

Pension Application for Nicholas Countryman

R.2367

State of New York

Herkimer County

On the sixth day of October 1834, personally appeared in open court before this Court of Common Pleas in and for the County of Herkimer aforesaid.

Nicholas Countryman, a resident of the Town of Danube in the County of Herkimer, and State of New York aged seventy-one 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 provisions made by the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That early in the spring of the year 1778 (1) he was enrolled in the militia at Dutch Town, now Town of Minden and County of Montgomery & State of New York. This deponent believes it was early on the first day of April that he was enrolled in the company of Captain Walrath (2) or Lieutenant Walrath whose Christian name was Henry; but deponent cannot say positively whether he was captain or lieutenant at that time, but he knows that he had the command of the fort called Fort Walrath in said town. That this deponent was immediately ordered on military duty, by said Walrath in the said fort and there continued in actual service in same fort, under the command of said Walrath until some time in the month of August of that year when the same fort was taken possession of by the Tories and Indians and by them destroyed by fire.

That this deponent with the rest of the company which had been stationed in Fort Walrath retreated from Fort Walrath into the woods where they remained out of sight & the next day went into Fort Plank after the enemy had retired, where this deponent was immediately put under the command of the officers of that fort to wit, Capt. Abraham Copeman (3) and for a part of the time as this deponent believes, Joseph House (4) who was then or shortly afterwards called Major. That this deponent remained in the service of the United States in said fort until late in the fall, and until the snow fell. That Fort Plank was about one and a half miles east of Fort Walrath. (5)

And this deponent further saith that early in the spring of the year 1779 in the month of March and he thinks early in that month, this deponent was again ordered into the service in Fort Plank aforesaid, under the command of the officers last mentioned. That before going into the service during this year, this deponent was a member of the Company of Capt. Copeman.

That during this whole season this deponent remained in service principally within the said fort, but often employed on scouts, watching the Tories and Indians and guarding the frontier. That he went out on scouts for several days at a time.

And that he performed no other duty, enlisted no other service, no did any other labor than that of a military action under the command of said officers, and he remained in service in same fort until the ground was frozen hard in the fall or winter.

That this deponent in the service above stated acted as a private, and that he cannot recollect the name of the colonel of the regiment to which he belonged, he thinks for some part of the time it was Colonel Clintz or Klock, (6) and some part of the time he thinks it was Col. Veeder, (7) but he cannot be certain, as his services were not with the regiment but in fort where but a small force was stationed.

And this deponent further states that late in the fall of the year last aforesaid he removed to the County of Albany and to that part of said county was called the Town of Guilderland and then called Watervliet, and that early in the spring of the ensuing year he was enrolled in the militia in a company commanded by Captain John Groat, (8) in

the regiment commanded by one Colonel Wemp (Wemple), (9) according to this deponent's best recollection, but this deponent cannot recollect with certainty on account of his youth at the time, the great lapse of time since, & his residence being remote from Albany for the last thirty-five years.

That during the whole season of the year 1780 and also during the two succeeding years, this deponent remained in the company of the same Captain John Groat, and was very frequently employed in going out on scouts which sometimes lasted three or four days, and which occurred sometimes every week; in watching and guarding against the Indians and Tories, and in protecting the country from the enemy.

That during the three seasons, but sometimes, from spring to fall he was principally engaged in the services above described and that he was in actual service during the year 1780 at least three months; during the year 1781 at least three months and during the year 1782 at least two months all of which time he served as a private.

And this deponent further saith that by reason of old age and this consequent loss of memory, he cannot state positively as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection, he served not less than the period mentioned below and in the following grades for one year and nine months. I served as a private and for such service I claim a pension.

And this deponent further saith that during the time last above stated he was not engaged in any civil pursuit; that while at Fort Walrath and Fort Plank, they were in the same forts and in their neighborhood, and that while he was in the company of Captain Groat the said services were performed in and about the Town of Watervliet aforesaid.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present and he states that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state.

And this deponent further says that he was born in the present Town of Minden, County of Montgomery and State of New York in the year 1763 and he has a record of his age in his family bible at his residence in Danube aforesaid.

That he was living in Minden aforesaid at the time he was called into service.

That since the Revolutionary War he lived for sixteen years in the Town of Watervliet in the County of Albany, since which he has resided and now resides in the Town of Danube Herkimer County, formerly Minden, County of Montgomery.

That he volunteered as a private when he enlisted into service.

That while at Fort Plank he knew General Gansevoort (10) of the Regular Army but does not recollect the names of any other officers of the Regular Army. That deponent afterwards knew him in Albany and so remembers his record.

