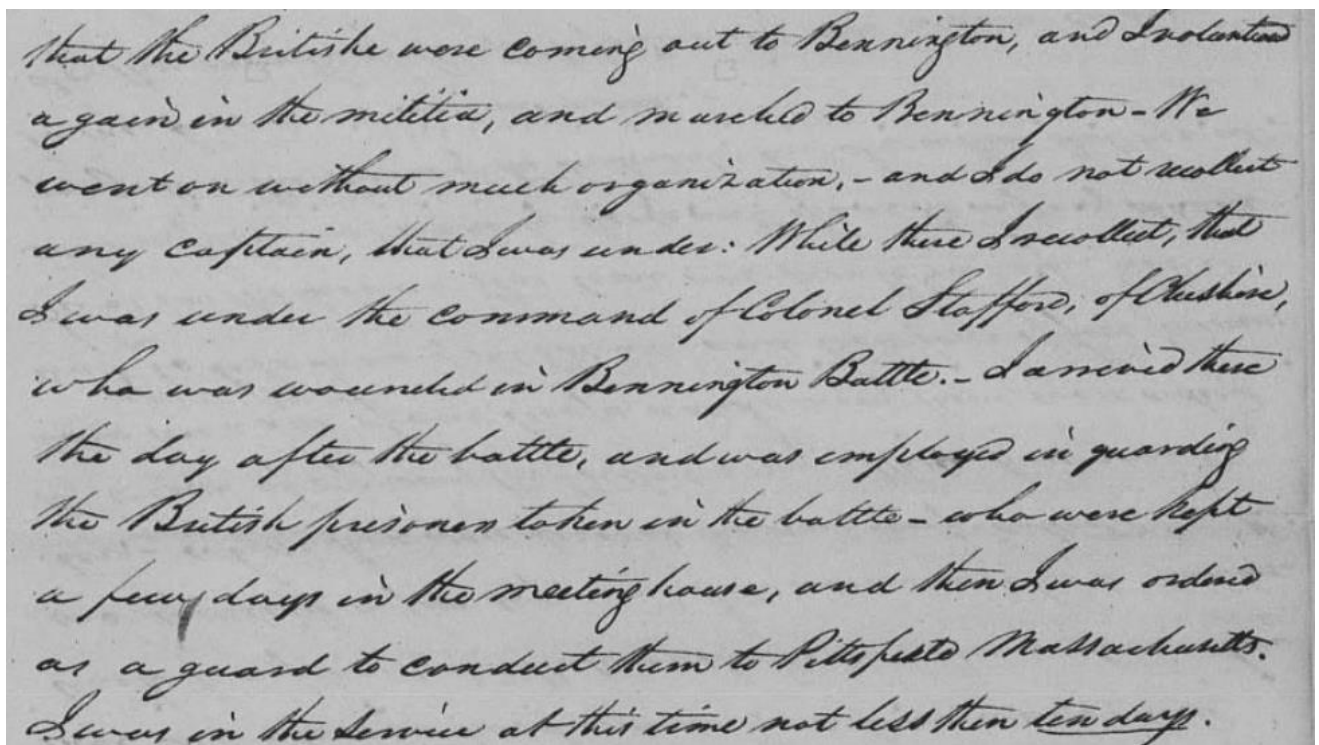
Primary Sources Battle of Bennington

Unit: Massachusetts Militia, Col. Joab Stafford, Capt. Joseph Peirce
Levi Hanks

Pension Application of Levi Hanks W 1860

In the year 177, when I was sixteen years of age, news arrived that the British Army, under General Burgoyne, were moving out of Canada into the United States, and in the month of June, when farmers were hewing corn the first time, I volunteered in a company of militia commanded by Captain Peirce, and was marched toward the north [...]

In the month of August following, an alarm came



that the Britishe were coming out to Bennington, and I volunteered again in the militia, and marched to Bennington. We went on without much organization, - and I do not recollect any captain, that I was under. While there I recollect, that I was under the command of Colonel Stafford, of Rhine, who was wounded in Bennington Battle. - I arrived there the day after the battle, and was employed in guarding the British prisoners taken in the battle - who were kept a few days in the meeting house, and then I was ordered as a guard to conduct them to Pittsfield Massachusetts. I was in the service at this time not less than ten days.

Born in Mansfield, CT, on 28 May 1761, he moved with his family to Windsor, MA, in 1770.

