

Pension Application for John Gillis

S.10733

Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1836.

State of New York

County of Saratoga SS

On this sixth day of September one thousand eight hundred & thirty two personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Saratoga now sitting John Gillis a resident of the town of Milton in the County of Saratoga & State of New York aged seventy four years the third day of July last who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served has herein stated.

That in the year 1777 in the month of September or October he resided in the town of New Scotland (now Bethlehem) in the County of Albany & State of New York.

That at this time we entered the service as a volunteer under Captain James Burnside & Lieutenant Ezekial Schoonmaker. His Colonel was named Quackenbush but he was not out with the Regiment. He marched to VanSchaicks Island in the Hudson River north of Albany & joined the Continental Army under the command of General Gates, remained at VanSchaick[s] Island a few days, then marched with General Gates's Army to Stillwater & there encamped near Bemus's Heights & was engaged in throwing up redoubts & remained in the whole about three weeks & was then discharged.

In the summer of 1778 he volunteered again, went first to Albany where they rendezvoused, marched from there through Schenectady to Schoharie. Lieutenant Henry Shaver commanded Captain Hogan was captain of the company but he was not out. He & his company joined Colonel Butler's regiment of Regular troops at the Middle Fort Schoharie where he remained about three months. He was then dismissed being relieved by a reinforcement.

He went out again the same year in the latter part of September as a volunteer the officers the same as before. Colonel Vrooman had the command went to the upper Fort in Schoharie staid about two months was then relieved by the militia & returned home.

He was again called out as a volunteer very late in the fall of the same year, Capt Tunis Slingerland & Colonel Vrooman. He went to the Upper Fort Schoharie he was out three or four weeks this time. In the month of October 1779 went out as a volunteer again his captain was Thomas Iskay, his Lieutenant's name was Shaver, & his Colonel Volckert Vedder, went to the lower Fort Schoharie. Schoharie had been burnt before his company got there by the British Tories & Indians under the commands of Sir John Johnston. He followed the enemy, overtook a party of them between Schoharie & Stone Arabia, took four prisoners, two Americans one British soldier & a Frenchman, then returned to the Fort.

Then turned out as a volunteer to discover Tories, returned to Albany with the prisoners & was dismissed was out four or five weeks this time.

In 1781 was drafted into the nine months service. Isaac Baggart was captain of his company, Volckert Vedder Colonel. He was stationed at Albany, remained about ten months. One month over his time, about two months of the time was detached with several others to scout on the Helderbank [Helderberg] Mountains about twenty miles from Albany where tories [resorted?].

He has no documentary evidence of his services & knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services.

To the interrogatories propounded by the court the applicant made the following answers.

1. He was born at sea on board a ship from Greenock Scotland a few days before she landed at Quebec on the third day of July 1757.

2. He has no record of his age.

3. When he first entered the service he resided at New Scotland (now Bethlehem) in the County of Albany & State of New York. He continues to reside there thirty four years after the Revolutionary War, then removed to Galway, Saratoga County N.Y., where he resided till six years ago last March when he removed to Milton in the same county where he has continued to reside ever since & where he now resided.

4. He entered the service as a volunteer every time except the last when he was drafted for nine months.

5. Capt. Boyd & Lieut Birds who was afterwards massacred by the Indians were Continental officers at the Middle Fort Schoharie. He cannot state the general circumstances of his service more fully than he has above stated.

6. He never received any discharge form the service.

7. Colonel Isaac Gere, Simon P. Vedder, Rev'd Charles McCabe, Reuben Cogwell, Ebenezer Couch, Esqr.

He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that this name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

(Signed with his mark) John Gillis

Subscribed & sworn in open court this 6th day of September 1832. Thomas Palmer, Clerk