

Pension Application for John Gifford

S10737

State of New York and
County of Montgomery

On this 19 day of September personally appeared in open court before Aaron Haring, John Hand, Samuel A. Gilbert the court of common pleas of the County of Montgomery now sitting John Gifford senior a resident of the town of Mayfield county of Montgomery and State of New York aged seventy two 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 7th 1832.

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

In the year 1776 he entered the service of the United States in October in the militia [sic] the regiment to which he belonged having been called out en mass, the company in which he served was commanded by Captain Cornelius Doty and Lieutenant Nathaniel Lucas that he served in capacity of a corporal, the regiment to which this company was attached lay in the town of Cambridge in the county of Washington and State of New York and was commanded by Colonel Lewis Vanvort and Major Austen, he continued in the service about four weeks when he was discharged, resided at the time he entered the service in the east part of the town of Cambridge in the county of Washington and State of New York within a half mile of the spot where Baun erected his breast work previous to the battle of Bennington; he never had a written discharge has no documentary evidence nor does he knows of any living witness by whom he can prove this tour of service.

He next entered the service in the year 1777 some time in July, then lived in the present town of Pittstown in the county of Rensselaer and State of New York, was drafted and joined the army at Fort Edward on the Hudson river, the company to which he was attached was commanded by Captain Elisha Russel and Lieutenants Thomas Brown and Joseph Gifford, ensign Jacob Vanness—the colonel in command was John Knickerbocker and the majors name was John VanRensselaer.

From fort Edward we marched to fort George where he continued in the garrison until fort Ticonderoga was evacuated by St. Clair, fort Geore [George?] was then evacuated and the garrison returned to fort Edward where General Schuyler discharged half of the militia and he was among the number who ware [were was spelled this way throughout the document] discharged this tour of duty lasted about one month he has never had a written discharge has no documentary evidence of this tour of service nor does he know of any living witness by whom he can prove it, soon after he was discharged from the above service he joined a party under Lieutenant Thomas Brown and was employed with little intermission in repelling the depredations of the tories and in watching the enemy until after the defeat and surrender of Burgoyne's army, from that time to the year 1779 he was frequently called out on short tours of duty in small parties.

In the year 1779 about the first of September Job Lumis then in the service of the U. States as one of the New York state troops enlisted for nine months and then on duty at Whitehall came to his resident in Hoosac [Hoosick] district in the now county of Rensselaer and State of New York sick of the fever and ague, this deponent then took his place in the army and entered the service as substitute for said Lumis about the 8th day of September under captain Levi Stockwell and lieutenant Thomas bogs thinks there was no ensign but the names of the first and second sergeants ware John Hunsdale and Thomas Miles, this company was stationed at Whitehall (for the purpose of watching the enemy (on Lake Champlain) where he remained with it about four months when its term of enlistment expired and he was discharged together with the rest receiving pay for their service in [?] continental money, had no written discharge has no documentary evidence of this tour of service nor does he know of any living witness by whom he can prove it.

In the year 1780 about the last of September he entered the service of the U. States voluntarily and joined the New York State levies in the garrison of fort Ann in the County of Washington and State of New York, the officers commanding this garrison ware captain Dial Sherwood lieutenant Ezekiel Roberts and Seth Baldwin, no ensign first and second serjeants names ware Samuel Gates and Daniel Earls this company belonged to Col. Morris Grahams regiment, at fort Ann he remained til the tenth day of October when that place was infested by nine hundred Brittish [British] Indians and Tories under the command of Major Cartlton.

The fort capitulated and the garrison surrendered as prisoners of war, from fort Ann he was taken (with the rest of the garrison) by the Brittish to Glens falls where they lodged one lodged one night from thence to fort George which was also taken by the Brittish where they remained until the middle of the next day when they ware taken through the wildness to Ticonderoga where they arrived on the fourth day, the next day, he (together with the other prisoners) was taken to Crown Point where they ware kept two days from thence to a small island in lake Champlain called Millers by Island from thence they ware taken on board of the Brittish gun boats and conveyed to the Isle above [above] where they landed in the night and the next day ware conveyed to fort St. Johns in Canada where they ware confined in and old leaky hull of a vessel without fire.