Primary Sources Battle of Bennington

Unit: Massachusetts Militia, Col. Simonds
Israel Harris

Pension application of Israel Harris S 6952

"[after Battle of Fort Edwards] General Schuyler being Commander in Chief, ordered one half of Simonds Regiment to return home (in which was included said Israel Harris) to hold themselves in readiness to march at a minutes warning. About one week after a detachment of the British under the command of Colonel Baum, advanced to Bennington in Vermont. In the meantime Colonel Simonds had returned home when he received an express from Gen^l Schuyler with orders to take the field with all the force he could muster and forthwith march to Bennington to oppose Baum. The said Israel Harris was included in this muster and subsequently on the 16th of August in the engagement which resulted I Baum's Defeat and death. Gen^l Stark had command of the American Troops in this battle. After the said battle Colonel Simmonds Regiment was dismissed."

Primary Sources Battle of Bennington

Unit: Green Mountain Boys Col. Samuel Herrick, Capt. John Warner
Erastus Hatheway

Pension application of Erastus Hatheway W 19741

Enlists in July 1777 a few days after fall of Ft. Ticonderoga (July 1777) "the troops that he [Hatheway] belonged to were called Green Mountain boys".

From Manchester he marched to Bennington and was in the Battle that was fought on the 16th day of August".

Born 1760, Died 21 September 1844

His application contains on p. 23 this deposition:

"I Silas Walbridge of Bennington, county of Bennington and State of Vermont of lawful age, testify and say, That on the 8th day of July A.D. 1777, at Pawlet, Vermont, I enlisted for six months in the Regiment of State troops, commanded by Colonel Samuel Herrick, there was no Lt. Col. of the Reg^t. – Wait was Major of the Regiment, this Regiment was denominated Rangers, and consisted of four companies. Ebenezer Allen, John Warner, Parmely Allen and – Goodenow were the Captains of the four companies. I belonged to Capt. Warner's company, Enoch Eastman was his Lieutenant. [...] on the 15th of August 1777, we were ordered from Manchester to Bennington, where we arrived on the evening of that day. On the next day the 16th of August 1777, we were engaged in the memorable battle, called Bennington battle, and was in both of the actions of that day – the first action commenced in the fore noon against the breast-work and troops commanded by Col. Baum – the 2d was in the afternoon of that day against a re-inforcement of the enemy, under the command of Gov. Skeen. – two days after the action we were ordered to march to the north and stationed upon the frontiers for the protection of the inhabitants."

This deposition is almost identical to that included in the pension application of Silas Walbridge S 11676.

Primary Sources Battle of Bennington

Unit: Massachusetts Militia, Capt. Foster
Nathaniel Hathorn

Pension application of Nathaniel Hathorn No. S31099

“He further on oath declares That he again inlisted under Capt. Foster of Reading in the summer of the year 1777 and marched to Bennington Vermont, and arrived there soon after Genl Starks defeated the Hessians under Col. Baum, saw the Hessian Prisoners in Bennington Meeting house, and there to Lake George, there had an engagement with the British at Lake George Landing.”

Hathorn was born in Wilmington, MA on 19 January 1755.

Primary Sources Battle of Bennington

Unit: Headquarters
General William Heath

State of Massachusetts Bay

Council Chamber Boston August 25th 1777

Whereas the Council have been acquainted by Gen^l Lincoln that a Number of Prisoners of War taken in the Battle of Bennington are now in the Custody of Gen^l Fellows awaiting Orders of the Council & whereas it will not be Safe to keep those prisoners either in the Counties of Berkshire or Hampshire as they lay is near to the Enemy & the Inhabitants of those Counties must be very much engaged in gitting in their harvest & in defending themselves from the Ravages of the Enemy the Council have therefore ordered the Prisoners to be forwarded to Boston & whereas by the frequent travelling of the Continental Troops & the Militia the Taverns are almost exhausted of Provisions & it will therefore be very difficult to support them while on their way from the County of Berkshire to this Town as well as very difficult to support them after their Arrival here ---

Therefore

Ordered that General Heath be desired to Issue out his orders that the Prisoners aforesaid, together with the Guard that may accompany them, may be supplied from the Continental Stores with rations on their Way from the County of Hampshire to this Town & also with Provisions during their tarry in this place ---

True Copy ---

Attest ---

Jn^o. Avery D^y Sec^y

Papers of General William Heath, Microfilm Reel 17, Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston MA.

