

Pension Application for John Ferris

S.8465

The State of Ohio
Portage County SS.

In the Court of Common Pleas March Term AD 1834 on the 5th day of March 1834 personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas now sitting within and for the County of Portage and State of Portage County Ohio, aged seventy three years the 20th of last April being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as follows.

That he enlisted in the forepart of January 1776 in Capt. Daniel Miller[s] Company in Col. VanSchaick's Regiment in the Continental Army at Bedford in Westchester County New York and went immediately to Albany remained there until the River opened and then went to Fort George on Lake George with the company to which I belonged, remained there a few days and went from there to Ticonderoga and from thence to St. Johns where we met General Arnold and his Army returning from Quebeck [Quebec] we then returned to Crown Point where he took the Small Pox and went to Fort George where he remained in the hospital until September of that year being in feeble health received a written discharge which he lost soon after the war.

In the following winter he enlisted for three months in Capt. Isaac Titus company of Rangers which was raised in the Town of Bedford and marched with the company to North Castle in the same County and served during the term for which he enlisted and was discharged by the Capt with the rest of the company without a written discharge.

In the Spring of 1777 I went out as a substitute for a class which was [?] from Bedford for the term of three months in Captain Woodard's Company which was not attached to any Regiment marched to the White Plaines [Plains] where the company was stationed on the Lines as out Post, during the time he was taken with the measles and was carried home sick not to exceed three weeks before his time expired and did not return.

In August or September 1777, he enlisted for the term of five months under the command of Capt Zephaniah Miller and was stationed at Bedford Westchester County N. York as a guard of Prisoners and remained until the term expired—and then reenlisted in the same company for the term of three months and remained at the same station. There was not prisoners there all the time they come & went but we occupied the station until the close of the term.

In the spring of 1778 I was hired by Capt. Richard Sackett as a substitute and went first to Kingstreat [sic] under the command of Capt Richard Sackett in a company of Infantry in Col. Graham's Regiment then went to the White Plaines, and remained there until General Gates, Clinton & Washington came in with their armies our regiment was then joined to General Clinton's Brigade from thence the Regiments

went to Tuckahoe and was joined to General Scotts Brigade of Light Infantry. The regiment remained there until the Sixth of September (When he was enlisted to drive a Tea).

In June or July 1780 he went as a substitute for Joseph Scofield under Capt Benjamin Stevens and was not attached to any Regiments as he knows of went first to North Castle from thence to White Plains and was moving from place to place as occasion required, until the company was discharged being three months in all this term.

In January 1781 I volunteered in Capt Samuel Lewis company which was not attached to any Regiments as he recollects, marched first to Middle Patten, Westchester County New York and ranged the frontier as circumstances required a part of the company was taken by the enemy—during the Captain's absence and the rest of the company was dispersed & the Captain went home & the company were never called together again.

And he further says he served more than one month—but cannot recollect the precise day he entered or left for home.

He was twice out in the Militia but cannot recollect date sufficiently correct to apply for it.

He was born at Pond Ridge Westchester County New York on the 20th day of April AD 1760 as it is recorded in his Bible which is agreeable to the accounts given him by his parents.

He resided in Westchester County N. York after the close of the war until 1788 he then removed to Rensalervill [Rensselaerville] in Albany County N. York remained there until 1792 from there he removed to Kattskills N. York and remained until 1800—from thence he removed to Ohio County in the State of Virginia remained there until 1805 then removed to Portage County State of Ohio where he has remained and now resides.

That he knows of no clergyman he can get.

He has no Dockumentary [Documentary] evidence by which he can prove his services and knows of no person living by whom he can prove the same.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever—to a pension or annuity except the present – and declares that is name is not on the Pension Roll of the agency of any State. (Signed) John Ferris Jun.

Sworn to and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid before me. Brice S. Turner. Dep. Clerk

Letter in folder dated November 29, 1939, written in response to an inquiry.

Reference is made to your letter in which you request the record of John Ferris who, you state, was born in 1760, lived in Westchester County, New York, moved to either Ohio or Indiana where he applied for pension, and died in 1811 and was buried in Ohio.

No claim for pension or bounty land has been found based upon service in the Revolution of a John Ferris who died in 1811; however, the record has been found of a

soldier of that name identical with the description given by you, with the exception of the date of death. His record follows as found in pension claim S.8465, based upon his service in the Revolutionary War. No other claim for pension has been found based upon the Revolutionary War service of a John Ferris.

John Ferris was born April 20, 1760, in Poundridge, Westchester County, New York; the names of his parents are not shown.

While residing in Bedford, Westchester County, New York, John Ferris enlisted in the forepart of January, 1776, with his father who returned home in the summer, but John continued in service as a private in Captain Daniel Mills' company, Colonel VanSchaick's New York regiment, until he contracted smallpox and remained in the hospital until September, 1776, when he was discharged, having served more than seven months. Soon after, he enlisted again with his father and brother, Sylvanus, and served three months as a private in Captain Isaac Titus' company of rangers raised in the Town of Bedford, New York. He enlisted in the spring of 1777 and served as private in Captain Woodard's New York company and while at White Plains was taken with measles and returned home about three weeks before his three-months' term of enlistment expired and did not return to his company. He enlisted in August or September, 1777, and served for five months, then for three months as a private in captain Zephaniah Mills' New York company as guard of prisoners stationed at Bedford, New York. He enlisted in the spring of 1778 and served four months as private in Captain Richard Sackett's company, Colonel Graham's New York regiment; September 6, 1778, he was enlisted to drive a team (length of this service and names of officers not stated). He enlisted in June or July 1780, and served three months as private in Captain Benjamin Stevens' (possibly meant for Stevenson's) company, Colonel Thaddeus Crane's New York regiment. He volunteered in January 1781 and served more than a month as a private in Captain Samuel Lewis' New York company.

After the close of the Revolutionary War, the soldier resided in Westchester County, New York, until 1788, when he moved to Rensselaerville, Albany County, New York, where he remained until 1792, thence to Catskill, New York, where he lived until 1800; then from there to Ohio County, Virginia, and from there in 1805 to Portage County, Ohio.

John Ferris was allowed pension on his application executed March 5, 1834, at which time he was residing in Schalersville Township, Portage County, Ohio.

No reference was made in the claim to wife or children of John Ferris.

In 1834, the soldier's brother, Joseph Ferris, aged sixty-nine years, was a resident of Williston, Chittenden County, Vermont.