

A SOLDIER'S LIFE REPORTS

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DEMONSTRATION SPECIMEN — This is a demonstration specimen. The soldier is fictional and his “file” is a typeset reconstruction of the document types found in real pension files. The process, tables, flags, and sourcing shown here are exactly what a real report contains.

A REVOLUTIONARY WAR PENSION FILE REPORT

Josiah Pellwood

Private · Captain Naylor's company · Colonel Hartwell's regiment of the Delaware Line (Continental); later Sussex County (Delaware) militia

Survivor's/service pension (S 44,187; Acts of Mar 18, 1818; May 1, 1820; Mar 1, 1823 restoration; and Jun 7, 1832)

Family Keepsake Edition · Automated Edition

Prepared July 29, 2026

Every fact in this report is traced to the page that states it.

Prepared from the original records of the United States National Archives (Record Group 15).

Josiah Pellwood

Private, Captain Naylor's company, Colonel Hartwell's regiment of the Delaware Line (Continental);
later Sussex County (Delaware) militia

Short Biography

Josiah Pellwood was a Delaware man who, by his own sworn accounts, enlisted in the spring of 1778 at Lewes and served about nine months as a private in Captain Naylor's company of Colonel Hartwell's regiment of the Delaware Line. He first applied for a pension in June 1818 under the new service-pension law, describing himself as poor, aged, and infirm, with a small thirty-acre farm he could no longer work. When the 1820 means-test amendment required a full inventory of his property, his schedule showed almost nothing — the farm having been conveyed to his son Levi in early 1820 — and the Pension Office struck him from the roll in 1821 on account of that conveyance. He was restored in 1823 at eight dollars a month, and in 1832 he applied again under the new universal service pension, this time recalling the battle of Monmouth and two later short militia tours, and giving his age as 76. Delaware's Secretary of State confirmed in 1833 that a single surviving muster roll of Captain Naylor's company carried Josiah Pellwood as a private from May to December 1778. The file does not record when or where he died. His household in 1820 included his wife Comfort and a young grandson. This report is drawn entirely from a demonstration specimen file; the soldier is fictional.

Identity and the File

The soldier is named consistently throughout as **Josiah Pellwood** of Sussex County, Delaware (Broadkilm Hundred). The 1870 printed file jacket assigns **File No. S. 44,187** (a specimen number) and lists the governing acts: March 18, 1818; May 1, 1820; March 1, 1823; and June 7, 1832 (p. 1).

The "INVALID." printed on the file jacket is a shelf label from the 1870 re-arrangement, not evidence of a disability claim. No physician's or examining certificate appears in the file, and every declaration present is a *service* (survivor) declaration. This is a survivor's pension file (designation **S**), not an invalid pension.

No spelling variants of the surname occur; the signature is rendered "Josiah Pellwood" on both declarations and the property schedule.

Claims Present and Governing Acts

A single veteran's survivor claim runs through the whole file, re-proved as the law changed:

- **Act of March 18, 1818** — indigent-veteran service pension. Declaration sworn 22 June 1818 (p. 2).
- **Act of May 1, 1820** — means-test amendment; property schedule sworn 9 August 1820 (p. 3). Led to being **stricken from the roll** 14 May 1821 (p. 4).
- **Act of March 1, 1823** — restoration act; name restored to the Delaware roll 2 October 1823 at \$8/month, effective 4 March 1823 (p. 5).
- **Act of June 7, 1832** — universal service pension. Declaration sworn 30 October 1832 (p. 6); inscribed at \$30 per annum (nine months' service), commencing 4 March 1831 (p. 8).

No widow's claim (W) and no bounty-land warrant (B.L.Wt.) appear in this file. The **declared** → **struck** → **restored** sequence is a normal file shape for an 1818/1820 claim, not an anomaly.

Statutory changes, not new events: the shift from the 1818 indigent pension to being struck under the 1820 means test, and the later inscription under the 1832 act, reflect changes in the *law* and the veteran's property conveyance — not any new injury or newly discovered service.