Primary Sources Battle of Bennington

Unit: Vermont Militia, Capt. Hammond
Simeon Hicks

Pension Application of Simeon Hicks S16152

Said Simeon further says that about the first of July AD 1777 he enlisted at said Richmond, Hammond, Captain Ingals 1st Lieut. Stearns 2nd Lieut. Eaton Ensign & Marched from Richmond through Charlestown New Hampshire thence through Manchester Vermont to Bennington part of the time under the Command of Col Nichols & part of the time under the Command of Col. Herricks that he was engaged in the Bennington Battle under Major [Stephen] Peabody in the Centre commanded by Gen. Stark – the right wing then commanded by Col. Nichols & the left by Col. Herricks that he was engaged against the Tory breastwork & was again engaged against the Tories at the barn, that he said Simeon Benjamin Ingals & Jose Fuller took nine Hessian privates & one Major prisoners that in a short time after the prisoners were marched off for Bennington the British were reinforced the Battle was renewed. The British commenced by a fire from their field pieces which did little or no Execution the Americans reserved their fire till they were within four or five rods (= 66 to 82 feet) Col. Warner's Regt which arrived after the first Battle was the right flank Guard in the Second Battle was once surrounded and taken & immediately retaken the British were totally routed: that after remained for a few days after the Battle near Bennington he said Simeon with the rest of the Company to which he was attached was marched to Stillwater & thence to Saratoga where he remained for a few days till the term of his enlistment which was two months expired when he was dismissed & went home.

Peabody served as an aide to Stark; the captured major was Major von Meibom.

Simeon Hicks was born on 22 August 1755 in Rehoboth, Massachusetts, and died 99 years old on 24 January 24 1855 in Arlington, Vermont.

Primary Sources Battle of Bennington

Unit: Headquarters Enos Hitchcock

[p. 127]

15. Rained last Night, agreeable to Gen^l. Orders the Army turned out at 2 °Clock, threw their Boards together in heaps—about Six set Still Water, marched to half Moon where we arrived about 4 °Clock P. M. rained most of the Day—Gen^{ls} Glover Nixon & Poors Brigades stoped at the Landing 6 Miles below Still Water, our Brigade came past two Branches on to Van Schoicks Island—

16. Lodged at Mr. Van Shoicks an Elegant House on an Island of best Land formed by the 2nd & 3rd Branch of the Mowhawk River—this morning a despatch ar-

[p. 128]

rived from Bennington informs that Gen^l. Frazer with his flying Camp was within 5 miles of the Meeting House; that we were almost round them— Mr. Plumb came into Camp P. M. by whom I receive^d. Letters from Home & Revd Willard—

17. Sunday. No Service to Day, the men all employed, receiv^d. Letter from Phebe Parsons, Gen^l. Lincoln- marched to the Grants—

18. Wrote Home N^o 18, by Mr. Davis of ^{Cap.}_{arm} to Rev^d. Willard, Cousin Phebe & Brother Moses - An Express from Bennington inform that they had an Engagement that we had taken 400 prisoners & four Field pieces—

19. By Express this morning have following list of Prisoners taken at Bennington, viz—1 Lieut Col^o. —1 Major 8 Cap^{ts} -14 Lieut^s. 4 Ensigns—2 Cornets—1 Judge Advocate—1 Baron—2 Canadian officers—6 Surgeons—37 British Soldiers—398 Hessians—38 Canadians—151 Tories—4 Brass Field pieces—80 killed— 200 wounded & fell into our Hands— Gen^l. Gates

[p. 129]

arrived into Camp this Evening—visited the Hospital—new City—fair & pleasant Gen^{ls}. Nixon's & Glovers Brigades came on to the first Island—

20. Gen^l. Schuyler let Camp, bound to the southward— went to see the great falls said to near a hundred feet perpendicular—catch out in a heavy shower—

21. Col^o. Brewer, who was sent with the women to guard Stores to Bennington, returned with 40 Tories taken in the Action there—Returned to Mess with Col^o. Littlefield extreme hot

22. Very hot to Day—visited Hospital at new City—

23. Two Tories bro^t in

24. Sunday. Divine Service at 5 °Clock P. M. 1 Cor: 15, 19. Receiv^d a Letter from Mr. Foster per Post— Wrote Home N^o 19 & to Mr. Foster by Post—4 Hessian deserters bro^t & 4 Waldeck prisoners taken

[p. 130]

near Surratoga by a Sergeant & 4 men—Several Tories—Receiv^d a Letter this Evening from Cap^t. Batchelder wrote to Him by the Post—

25. Went to Albany in the P. M. rained most of the P. M. put up with M. Plumb at Mr. Roorbeck's news that the Enemy left Fort Stanwix left their Tents Standing & all heavy Bagage—