They ware next taken to Chamblee and confined in the prison house from thence to Grants Island opposite Montreal where they arrived on the 23 of October and remained lying in tents about three weeks, when they ware confined in a loathsome prison about one mile below Montreal suffering extremely for want of provision fewel [fuel] and cloaths, in this prison they remained clossly [closely] confined till the third day of the succeeding October, he was then taken out with a part of the other prisoners and conveyed up the river St. Lawrence to a small island in the river called Cotodelack, where they remained closely guarded within pickets until the eighteenth day of October in the year 1782.

They ware then taken back to Montreal and from thence by water to Quebeck [Quebec] where they arrived on the 23rd of October, they ware then placed on board of

a Brititsh ship a [cartiel?] called the John then lying at anchor and bound to Boston to exchange prisoners, this vessel sailed on the 12th day of November and arrived at Boston on the 26th day of the same month and this deponent landed on Dorchester point on the 28th day of November from whence he traveled on foot to the town of Cambridge in the county of Washington and State of New York (subsisting [subsisting?] on the charity of the people) in the said town of Cambridge he arrived (it being his place of residence) on the 7th day of December in the year of our Lord 1782 having been absent two years and upwards of two months.

After his return from captivity he was reported to the proper authorities and received pay for his service and captivity.

He has no record of his age but has been informed by his parents that he was born on the 27th day of August in the year 1760, that he was but little over sixteen years of age when he was first enrolled in the militia, he has no documentary evidence of his last service and captivity and knows of no living witness by whom he can prove it except Samuel Blowers, who was taken at the same time and imprisoned a long time with him but was exchanged before he was, and returned as he was informed by Lake Champlain.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. (Signed) John Gifford Senior.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid in open court. Geo. D. Ferguson, Clerk.

Letter in Folder dated April 17, 1939, written in response to an inquiry.

Reference is made to your letter in which you requested the record of John Gifford, of the Town of Northampton, Fulton County, New York, who was a Revolutionary War pensioner in 1840, then aged seventy seven years.

The record follows of the only John Gifford found in the Revolutionary War records of this office. The data therein were obtained from the pension claim, S.10737, based upon his service in the Revolutionary War.

John Gifford was born August 27, 1760, in Dutchess County, New York; the names of his parents are not shown in the claim.

While residing in the eastern part of Cambridge, Washington County, New York, John Gifford enlisted in October 1776, served twenty-seven days as corporal in Captain Cornelius Doty's company, Cornel Lewis VanWoert's New York regiment. While residing with his brother (name not stated) in Pittstown, Rensselaer County, New York, he enlisted in July, 1777, served one month as private in Captain Elisha Russel's company, Colonel John Knickerbocker's New York regiment (one Joseph Gifford, whose relationship to the soldier was not stated, served as ensign with him in the same company). Soon after being discharged, he joined a party under Lieutenant Thomas Brown, was engaged in repelling the depredations of the tories and in watching the enemy, and served with little intermission until after the defeat and surrender of Burgoyne. From that time to 1779, he was out on frequent short tours of

duty, dates of service and named of officers not stated. About September 8, ;1779, while residing in Hoosac District, Rensselaer County, New York, he enlisted and served four months as private in Captain Levi Stockwell's New York company at white Hall. He volunteered about the last of September 1780, served as private in Captain Adiel Sherwood's Company, Colonel Morris Graham's New York regiment, and on October 10, at the surrender of Fort Anne, he was taken prisoner, carried to Canada, suffered severely en route, was placed in a prison near Montreal where he was confined until October 18, 1782; was then sent to Quebec, placed on the British Ship, "John", taken to Boston where he was exchanged November 28, 1782, and returned to his home in Cambridge where he arrived December 7, 1782.

After the Revolutionary War, the soldier lived in Cambridge, then Pittstown, New York, for about twenty-eight years, when in Northampton and Mayfield, Montgomery County, New York.

John Gifford was allowed pension on his application executed September 19, 1832, at which time he was residing in Mayfield, New York; he stated he had lived in Northampton and Mayfield about twenty-one years. At the time he applied for pension, he signed John Gifford, Senior. He died May 24, 1854.

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