Service Strands

1. Continental Line — Captain Naylor's company, Colonel Hartwell's regiment, Delaware Line (documented in part). Both the 1818 and 1832 declarations state Pellwood enlisted in the spring of 1778 (at Lewes, per the 1818 declaration) under Captain Naylor in Colonel Hartwell's regiment of the Delaware Line and served nine months, discharged at Wilmington (pp. 2, 6). This strand is **corroborated by a surviving state record:** the Delaware Secretary of State certified in 1833 that a single muster roll of Captain Naylor's company, taken at Wilmington, shows Josiah Pellwood, private, from May until December 1778 (p. 7). Note that a single muster roll confirms presence only across the span that roll covers, not the full nine months as claimed.

2. Battle of Monmouth (Δ FOWF — uncorroborated recollection). The 1832 declaration adds that he "was in the battle of Monmouth in New Jersey in June of that year, where his regiment suffered in the heat" (p. 6). This claim appears **only** in the 1832 narrative, sworn 54 years after the event, and is not mentioned in the 1818 declaration nor confirmed by any record in the file.

3. Sussex County militia — two short tours (Δ FOWF — uncorroborated, officers not recalled). The 1832 declaration states that after his discharge he "served two further short tours in the militia of Sussex County, the officers' names not now recollected" (p. 6). Militia records are held at the state level; nothing in this file documents these tours, and the deponent himself could not recall the officers. Recorded as narrative-only.

Family and Household (from the 1820 Property Schedule)

The 1820 schedule of property (p. 3) is the only document naming family members:

- **Wife: Comfort Pellwood**, aged 58 and described as feeble in 1820.
- **Son: Levi Pellwood**, to whom the thirty-acre farm was conveyed in February 1820.
- **Grandson**, aged 9 in 1820, residing in the household (unnamed).

The conveyance of the farm to son Levi shortly before the schedule was sworn is exactly the kind of asset transfer the 1820 means test was designed to catch — and it is what the Pension Office cited when striking him from the roll in 1821 (p. 4). Such conveyances often reveal children and in-laws otherwise invisible in the record; here, son Levi surfaces only because of it.

Property, Indigence, and the Means Test

The 1818 declaration described Pellwood as being in reduced circumstances, unable to earn a living from his thirty-acre farm "by reason of age and infirmity" (p. 2). The 1820 schedule shows: **real property — none** (the farm having been conveyed to son Levi in February 1820); **personal property** — one cow, two hogs, old carpenter's tools, and household furniture valued at about \$11 in all; **debts owed to him — none; debts he owed — \$19 to sundry persons**; occupation carpenter, but unable to work steadily by reason of rheumatism (p. 3).

The conflict between the 1818 statement (owning the farm) and the 1820 schedule (farm conveyed away) is the classic means-test pattern and was treated by the Pension Office as disqualifying under the 1820 act — the property conveyed "being taken into view" (p. 4).

Documented Negative Results

The Delaware Secretary of State's certification of 19 January 1833 (p. 7) is partly a **documented negative result**: J. M. Comegys certified that **no pay rolls of the Delaware Line for 1778 survive** in his office. He confirmed, however, that a single surviving muster roll of Captain Naylor's company shows Josiah Pellwood, private, from May to December 1778, and that "nothing further appears."

The absence of the pay rolls is a finding about the surviving records, not evidence against the service. Militia service (strand 3 above) would be documented, if at all, in separate state militia records not searched here.

Claim Timeline

- **Spring 1778** — enlisted at Lewes, Delaware (per declarations, pp. 2, 6). *Narrative.*
- **May–December 1778** — carried as private on muster roll of Capt. Naylor's company (state certification, p. 7). *Documented.*
- **June 1778** — battle of Monmouth (1832 narrative only, p. 6). Δ FOWF.
- **22 June 1818** — declaration under the Act of 1818, aged 62 (p. 2).
- **February 1820** — farm conveyed to son Levi (per 1820 schedule, p. 3).
- **9 August 1820** — property schedule sworn under the Act of 1820 (p. 3).
- **14 May 1821** — stricken from the roll, the conveyed property being taken into view (p. 4).
- **2 October 1823** — restored to the Delaware roll at \$8/month, effective 4 March 1823 (p. 5).
- **30 October 1832** — declaration under the Act of 1832, aged 76 (p. 6).
- **19 January 1833** — Delaware Secretary of State certifies muster-roll service and absence of pay rolls (p. 7).
- **(undated) Pension Office roll summary** — inscribed under the Act of 1832 at \$30/annum, commencing 4 March 1831 (p. 8).
- **Death: UNRESOLVED** — the roll summary explicitly states "Died: not stated in this file" (p. 8). No ledger, probate, or downstream filing records a death date.