26. Dined at D. Potts's—returned to Camp P. M. rainy most of the Day—

27. Report y our Troops have possession of Long Island &c—

28. Dined at Gen' Gates's – Eighty Connecticut light Horse came into Camp, were ordered over to Pitts town half way to Bennington—visited Hospital—

29. No noticeable occurrence to Day

30. Eight Hundred Riflemen arrived to Gen^l. Poors Camp—Mr. Shaw & Pearson came into Camp this Evening receivd Letters fr Home of ye 8, 11, & to ye 25th; from Revd Morrell to 22 Aug; :

31. Sunday. Divine Service at 11 °Clock A. M. Jer: 2, 19, at 4 P. M. Exod: 15, 3, very Warm.

Do thou, great Liberty, inspire our Souls
& make our Lives in thy possession happy

or our Deaths glorious in thy just Defence

September 1. A Troop of Connecticut Horse came into Camp—Gen Lincoln & Parmer came from Benington—visited Hospital attended funeral of a Sergeant of Cole Bradfords Reg just at Night a Flagg came in from Burgoine on the subject of Torys being killed in cool blood.

“Diary of Rev. Enos Hitchcock, D. D., a Chaplain in the Revolutionary Army” William B. Weeden, ed., PUBLICATIONS OF THE RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY, NEW SERIES, VOLUME VII. (PROVIDENCE, PRINTED FOR THE SOCIETY BY THE STANDARD PRINTING CO., 1899), pp. 87 - 134, 147 - 194 , 207 - 231, pp. 127-130.

p. 218 begins 1 August 1780 diary; ends 5 Nov. p. 231

Primary Sources Battle of Bennington

Unit: Massachusetts Militia, Col. Simonds, Capt. Enos Parker
David Holbrook

Pension application of David Holbrook, S 23709

"Entered the service of the United States [...] about the first of December 1776 at Providence in the State of Rhode Island" for four months even though "at the time of Entering the service aforesaid the declarant resided with his Father at Sturbridge Worcester County Massachusetts". On 3 June 1777, he "enlisted" under Lt. White and remained at

"Williams tavern in the town of Pollet where were some Military Stores which they Guarded until the sixth day of July 1777 when they were joined by a Continental Captain with 24 or 25 men and 60 or 70 head of Cattle for the army and went to Skeensboro Vt where they were met by a number of invalid soldiers who had escaped from Ticonderoga which had been attacked by the British army under the Command of Burgoin and which was Evacuated by General St. Clair the Cattle were then driven back to Pollet and thence to Manchester and this declarer with a Sergeant of the Continental troops and about 25 or 30 men went on and very soon met the Van Guard of the British army and had a little skirmish & while this declarer was intent upon firing upon the Enemy the Sergeant and all the Men Except three had left him and the British had got to town, when this declarer and his three Companions made their Escape by running across Wood Creek upon some trees that fortunately had fallen across it but a Sergeant of the Enemy pursued & as the two hindmost of this declarers companions were crossing on the log he cried out to them to surrender when upon this declarer fired upon him and he fell this declarer and his three Companions after remaining in the woods all night started in pursuit of their Company and overtook them at Allens Tavern in Pollet aforesaid and went on to Willards tavern aforesaid and waited there ten or twelve days until the Stores were removed and thence went on to Manchester and there remained until about the first of August when this Declarer being sick and his fathers team having come to bring a load of provisions for the army he obtained a furlough and went home That he remained at home at East Hoosack aforesaid (now Adams) until the 14th August in the Morning having regained his health, and hearing the alarm that the Enemy were about to attack Bennington this declarer started immediately and got to Bennington the same night and next morning went to the line of the Enemy and remained there watching their Movements that day, and the next day being the 16th of August Captain Enos Parker Lieutenants Kilborn and Cook of the Massachusetts

