

Pension Application for Joseph Gilbert

R.4009

State of New York

Saratoga County

On this day of February 1840 personally appeared before me, George G. Scott, one of the Judges of the Saratoga County Courts Joseph Gilbert a resident of the town of Clifton Park in the County of Saratoga and State of New York aged Seventy 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 7th 1832.

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

That in the year 1776 this deponent was called into the service of the United States by order of Captain Elisha Gilbert who then commanded a Company of Infantry of the Militia of the State of New York which company belonged to a regiment commanded by Col. ___ Whitney and was stationed at or in the vicinity of New Lebanon now Columbia County, that in the fall of the year 1776 a division of [?] for said Regiment was apportioned to the said Captain Gilberts Company and this deponent who was there a number of the said Captain Gilbert's Company was directed to take charge of said munitions by the said Captain Gilbert as a guard, that the situation of the Section in which the said Captain Gilbert resided being at the time surrounded by Tories & Indians rendered at necessary that a sentinel should be kept at the said Captain Gilbert's house where said munitions were deposited for safety, that during the deposit of the said munitions attempts were made to seize the same that this deponent continued as a guard until in the summer of 1777 when this deponent was called from said guard to take the place of William Foster who had been previously wounded and rendered unable for camp duty that the said Foster took the place of this deponent as Guard as aforesaid when this deponent went to near where Burgoin [Burgoyne] was stationed and found the company of the said Captain Gilbert when this deponent remained in said Company one month and was dismissed and returned home and assumed the duties of a guard as aforesaid and this deponent further saith that he served as a guard as aforesaid at the place aforesaid from the fall of 1776 until the Spring of 1778 at all times unless called out to march on tours of duty as herein after stated.

And this deponent further saith that during said year the stores from Albany (Munitions) were directed to be removed from Albany to Pittsfield East this deponent was deducted to go and assist in the removal of the same and did so and in which service the said deponent was engaged six days his orders were received from Capt. Gilbert aforesaid.

And this deponent further saith that on the last of July or first of August as near as he can now recollect in the year 1778 he again entered the service of the United States as a substitute for Stephen Gray, who was called out in the said Captain Gilberts Company aforesaid, that Lieutenant Gray was Lieutenant of said Company, that the detachment marched from New Lebanon to Albany from there to Schenectady

& from there up the Valley of the Mohawk to German Flats where the Regular army was that an engagement took place between the American Troops & the Tories & Indians in which engagement this deponent was that after the enemy crossed the creek one of them officers who was then called Col. Brant was killed, that the detachment in which this deponent was in were ordered to pursue the enemy and that this deponent pursued them a march of four days when they were ordered to return back and after returning this deponent together with the company was dismissed from duty and returned home after a tour of duty of six weeks as near as he can now recollect.

And this deponent further saith that in the month of November 1778 about the first of the same a detachment was again ordered out under the command of Lieut. Gray, this deponent again went in said detachment as a substitute for the said Stephen Gray aforesaid that said company in which this deponent marched proceeded to Albany when they were joined by others and then marched to a place called Cherry Valley that they did not arrive at the place until after the Indians had consumed the buildings by fire after remaining there a short period they were then directed back and this deponent was dismissed and returned home after a tour of duty of one month.

And this deponent further saith during the year 1779 & a part of the year 1780 he was on duty at short intervals [missing] called on to detect pursue and convey to prison such as were suspected and caught in arms or otherwise against the government that his situation was such being a resident [?] the family of his brother Capt. Elish Gilbert aforesaid and the said Elish having been engaged the most of his time on active duty or as a number of the general Committee he this deponent was required with some few others living in the amediate [immediate] vicinity of the said Captain Gilbert to devote most of their time in the service of his country.

And this deponent further saith that he was again called out into service as a substitute for the said Stephen Gray aforesaid that Captain Bostwick [Jr.?] commanded the detachment they marched to Albany from there he went to Schenectady and from there marched to Old Schoharie where they encamped and remained a short time when duty were dismissed and returned home after a tour of duty of one month, at this tour the weather was cold the snow fell some inches whilst encamped at Schoharie thinks it was in November 1780.

And this deponent further saith that in the year 1781, this deponent was again called out as a substitute for the said Stephen Gray under the command of the said Captain Gilbert, that this detachment marched to Albany from there duty proceeded up the valley of the Mohawk to Fort Stanwix from there the detachment marched against a band of Indians & Tories at a place then called Oriscany [Oriskany] at which place deponent was in the engagement between the Americans and the Indians & Tories—In this tour deponent had a tedious campaign was destitute of food for three days with but little exceptions that after remaining on duty two months and over he was dismissed and returned home.

And this deponent further saith that from the commencement of the fall of 1776 to winter of 1781, he this deponent was engaged in the service of the United States

and in the war of the same either as guard of Munitions as aforesaid or on other duty the most of his time that by reason of old age and consequent loss of memory he cannot set forth with precision viz, different tours of service as would be gratifying but that he did serve his country as a soldier of the revolution in the manner aforesaid and that the history of his services as aforesaid is correct according, to the best of his present recollections and belief.

And he further deposeth and says that the reason of his delaying his application to the present time was that he knew of no one living by whom he could prove any part of his services until in November last and that he had been informed & verally [verily] believed that the department required testimony from some living witness without which no applicant could be heard. That he knows of no person living by whom he can prove his services excepting the affidavit [affidavit] hereunto annexed and that his companions in arms are all dead as far as he can learn.

To the Interrogatories propounded by the court I answer as follows.

[1.] I was born at the place called Oblong County of Dutchess State of New York on the 12th day of May 1766 (1766)

2. I have no record of my age.

3. I resided in the town of New Lebanon now county of Columbia State of New York when called into service I resided then during the War of the Revolution and after the close of the same I moved to the town of Clifton Park Saratoga County State of New York where I have resided ever since.

4. I entered the service by order of Captain Elisha Gilbert as afore stated and I also served at Several times as a Substitute for Stephen Gray.

5. I was acquainted with [just has dashes and no names] who was in command as regular officers. I also was acquainted with Col ___Whiting Capt's Gilbert & Bostwick Lieutenant Gray [more dashes, no names] and as to the circumstances of my service I have given a detail of them as near as I can recollect.

6. I never received a written discharge & my recollection was always dismissed at the close of my service.

7. I would give the names of James Jones, and Nathan Garnsey with whom I am personally acquainted in my present neighborhood who can testify as to my character for veracity and their belief of my services as s soldier in of [sic] the revolution.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State. (Signed) Joseph Gilbert.

Sworn to and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid before me. Geo. G. Scott, Judge of Saratoga Co. Courts.