Research Gaps

- **Death date and place** — not stated in the file (p. 8). Would be resolved by Treasury payment ledgers (NARA RG 217 / T718), Delaware probate for Sussex County, or a later heirs' arrears filing.
- **The two militia tours** — undocumented; would be sought in Delaware state militia records at the Delaware Public Archives.
- **Battle of Monmouth participation** — resting solely on the 1832 recollection; no corroborating record present.
- **Given name of the grandson** and the identity/parentage linking him to the household — not stated beyond age 9 in 1820.
- **Full span of the claimed nine months' Continental service** — the surviving muster roll covers May–December 1778 only; the pay rolls that might confirm the balance are certified as not surviving (p. 7).

Document Inventory

Page	Document Type	Summary
1	File jacket (1870 arrangement)	Printed 'INVALID.' jacket, File No. S. 44,187; PELLWOOD, Josiah — Delaware; lists Acts of 1818, 1820, 1823, 1832. Shelf label only — not a disability claim.
2	Declaration in open court (Act of Mar 18, 1818)	Sworn 22 June 1818, Sussex County; aged 62; enlisted spring 1778 at Lewes under Capt. Naylor, Col. Hartwell's Delaware Line; served 9 months, discharged Wilmington; indigent, thirty-acre farm.
3	Schedule of property (Act of May 1, 1820)	Sworn 9 August 1820; no real property (farm conveyed to son Levi Feb. 1820); one cow, two hogs, tools, furniture ~\$11; owes \$19; wife Comfort aged 58 feeble, grandson aged 9; carpenter with rheumatism.
4	Pension Office notation — stricken from the roll	14 May 1821; pension suspended and name stricken under the Act of 1820, the conveyed property being taken into view.
5	Pension Office notation — restoration (Act of Mar 1, 1823)	2 October 1823; name restored to the Delaware agency roll at \$8/month, effective 4 March 1823.
6	Declaration in open court (Act of Jun 7, 1832)	Sworn 30 October 1832; aged 76; entered service spring 1778 under Capt. Naylor, Col. Hartwell's Delaware Line, 9 months; at battle of Monmouth June 1778; two later short Sussex County militia tours, officers not recalled.
7	State certification of service	Delaware Secretary of State J. M. Comegys, 19 January 1833; no 1778 Delaware Line pay rolls survive; single muster roll of Capt. Naylor's company shows Josiah Pellwood, private, May–December 1778; nothing further.
8	Pension Office roll summary	Josiah Pellwood, private, Delaware Line; inscribed under Act of 1832 at \$30/annum (9 months' service), commencing 4 March 1831, in addition to prior

		1818/1823 inscriptions; death not stated in this file.
9	Fold3-style source page (digitizer wrapper)	Provider-added source information page; states the specimen corresponds to no actual NARA file and the soldier is fictional. Tier 4 finding aid.

Every Fact and Its Source

Each substantive fact in this report, with the document that states it. Tier 1 = sworn or own-hand documents; Tier 2 = official contemporaneous records; Tier 3 = claim-process paperwork; Tier 4 = administrative material. Notes mark facts a witness learned second-hand, values worked out by calculation, and uncertain readings.

Fact	Source document (page)	Tier	Notes
The soldier is Josiah Pellwood of Sussex County (Broadkilm Hundred), Delaware.	Declaration in open court, sworn 22 June 1818 (p. 2)	1	—
The file is assigned specimen File No. S. 44,187 and lists the Acts of 1818, 1820, 1823, and 1832; its printed 'INVALID.' jacket is a shelf label of the 1870 arrangement, not a disability claim.	File jacket (1870 arrangement) (p. 1)	4	—
He enlisted in the spring of 1778 at Lewes, Delaware, in Captain Naylor's company of Colonel Hartwell's regiment of the Delaware Line and served nine months, discharged at Wilmington.	Declaration in open court, sworn 22 June 1818 (p. 2)	1	corroborated by second source
He entered service in the spring of 1778 under Captain Naylor in Colonel Hartwell's regiment of the Delaware Line and served nine months.	Declaration in open court, sworn 30 October 1832 (p. 6)	1	corroborated by second source
A surviving muster roll of Captain Naylor's company,	State certification of service, 19 January 1833 (p. 7)	2	corroborated by second source

