

Pension Application for Andrew Guffin

S.13236

State of New York

Rensselaer County SS.

On this second day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty two, personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Rensselaer now sitting Andrew Guffin in a resident of the town of Schodack in the County of Rensselaer and State of New York, aged seventy six 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, that is to say, on the first day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy six he entered the service for the term of five months as a private soldier in a company of Militia commanded by Captain Andrew Hermance and Lieutenants George Sharp and Herman Knickerbackor, [Knickerbocker] which company belonged to a Regiment commanded by Colonels Morris Grahalm and Hopkins; that he entered the service as above mentioned at Red Hook in the County of Dutchess and State of New York as a substitute for some person, whose name he cannot now recollect.

That after being mustered in said company, he was marched to a place then called Radliffs landing on the Hudson River, at which place the troops were embarked on board a Sloop & were taken down the river to or near Kingsbridge, to which place they were taken and were then engaged in constructing and strengthening a Fort on the North Side of the bridge, where he was employed some time but how long he cannot remember. That whilst so placed at Kingsbridge, a part of the Regiment by times was stationed at a place called Morrisiana, to keep guard, that Generals George Clinton and James Clinton were both in command of the troops stationed at Kingsbridge.

That while remaining for some considerable time at Kingsbridge and its vicinity, he was frequently placed among the Sentinels and was at and upon York Island at the time when a tender of one of the British Vessels of war was burned by a fire ship prepared for the purpose by the Americans, which he saw that his regiment was thus engaged in the Service aforesaid until after the evacuation of New York by the American Troops when he was marched to the neighborhood of White Plains and was present at the battle at that place in the month of October of that year.

That in the morning of the day on which the battle took place, he was on the picket guard and first discovered the approach of the British light horse, but was so placed as not to be able to participate in the battle, after the battle of White Plains his Regiment was marched to Peekskill where they were quartered in barracks until New Year's day following at which place after having completed his term of service he was discharged.

That early in the spring of the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy seven and as he verily believes in the month of March of that year he volunteered or enlisted as a private soldier for four months in a company under the command of Captain Andrew Hermance, & the officers aforesaid at a place called little Nine Partners in the town of Northeast in the County of Dutchess [Dutchess] and State aforesaid.

That the said company belonged to a Regiment commanded by the officers before mentioned viz; Colonels Morris Graham and Hopkins. That after he joined said company as aforesaid, he was marched to a Small Fort or redoubt erected on a point or projection in the HighLands on the East Side of the Hudson river about three miles below West Point. That after arriving at said Fort, he was employed in assisting to strengthen the works, and in performing such duty as was required of him as a private soldier until he was regularly discharged and until his time of service, for four months as eh verily believes, had fully expired.

That early in the fall of the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy seven and according to his best recollection and belief in the beginning of September of that year an alarm being given that several British vessels of war were ascending the Hudson river to untie with General Burgoyne he turned out with the Captain Peter Westfall, the Company of the Militia in which he was erected from Little Nine Partners aforesaid where he still resided—

That he proceeded directly to the Hudson river—a short distance below Radliff's landing aforesaid & after remaining there until Kingston was burnt and the British had returned down the river, he was sent out with a file of men to bring in the tories and others who had refused to turn out in obedience to the call of their Country on the alarm, for the purpose of having them dealt with according to the usages of war, in the whole of which last mentioned tour of duty he was engaged a month, and that the whole service performed by him as above detailed amounts in the aggregate to ten months.

In answer to the interrogatories propounded by the war department he says.

First: That he was born in the town of Newry [Kerry?] in the County of Down in Ireland on the twenty ninth day of May one thousand seven hundred and fifty six.

Second: That he has a record of his age in his family bible now in his possession made by himself from the records of his father and his two older brothers.

Third: That when called into service as above mentioned he resided at a place called Little Nine Partners in the town of Northeast in the County of Dutchess and State of New York, where he resided until nearly the close of the revolutionary war, when he removed to the town of Clinton in the County of Dutchess and State of New York, where he resided until nearly the close of the Revolutionary War, when he removed to the town of Clinton in the County of Dutchess aforesaid, that from the County of Dutchess aforesaid he removed to the town of Schodack in the County of Rensselaer and State of New York, where he has resided ever since, for the period of between thirty and forty years, and where he now resides.

Fourth: That he first entered the service as a substitute as above mentioned and secondly as a volunteer as, also above set forth.

Fifth: That he cannot remember any of the regular officers who are with the troops during either of the tours of service above stated, except General Washington whom he saw at White Plains and General Putman whom he saw at Rhinebeck, at the time the British shipping were proceeding up the Hudson river, during his last service as above detailed: That he cannot clearly remember any other Regiments than those to which he belonged as above stated.

Sixth: That he never received a written discharge from the service nor has he any documentary proof thereof. That John Elmendorf of the town of Schodack in the County of Rensselaer & State of New York aforesaid is the only person now living to his knowledge who is acquainted with, or by whom he can prove, and part of his service as above detailed.

Seventh, That he is well known to all the principal inhabitants of the town of Schodack and the adjoining towns who can testify to his character for veracity, the their belief of his having been a soldier of the revolution, and particularly to Judge John Woodworth and John D.P. Douw of the City of Albany, Judge Abiel Buckman, Wolston Brockway Esqr, Nathaniel Baker and Nathaniel Brockway of the town of Schodack, and Chester Griswold, John Koon and the Reverend Solomon Tracy of the Town of Nassau.

That he the said Solomon Tracy presides over and officiates as the Clergyman of the Congregation to which he belongs, but owing to ill health he the said Solomon Tracy is unable to appear in Court.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity, except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. (Signed) Andrew Guffin

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. Archibald Bull, Clerk