

Pension Application for Philip Graff

W.23154 (Widow: Deborah)

State of New York

Montgomery County SS.

On this 19th day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty two personally appeared in open court before the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Montgomery & State of New York, now sitting, Philip Graff a resident of the Town of Johnstown in the County & State aforesaid aged sixty four years on the sixteenth day of November last past, 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 entered the service of the United States and served as herein stated: Your applicant says that he went as a substitute for one Conradt Steen in Militia service in the year 1779 under Captain Pattingales, (1) that he does not recollect the names of any of the other officers that he resided at this time in Johnstown Tryon County now Montgomery and went from the latter place to Mayfield in same county of Tryon, about ten miles distant, and remained there two weeks and was after that time discharged verbally. Your applicant says that he again in the year 1780 went as a substitute in the place of one William White, for two weeks and remained for that time as such substitute at the Johnstown Fort until said White returned from visiting his family and that this was in the month of June in that year.

Your applicant further says that on the return of said White he your applicant went from Johnstown down to Noble Town then Albany county now Columbia County & State of New York for the purpose of going to his father's (2) family who had removed from Johnstown to Noble Town, while he lay and remained at the Johnstown Fort, that when he arrived there he again went out as a substitute for one Johnathan Reece, in the militia service under Captain Christopher Miller (3), Lieutenant John Ostrander, Ensign Jeremiah Miller, a company belonging to Colonel Grahams Regiment, that he went from that place to wit, Noble Town to Claverack, Albany County, Now Columbia, and from thence he proceeded under the above named officers, to Livingstons Manor, and from thence again to Poughkeepsie & from thence to Fish Kill where his said company joined the said Regiment three other Regiments commanded by Colonels Malcom, (4) Livingston & Paine, Malcom being the oldest of the four Colonels, acted as Brigadier General & took the Command of the four Regiments.

Your applicant went from Fish Kill under the before named officers to West Point, where the army remained for two weeks and from thence proceeded to Stony Point, and from thence to Haverstraw and from thence to Tappan and from thence they proceeded back again to Albany County.

Your applicant says that he went out as such substitute for three months and served the full term of three months, that he went out sometime in the month of July in this year, but is unable to state the day of the month and was discharged sometime in the latter part of October, but cannot state the day.

Your applicant, further says, that in the year 1781, he again went out as a substitute, in the place of Peter Groat in the Militia service for four months, under Captain Peter Van Ransalaer (5), Lieutenant Spencer (6), commanded by Colonels Marinus Willett, that he at this time lived at Claverack Albany County now Columbia & State aforesaid, went from there went up to a place now called Herkimer then Fort Herkimer in Tryon County and that he went there under those officers to guard the frontiers of New York State and prevent the Indians from destroying the Whigs of the place and different other places in Tryon County and served for the full term of four months, at this time.

Your applicant says that he went out in the month of August of this year and was discharged sometime in the latter part of November or then December. Your applicant says that he was born in the Town of Johnstown County of Tryon & State of New York in the year 1767. He has a memorandum of his age in his family Bible, your applicant says that he is acquainted with the following persons in the neighborhood who can testify to his character as to truth and veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution to wit.

Your applicant says that he knows of no person or persons with whom he can prove the two terms of two weeks and the other term of three months who he went out for Jonathan Reece but is only able to prove the last four months and has no documentary evidence of his services. 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 Philip Graff)

Sworn and Subscribed the day & year aforesaid in open court. Geo. D. Ferguson, Clerk
State of New York
County of Montgomery SS.

On this 15th day of December 1838 personally appeared before me Samuel A. Gilbert one of the Judges of Montgomery county Court Deborah Graff, a resident of Johnstown, State and County aforesaid aged 66 years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath, make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed July 7th 1838, entitled "An Act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows". That she is the widow of Philip Graff, who was a private Soldier in the enlisted

troops, in the war of the Revolution, and was a Pensioner of the United States under the Act of Congress of June 7th 1832—She further declares that she was married to the said Philip Graff at Caughnawaga by the Rev'd Thomas Romeyn on the fifteenth day of April in the year seventeen hundred and ninety one and that her name prior to being married was Deborah Wemple, daughter of Barent Wemple and that her husband the aforesaid Philip Graff died on the nineteenth day of August in the year eighteen hundred and thirty seven at Glen State and County aforesaid; that she was not married prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the first of January seventeen hundred and ninety four, viz, at the time above stated. She further declares that her husband the aforesaid Philip Graff after serving in the troops in the said County of Montgomery for which he was pensioned as above stated, removed to the County of Columbia and there was enrolled in the militia and served there in General Van Rensselaer's division a tour of one month for which he, the said Philip Graff stands accredited on old books of credit at the Pension office, and that for said service she now claims that her pension certificate shall be increased beyond what it formerly it was to her husband the said Philip Graff, and that her pay certificate was surrendered up at the time of drawing the arrearages of her said husband. (Signed with her mark) Deborah Graff

Sworn to and subscribed on the day and year above written below me. Sam'l A. Gilbert a Judge of said County.

End Notes—W.23154—Philip Graff or Graft

1. Philip is in error as to the Captain of this tour of service. Samuel Pettingell was the Captain of the Fifth Company in Colonel Frederick Visscher's Third Regiment of Tryon County Militia. Captain Pettingell was killed at the Battle of Oriskany on August 6, 1777. Philip would have been only ten years old in 1777. William Snook was the First Lieutenant of this company and after the death of Captain Pettingell, Snook was appointed Captain of the Fifth Company. Philip probably served under Captain Snook in 1779 and Philip would have been 12 years old. Philip was too young to legally serve in the militia but according to Daniel, Philip's younger brother in his July 30, 1833 deposition which he made in support of Philip's pension application states the following: "And this deponent says that Philip was quite young when he went out but was very large and active for his age."
2. Philip's father and mother might be Jacob and Sarah Putman Graff as a Daniel Graff was born on June 10, 1769 according to the stone Arabia Lutheran Church baptism book, page 29. Daniel in his deposition stated he was born in 1769. Jacob and Margaret had the following children: Margaret born April 12, 1772 and baptized June 6, 1772, Dutch Reformed Church of Caughnawaga baptism, and Maria born June 19, 1777 and baptized July 13, 1777, Dutch Reformed Church of Caughnawaga Baptism Book, page 22.
3. Captain Christopher Muller and Lieutenants John Ostrander and Jeremiah Muller served in Colonel Morris Graham's Third Regiment of New York State Levies in 1780. Philip served as a private for 3 months and was discharged about October 27, 1780. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, M-246, Roll 72, folder 75, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
4. William Malcolm was the Colonel of the First Regiment of New York State Levies, Henry Livingston was the Lieutenant-Colonel in Colonel Graham's Regiment, and Brenton Paul was the Lieutenant-Colonel in Colonel Lewis DuBois' Regiment of New York State Levies.
5. Philip enlisted as a private on August 23, 1781 in Captain Peter VanRensselaer's Company in Lieutenant-Colonel commandant Marinus Willett's Regiment of New York State Levies. He was discharged on December, 1781. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 78, Folder 173, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
6. John Spence was appointed July 24th as a lieutenant and Jacob Winny was appointed on July 31, as a lieutenant. Both of them were arranged or assigned to Captain VanRensselaer's Company. Lieutenant Spencer signed the muster roll on October 7, 1781 at Fort Herkimer. Philip was still there on October 7, 1781.