

Transcribed and edited by
George Richard Chamberlin

**DECLARATION FOR PENSION
BY
ELIAS CHAMBERLIN
Dated September 28, 1832 ©¹**

*State of New York
County of Livingston/:* ss

On this 28th day of September, 1832, ²
personally appeared in open court before the county
court in Livingston County, ³ now sitting **ELIAS**

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² The same day his brother Charles Chamberlin applied
for a pension. This Declaration was submitted three months
after the Congressional resolution passed and resulted in a
Pension of \$20.00 per annum for Elias. Charles' claim was
also granted he was granted \$28.33 per annum.

³ This is a document summarizing a Court proceeding.
The equivalent of a trial transcript reduced to writing by the
equivalent of a Court reporter. One of the requirements of the
Pension legislation was to state "with precision the length of
his service and the different grades in which he served." In
his one year enlistment referred to herein, Elias never claimed
a grade above private.

CHAMBERLAIN, ⁴ a resident of the town of Livonia in the county of Livingston and State aforesaid aged 79 years, who being first duly sworn, according to law, doth on his oath, ⁵ make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832 ⁶ -- That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and as herein stated. ⁷

That in the year 1775, in the month of October, ⁸ enlisted for one year in New Hampshire

⁴ This is a misspelling of Elias' last name. In this document his last name is spelled two ways: Chamberlin and Chamberlain.. The correct spelling is Chamberlin.

⁵ This Declaration is made under oath.

⁶ The Congressional resolution of June 7, 1832 extended retirement benefits to every branch of the Staff of the Army, including Continental Line, State Troops, Militia, and Volunteers, all persons enlisted, drafted, or who volunteered and who were bound in military service but not those that were occasionally employed such as Clerks, Commissaries, Store Keepers, Teamsters, and Boatman. Persons who served on board of private armed vessels are also excluded as well as persons who turned out on patrols, or who were engaged in guarding places at night, and were not recognized as being in actual military service. Four classes of cases are covered by the law: 1) Regular Troops, 2) The State Troops, Militia and Volunteers, 3) persons employed in the Naval Service, and 4) Indian Spies.

⁷ This document is testimony made under oath pursuant to a hearing in the Livingston County Court.

⁸ October 18, 1775, 50 Americans under Major Brown and Colonel Timothy Bedel joined with 300 Canadians under Colonel Livingston attacked the Fort at Chambly, Canada. Major Stafford, commander of the fort, surrendered the garrison of 10 officers and 78 privates of the Royal

State Troops, ⁹ in a Company commanded by Captain Ebenezer Green. ¹⁰ Garmon Grant was First Lieutenant, Benjamin Chamberlain was Second Lieutenant, in a regiment commanded by Colonel Timothy Bedel, ¹¹ (Isaac) Butterfield was Major. ¹² Taped muster before General Israel Morey ¹³ at Orford ¹⁴ in the State of New Hampshire. The

Fusilers. The Americans confiscated firearms poder, ammunition and food.

⁹ This enlistment alone qualified Elias for his pension. This was a one year enlistment with a State Troop.

¹⁰ One of four Captains left in the custody of the British after the prisoner exchange referred to below transpired. The other hostages were Captain Sullivan (Brother of the General), Captain Bliss, and Captain Stephens.

¹¹ This is Colonel Timothy Bedel. Born about 1736/37 in New Hampshire and who died about 1787 in New Hampshire. He was married to Elizabeth Merrill and later to Mary Johnson. DAR Patriot Index, Centennial Edition, Pat 1, A-F.

¹² This is Major Isaac Butterfield of Westmorland, New Hampshire. Born May 7, 1742 in Westford, Massachusetts. Married to Hannah Chamberlain. died June 5, 1801.

¹³ General Israel Morey was born in Hebron, Connecticut on May 27, 1735 and died in Oxford New Hampshire on August 10, 1809. He married Martha Palmer on July 14, 1757 in Hebron, Connecticut. He was an original land grantee in Oxford and received the first license to operate a Ferry on the Connecticut River in New Hampshire. The ferry ran between Oxford, New Hampshire and Fairlee, Vermont. Morey was referred to as Colonel of troops in the Connecticut River Valley in 1778. General money owned real property that would later be owned b Captain Joseph Pratt.

¹⁴ Orford, New Hampshire, is directly across the Connecticut River from Fairlee, Vermont. Fairlee, Vermont, is Seven miles from Thetford, Orange County, Vermont.

troops were detained for some reason to him and didn't march until the snow fell and they started on snow shoes through the woods to Masisco Bay River ¹⁵near the Canada. line. took 6 days provisions and were detained by storms and otherwise so that they were out about three weeks before they reached Chambly ¹⁶ in a state of starvation being out twelve days with only two days provisions to a man. After staying a short time at Chambly, marched to a place called the CEDARS ¹⁷ in Canada situated between Montreal and Lake Ontario on the bank of the River St Lawrence. There built a log breastwork in order to cut off the communications of a portion of the enemy which was stationed above with those below, but they were reinforced with Indians, F.C., and made an attack upon the Americans and after a fight of 2 or 3 days they were compelled to surrender and the Indians were allowed to strip them of clothing, money and whatever they had so that they were all in a *dishepied* situation. Was held in captivity for about three weeks and there was a cartel. There was three Captains left as hostages, to wit: Captain Green, Captain Sullivan, and he thinks Stephens was another. ¹⁸ They were allowed between 2 & 3 hundred to make the best of their way to their respective places of residence after being divested of everything of any value or comfort, barefooted,

¹⁵ Missisquois Bay River

¹⁶ Approximately 15 miles from Montreal

¹⁷ This area in history is referred to as the Cedars.

