

Pension Application for Elisha Gifford

W.1842 (Widow: Polly) Married Polly Washburn May 1830. Elisha died June 3, 1837.

B.L.Wt.26036-160-55

State of New York

County of Putnam SS.

On the twelfth day of September in the year one thousand eight hundred & thirty two personally appeared in open court before Frederick Stone, Samuel Washburn & Bennet Boyd Esqrs three of the Judges of the court of Common Pleas in & for the county of Putnam aforesaid, the said Court being now sitting Elisha Gifford a resident of the town of Patterson in the county & state aforesaid, aged eighty three 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 act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

That he was born in the year 1749 at Norwich in the State of Connecticut.

That he has no record of his age now existing the record of his age made by his father in the family bible was burnt, when the declarant's house was burnt some five or six years ago.

That he lived in Frederickstown in the county of Dutchess, which is now in the county of Putnam, in the State of New York, when he was called into the service—ever since the revolutionary war he has lived in the town now called Patterson in the county of Putnam aforesaid & which was formerly in part of the county of Dutchess—He now lives in the said town of Patterson.

That he first entered the service by enlisting into the service called the minute service, but does not know whether it was called the state troops or militia—That he never served as a substitute for any person except upon one occasion, herein after to be stated.

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

He first entered the service by enlisting in the minute service under Captain Comfort Ludington for three months—He thinks and believes this enlistment was in the spring of the year 1776—as soon as the boats began to run on the Hudson River in the spring he marched with the company to Peekskill, & embarked there & went to New York City & served there during the said term of three months at the expiration of which period he was honorably discharged—He does not remember whether the discharge was written or verbal. The troops at New York were engaged during this term in building batteries.

He does not remember the names of any field or company officers other than the said Comfort Ludington, Elijah Oakley & John Brady, Lieutenant, Asahel Berry, Ensign & thinks Swartwout was Colonel.

The declarant was afterwards drafted for eight months service in the militia but on account of dangerous sickness of his wife, hired a substitute by the name of Jonas Yeomans, who performed the service for the whole period of eight months & died & few years afterwards.

The declarant again entered the service under Lieutenant Eliakim Barnum for two months—as declarant believes in the year 1776 or 1777, & was marched to the fort at the place called Constitution Island nearly opposite West Point and remained in garrison there for the said term when he was discharged – There was but one regiment there as he believes—but he does not remember the name of any field or company officer there, except the said Barnum & Captain Storms—nor does he know whether he was in the State troops, or Militia.

The declarant again entered the minute service in the year 1777—He marched on a minutes warning, under Captain Hezekiah Mead to Danbury upon an alarm. The enemy had burned some houses & retreated before Captain Meads company arrived there & the declarant returned with the company & was discharged after a weeks service—He does not remember the name of any other officers who were there.

He was again called out on an alarm under Captain Hezekiah Mead, the time not recollect, was marched to Fishkill Dutchess County, thence to Scarbank Plains in Westchester County and after ten days service was discharged. He believes there was but one company engaged in the service, but he does not recollect the name of any other officers.

The declarant again entered the service in the militia for two months under Captain ____ Lake in Colonel ____ Ferris' Regiment or it may have been Colonel Elijah Townsends Regiment—Was marched to Fishkill where they remained two months with his company, when they were discharged—He remembers the name of no officers who were there except the said Captain ____ Lake, Colonel Ferris, Colonel Elijah Townsend & Captain John crane--& can not remember the month or year of this service.

The declarant again entered the service in the militia as a substitute for one Zebulon Wright who was drafted for two months. The declarant marches with the company to Fishkill Dutchess County, then crossed the Hudson River & marched to Goshen in Orange County, afterwards returned to Fishkill & was there discharged with the company—He does not remember the name of any officer engaged in this service—there was but one company on this expedition the captain was then a stranger to this declarant & the declarant cannot now remember his name.

Zebulon Wright for whom the declarant served as a substitute over twenty years ago—The declarant cannot remember the month or year of this service.

The declarant again entered the service under Captain Comfort Ludington. He cannot remember the year or month when he enlisted he served a month under this enlistment in the winter in very severe weather—He was marched with his company by land to near New York City & for a time stationed near a fort there in possession of the enemy. They had a skirmish there & returned [?]

They succeeded in the main object of the enterprise, which was to secure provisions & forage & they brought up such provisions & forage as would be provided to our troops at White Plains—The inclemency of the weather was such that many perished with the cold—at the expiration of this month's service, the declarant was honorably discharged. He does not remember the name of any officer except Captain Comfort Ludington.

During the revolution the declarant served as guard, upon the road in Frederickstown for one month in one winter, and one month in the next winter, to watch & protect the country against the depredations of the tories who were then making great ravages—The year is onto recollect by declarant—for the first month above spoken of the declarant stood guard in the road every other night in Frederickstown and the month spoke of the next winter he stood guard every fourth night—In both instances this service was rendered by the order of Captain Hezekiah Mead & as declarant understood & believed it was by the command of Colonel Henry Livingston.

The declarant further states that he resided in Frederickstown before mentioned during the whole revolutionary war & in each and every time he entered the service as hereinbefore stated.

And that the foregoing declaration contains a true statement of the general circumstances of his services in the revolutionary war the places in which he served, the names of the regiments and officers & other facts & circumstances required by the War Department so far forth as the declarant is able to recollect or detail the same.

The declarant was honorably discharged in all the above cases in which he states that he was discharged—They were generally verbal—He recollect that he received one written discharge, which was at the expiration of his term of service on Constitution Island above stated. He does not remember by whom it was given, nor what has become of it – it is lost or destroyed—he is not certain that it was preserved until his house was burnt five or six years ago, if it was, it must have been then destroyed, for all his writings & papers of every description whether destroyed by the fire.

He has no documentary evidence & knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service, except those whose affidavits were hereto annexed.

He can support his character for veracity & the belief of his services as a revolutionary soldier of the revolution by the following persons among others, to whom he is known in his present neighborhood viz, Edward Smith now at Carmel in said county & Daniel Kent of Patterson in said county.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a person or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any state. (Signed with his mark) Elisha Gifford

Sworn to & subscribed in open court September 12th 1832. J. Morehouse Clk