That he does not recollect the names of any Continental or Militia Regiments Col. Clintz and Col. Veeder's and Col. Wemp and that he has before stated the general circumstances of his services.

That he never received any discharge from the service.

That William Burghart and Albert Walrath of the Town of Danube in the county of Herkimer in my present neighborhood are persons to whom I am known and who can testify as to my character for veracity and their belief of my services as a soldier of the Revolution.

And this deponent further saith that he has no other documentary evidence except the affidavits of Henry Shaul and Henry Apple (11) hereto annexed in relation to a part of those services before this deponent removed to Albany County ; and that he

knows of no person whose testimony he can procure (except said Shaul and Apple) who can testify to his service.

(his mark) Nicholas Countryman (12)

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open court J. C. Nelson Clerk

State of New York

County of Herkimer

Be it known that before me John R. Hall a Justice of the Peace personally appeared Nicholas Countryman, Jr. aged 52 years who being duly cautioned and sworn in due form of law states that he is the son of Nicholas Countryman who was a Revolutionary Soldier of the State of New York and that he died January 1844 and that his mother named Anna died on the 3d day of June 1814 and that he does not recollect the day or their marriage and that they were residents of Minden in the State of New York and that they resided there 40 years and that he resides in the Town of Stark and that furthermore he by their pursuits constitutes appoints and fully empowers and authorizes irrevocably and with power of substitution F. E. Hassler of Washington City D.C. as his true and lawful attorney for him and in his name and stead to examine into, to prosecute, to demand and to receive from the United States government and state officers his rights in all and in any manner of claim of increase or arrears of pensions or land that may be due him as heir of Nicholas Countryman who died leaving the same undrawn as in right of law he may be entitled.

In witness whereof he has on this 7 day of September 1852, hereunto his name and affixed his seal.

(signed) Nicholas Countryman Jr.

Witness J. R. Hall

Witness John W. Jenkins

End Notes--R.2367—Nicholas Countryman

1. Nicholas was only 15 in 1778 and could not legally enroll in a militia company.
2. Henry Walrath was commissioned the ensign on March 4, 1780 in Captain Jost Houses' Company in Colonel Samuel Campbell's First Regiment of Tryon County Militia. The company had been commanded by Captain Abraham Copeman but he was commissioned major on October 19, 1779. Copeman most likely was appointed major earlier in 1779. Walrath along with the other officers of Houses' Company were also appointed to their respective ranks earlier in 1779.
3. Abraham Copeman had been appointed Captain on August 26, 1775 of the Sixth Company in Colonel Nicholas Herkimer's First Regiment of Tryon County Militia. The First Tryon eventually was commanded by Colonel Campbell after the death of Colonel Ebenezer Cox who was killed at the Battle of Oriskany on August 6, 1777.
4. Jost or Joseph House did not serve as a major in Colonel Campbell's Regiment.
5. Fort Walrath was destroyed when Captain Joseph Brant and Cornplanter destroyed the settlement in what is now the Town of Minden and the Village of Fort Plain on August 2, 1780.
6. Colonel Jacob Klock of the Second Regiment of Tryon County Militia.
7. Lieutenant Colonel Volkert of Colonel Frederick Visscher's Third Regiment of Tryon County Militia.

8. Captain John Groot or Groat, in Colonel Philip P. Schuyler's Third Regiment of Albany County Militia.
9. Abraham Wemple was the Colonel of the Second Regiment of Albany County Militia.
10. Peter Gansevoort was the Colonel of the Third New York Continental Regiment from November 21, 1776 to January 1, 1781. Peter was appointed brigadier general on March 26, 1781 in place of Brigadier General Abraham TenBroeck who had resigned because of an illness. Ten Broeck had commanded the First Brigade of the Albany County Militia.
11. Henry Shaul or Schall, Shall, etc., and Henry Apple or Hepple, Apply, etc., served as privates in Captain Jacob Dieffendorf's Fifth Company in Colonel Campbell's Regiment.
12. Nicholas' pension was rejected for lack of proof of service. Captain Copeman's muster and payrolls have not been located nor does his name appear on the existing pay receipts for payment of any certificates he had been given for services in Colonels Campbell's or Schuyler's Regiments. In Captain Dieffendorf's Company the following Countrymans served but not Nicholas or even a middle name with an initial N appears on the receipt roll: First Lieutenant George Countryman. Privates, Conrad, Frederick, Jacob, John, John F., John M., and Marcus.