¹⁸ There were four Captains left as hostages

bare headed, and almost naked, and in this situation arrived at Chambly and made the last of his way home at which place he arrived in the month of July or August, at least nine months from his report. A short time after he got home, say the 1st of September, the company was again called out and continued in service until the expiration of the enlistment the October following, were stationed at and about Fort Independence.

That in the spring of 1777, he was made a Lieutenant in the Militia Company in the town of Strafford, in the State of Vermont, and in the month of July there was apprehension of an attack and all were alarmed. ¹⁹ Company met and prepared their guns and provisions for 6 days. Same night 20 men disappeared and went to Canada to obtain the benefit of the Proclamation by Governor Carlton which left but a few efficient men in the town being a frontier town. Those remaining appointed him a Committee of Safety

and the first thing done was to remove all the inhabitants, cattle, and property across the Connecticut River to the town of Lime,²⁰ in the State of New Hampshire. There formed themselves into scouting parties to reconnoitre the woods and at which time he had the general charge, being no civil law, military law had the supremacy. Had to scout the woods as far as Lake Champlain. Take those that were suspected of being friendly to the

¹⁹ This is known as the Strafford Alarm

²⁰ Town of Lyme, New Hampshire.

enemy and took them before Governor Alcott and General Bailey for trial and every stranger that did not give a reasonable account of himself was taken before the same tribunal, some were banished out of the country, some to their farms, and a mark for any if they were found off and their service continued and he was constantly in the same employ for at least two years, continuous apprehension and tumult, the militia was under his control to effect the objects above recited, in all at least two years.

Born in the town of Hebron, Connecticut²¹ in the year 1753 on the 25th day of July. No record of his age.

Living in the town of Strafford, in the State of Vermont, when he was called into service. Called into service as above recited.

Names of the officers with whom he served were above named – never received any written discharge.

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lived in the State of Vermont until the year 1804²² and since then lived in the town of Livonia,

²¹ Many records have Elias born in Colchester. By his own words he was born in Hebron, a neighboring town to Colchester. It does appear that he attended Church as a youth in Colchester for he was baptized in Colchester.

²² He does not say that he lived in Strafford, Orange County Vermont until 1804.

in the County of Livingston aforesaid where he now lives. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatsoever 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. That he has no documentary evidence of his service nor knows of no other whom he can procure who can testify to the same but those whose declarations or certificates are annexed.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

Elias

Chamberlin ²³

Mr. John Young, A Counselor At Law, a resident of the Town of ____ in the County of Livingston, aforesaid and Augustus Gibbs, Sheriff, offers that we are well acquainted with Elias Chamberlain who has been subscribed and sworn to the above declaration, that we believe him to be 79 years of age. That he is respected and believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a soldier of the revolution and that we concur in that opinion and that we have never heard the correctness of that opinion questioned.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year subscribed.

²³ Notice, Elias spelled his last name, Chamberlin.

John Young
Augustus

Gibbs

And the said court does hereby declare that _____ after the investigation of the matter and after putting the interrogatories prescribed by the War Department that the above mentioned applicant was a revolutionary soldier as sworn as he states and the said Court further certifies that it applies to them John Young as Counselor at Law of the town of _____ in Livingston County and Augustus Gibbs, Sheriff of Livingston County are credible persons and that their statements are entitled (Page Turned up).

I, Chancey R. Bond, Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas of Livingston County do hereby certify that the foregoing contains the original proceedings of the said court in the matter of Elias Chamberlain

The Testimony whereof I have hereunto let my hand and affixed my seal of office this 31st Day October, A.D. 1832.

C. R. Bond,
Clerk
By S. H.
Haven, Deputy Clerk

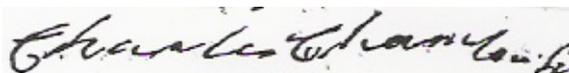
State of New York

County of Livingston

On the 28th day of September in the year 1832 personally served in open Court

Before the County Court of Livingston County the aforesaid CHARLES CHAMBERLAIN²⁴ and OLIVER ROOT who being first duly sworn the said Charles says that he is the brother of Elias Chamberlain and he believes he is 79 years of age and that he recalled that in the year 1776, that the said Elias Chamberlain went into Canada and as he understood and so he believes was taken a prisoner while there and that he knew that the said Elias was in the service at different times during the war but can't recollect the certain times of particular service that he served.