Militia belonging to Col Simons Regiment Selected a Company of 60 or 70 men from the men who had promiscuously came together of which this declarer was one and marched them across the river by a Circuituous route of 5 or 6 miles mostly through woods with all possible silence and brought them up in a piece of woods at the Enemies rear where a line was formed and the Company aforesaid formed on the right and there pursuant to orders sat in silence until a Signal (the firing of 2 Muskets) was given when the American army upon three sides of the British Encampment made a Simultaneous attack. The American Army under the Command of General Stark and the British army under the Command of General Baum. The American Army made a rush upon the British intrenchments which being received by the British with boldness the battle became general and desperate immediately and continued about two hours Close Combat without form or regularity. Each American fighting according to his own discription, until the Entrenchments were completed routed and those who had not been killed and had not escaped surrendered at discription General Baum being wounded was among the prisoners about the time of the general route of the British army and some of them were running to Escape Col Herrick of the Green Mountain Rangers rode along near where this declarer was and cried out "Boys follow me" and this declarer with one other ran after him about two miles to Ramplers Mills when he stopped his horse and drew up his piece and fired and then wheeled his horse and said there was a reinforcement of British Coming which was soon discovered to be from 9 to 1200 British soldiers with a 9 and 6 pounder and a band of Musick Col Herrick ran his horse to give intelligence to General Stark and this Declarant and his Companion having got out of breath ran behind a Hay Stack and rested till the British army Came along and discharged their pieces at the Enemy and ran. The Enemy returned the fire by the discharge of a six pounder which gave general alarm. The Americans then ran together and formed about a Mile south westerly from the intrenchments which had been occupied by General Baum and headed [i.e. faced] the reinforcement which was under the Command of Col Breiman and Major Skeins of Skeinsborough but the Americans in pursuing those who Escaped from the intrenchments had got scattered and fatigued and but few assembled at first but kept falling in Continually until a line was formed along a fence on the North East side of the Meadow in which was the Hay Stack aforesaid in the Edge of a piece of woods and the British army formed a line in the Meadow and Extending across the road and the firing Commenced as soon as they came within Musket Shot but the Americans not being sufficiently strong to keep the ground retreated from tree to tree firing as they left the trees untill they came to a ravine where was a log fence there made a halt and held the ground, the British came up within about 16 rods (= 264 feet or 88 yards) and stood the firing there Continued some time without Cessation when Col Warner with the remains of his regiment Came up and some of his men understanding the Artillery Exercise took over one of the field pieces taken in the first engagement and formed on the right of the party in which was this declarer and about the same time an Old man with an old Queen Annes Iron sword and mounted upon an Old Black Mare with about 91 robust Men following him in files two deep

Came up and filed in front of the Company Commanded by Captain Parker in which this declarant then was and just as the Old man had got his men to the spot and halted his mare fell & he jumped upon a large white oak stump and gave the Command Captain Parker seeing the Old Mans Company between him & the Enemy Ordered his men to file in between their files which were some distance apart & which was immediately done and the battle then became desperate and immediately this declarant heard a tremendous Crash up in the woods at the right wing of the American troops which was seconded (?) by a yell the most terrible that he ever heard then he heard the voice of Colonel Warner like thunder "Fix Bayonet – Charge" then the Old man on the stump cried out "Charge Boys" and jumped from the stump and ran towards the Enemy his men some with & some without bayonets followed suit & rushed upon the Enemy with all their might who seeing us Coming took to their heels and were Completely routed, as we came up to the Enemys line their field piece being Charged a sergant Luttendon knocked down the man with the port fire and Caught hold of the Limber and whirled about the piece and fired it at the Enemy and the blast (?) overtook them before they had got ten rods [= 165 feet or 55 yards] and mowed down a large number of them Those of the Americans who had not got too much fatigued surround and killed and took a number of the Enemy (British) the Indians that survived the slaughter Escaped This declarer in the scaling of the brest work of the Enemy in the first Engagement Put his right hand upon the top of the breast work & threw his feet over but his right leg was met by a British Bayonet which held it fast and he pitched head first into the Entrenchment and the soldier hit him a thump upon the head but he was dispatched by the next man that came up & this declarer was thereby relieved and in the heat of feeling forgot his wounds But when the Enemy fled in the second Engagement he found himself Exhausted and Could not pursue, the blow upon his head and the wound in his leg having Occasioned the loss of Considerable blood he found himself unable to walk and was put upon a horse and carried back to Bennington where he remained 10 or 12 days until he got sufficiently recovered from his wounds to march when Lieutenant White with whom this declarer enlisted came on and he went with him to Manchester Town after which this declarer was taken with a fever and was sent home where he remained sick a number of months and on 12th February 1778 Lieutenant White came to this declarers father and gave this declarer a discharge he being then very sick and not expected to recover and was not able to do his duty during the whole of the year 1778."

Holbrook was born 30 July 1760 and barely 17 years old at the Battle of Bennington. The deposition is dated 19 September 1832; Holbrook died two months later on 29 November 1832 in Pompey, New York.

His pension at \$80 per year commenced retroactively on 4 March 1831.