taken at Wilmington, shows Josiah Pellwood, private, from May until December 1778.			
He claimed to have been at the battle of Monmouth in New Jersey in June 1778, where his regiment suffered in the heat.	Declaration in open court, sworn 30 October 1832 (p. 6)	1	source conflict
He claimed two further short tours in the Sussex County militia after his discharge, the officers' names not recollected.	Declaration in open court, sworn 30 October 1832 (p. 6)	1	source conflict
He was aged 62 in June 1818, implying a birth year of about 1756.	Declaration in open court, sworn 22 June 1818 (p. 2)	1	calculated/derived
He was aged 76 in October 1832, consistent with a birth year of about 1756.	Declaration in open court, sworn 30 October 1832 (p. 6)	1	calculated/derived
He declared indigence under the Act of 1818, owning a thirty-acre farm he could no longer work by reason of age and infirmity.	Declaration in open court, sworn 22 June 1818 (p. 2)	1	—
His wife Comfort, aged 58 and feeble, and a grandson aged 9 resided with him in 1820.	Schedule of property, sworn 9 August 1820 (p. 3)	1	—
His son Levi Pellwood received the thirty-acre farm by conveyance in February 1820.	Schedule of property, sworn 9 August 1820 (p. 3)	1	—
In 1820 he held no real property; personal property of one cow, two hogs, carpenter's tools, and furniture worth about \$11; owed \$19 to sundry persons; and	Schedule of property, sworn 9 August 1820 (p. 3)	1	—

worked as a carpenter but was hindered by rheumatism.			
His pension was suspended and his name stricken from the roll on 14 May 1821 under the Act of 1820, the property he had conveyed being taken into view.	Pension Office notation — stricken from the roll, 14 May 1821 (p. 4)	2	—
His name was restored to the Delaware agency roll on 2 October 1823 under the Act of March 1, 1823, at \$8 per month effective 4 March 1823.	Pension Office notation — restoration, 2 October 1823 (p. 5)	2	—
He was inscribed on the Delaware roll under the Act of June 7, 1832, at \$30 per annum for nine months' service, commencing 4 March 1831, in addition to prior inscriptions under the Acts of 1818 and 1823.	Pension Office roll summary (p. 8)	2	—
The veteran's death date is not stated in the file.	Pension Office roll summary (p. 8)	2	—
No pay rolls of the Delaware Line for 1778 survive in the office of the Delaware Secretary of State.	State certification of service, 19 January 1833 (p. 7)	2	—
The file is a demonstration specimen corresponding to no actual NARA file; the soldier is fictional.	Fold3-style source page (p. 9)	4	—

Where the Documents Disagree

Here two or more perfectly legible documents say different things. That is a finding about the record, not a reading problem - both versions are shown, and neither was silently preferred.

- **Page 6** - the documents disagree here (The 1832 declaration (p. 6) adds the battle of Monmouth and two militia tours that are absent from the 1818 declaration (p. 2). The earlier declaration recites only a nine-month Continental enlistment and discharge at Wilmington). Both readings appear in the report; the record itself does not decide between them.

Sworn Long After the Fact

These statements were sworn honestly, but decades after the events they describe. The oath makes them testimony, not a guarantee of accuracy - details here are a person's memory, and are weighed as such.

- **Page 6** - a late recollection (The battle of Monmouth (June 1778) appears only in the 1832 declaration, sworn about 54 years after the event, and is uncorroborated by any record in the file). Honest testimony, recorded as the deponent remembered it; corroborating records, where they exist, are the check.
- **Page 6** - a late recollection (The two Sussex County militia tours rest solely on the aged 1832 narrative; the deponent himself could not recall the officers, and no record documents them). Honest testimony, recorded as the deponent remembered it; corroborating records, where they exist, are the check.

What the File Does Not Establish

The file is silent on these points. No document states them, so the report says so rather than filling them in.

- **Page 8** - the file does not answer this (The roll summary explicitly states the veteran's death is 'not stated in this file'; there is no dropped-from-rolls notice in this record group). The Research Gaps section points to the records that might.
- **Page 3** - the file does not answer this (The 1820 schedule names a grandson aged 9 residing in the household but does not give his name or parentage). The Research Gaps section points to the records that might.