And that the said Oliver Root says that he saw the said Elias Chamberlain when he marched to Canada that he was taken prisoner when he was gone which was believed in the neighborhood and which he never heard questioned.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Charles Chamberlain". The ink is dark and the handwriting is somewhat slanted and fluid.

²⁴ This is Elias' brother, Charles, born on February 24, 1760, in Colchester, CT., and died in January, 14, 1835 in Livonia, NY. Elias Chamberlin was a witness in Charles' Declaration for Pension. Elias' affidavit was dated July 17, 1833

Charles Chamberlin

Oliver Root

Sworn to and subscribed the 28th day of
September, 1832 in open Court.

ELIAS CHAMBERLAIN Declaration
#21499

Direct to Levian Eibly
Livonia
Livingston County
A. Bork

I, Chauncey Bond, Clerk of the Court of Common
Pleas, of Livingston County, do hereby certify that
the foregoing contains the original proceedings of
the said court in the matter of the application of
Elias Chamberlain.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand
and affixed my seal of office, this 31st day of
October, 1832.

C.R. Bond, Clerk

By L. G. Haven, Deputy Clerk

**AFFIDAVIT for
John Evans**

State of New York
County of Livingston

John Evans being first duly sworn according to law before the undersigned, a Judge of the County Courts of Livingston County, deposeth and says that he is eighty one years of age and upwards and has been acquainted with Elias Chamberlain ²⁵ from his youth and has no doubt from his acquaintances with him but he is 79 years of age. And that in the month of October or November (can't recollect which) in the year 1775, this deponent enlisted into a company commanded by Captain Ebenezer Green, in a Regiment commanded by Colonel Timothy Beedle in which company Elias Chamberlain was an enlisted soldier. That the said Elias Chamberlain lived when he enlisted in the town of Strafford in the territory now

²⁵

Witness is spelling Elias' last name incorrectly.

included in the State of Vermont. That the company rendezvoused at Captain Green's in the town of Lyme in the State of New Hampshire until they marched for Canada as was supposed by this deponent and as he then understood to join the American Army in Canada. This deponent believes the enlistment was authorized under the authority of New Hampshire. They marched from Captain Green's to General Bayley's in the town of Newbury in the state of Vermont aforesaid and then being furnished with snow shoes and provisions marched by the way of Mascisco Bay to Chamblee on the River Sorrell in Canada, and then to Caughnawaga and from thence to a place called the Cedars on the River St. Lawrence and there built a breastwork and after arriving at the Cedars aforesaid until sometime in the month of May, 1776, was attacked by a force composed of Canadians and Indians and after having fought as this deponent believes about 3 days, surrendered and was divested of clothing and treated with savage cruelty and was held in captivity according to the best recollections of this deponent from 12 to 15 days at which time there was an arrangement made so that the company was released from captivity and marched to Mount Independence, on the east side of Lake Champlain in what is now included in the State of Vermont and joined the forces or army which has retreated out of Canada under the command of General (Benedict) Arnold, and then continued to serve until the month of October or November when the said Elias

Chamberlain was discharged his time of service having expired having enlisted for one year and having served in the full end thereof – and all the time as stated above with this deponent, and further this deponent says not.

John Evans

Sworn to and subscribed, this 7th day of June, 1833.

Before me,
Gibbs
of Livingston Court

Leman
Judge

I Leman Gibbs, a Judge of Livingston County Court before whom the foregoing affidavit was taken do certify that John Evans, deponent, to the foregoing affidavit is a person of credibility and veracity.

Dated June 7, 1833

Gibbs, a Judge
Livingston County Court

Leman
of

**AMENDEMENT TO
DECLARATION OF ELIAS
CHAMBERLIN
Dated July 17, 1833**

State of New York
Livingston County

Personally appeared before me the undersigned Judge of Livingston County and Elias Chamberlain who being duly sworn deposed and saith that in the years 1775 and 1776 he served including the time he was a prisoner as a private soldier at least twelve months and for such service he claims a pension – his best recollection is that he served more than 12 months but would estimate it more and this he thinks he can be positive.

Elias

Chamberlin²⁶

Sworn to and subscribed this 17th day of July, A.D. 1833, before

²⁶ Again, notice how Elias spelled his last name.

Gibbs, a judge
Livingston County Court

Leman
of

State of New York
Livingston County

I certify that Leman Gibbs before whom the proceedings affidavits of John Evans and Elias Chamberlain purports to have been made and also whose signature appears to this proceeding certificate of the credibility of John Evans was at the dates thereof a legally authorized Judge of Livingston County and That I am well acquainted with his hand writing and verily believe his name subscribed to the ___ of the said affidavits and the said certificate is his own proper handwriting and signature.

Witness my hand and seal of office this 3rd
day of January A.D., 1834.

Chauncey R. Bond, Clerk
of Livingston County

S.H. Haven, Deputy Clerk