

Pension Application for Henry Gunsalus
Donated by Mark Hendrickson

State of Ohio

County of Hamilton ss. On this 14th day of April 1834, personally appeared before the Court of Common Pleas of said County of Hamilton & State of Ohio, Henry Gunsalus, a resident in the City of Cincinnati, in said County, aged seventy four years on the 8th day of December last, who being first duly sworn, according to law, doth on his oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by Act of Congress, passed June 7th 1832.

That about the first of May 1777, he volunteered in Orange County in the State of New York, in the company commanded by Capt. Newkirk in Col. McLaughlin's regiment of New York Militia, for a term of three months, and immediately marched to Newburgh, and in going to that place, passed up the Hudson river by land, that after remaining in Newburgh about one month, marched through Summerset County N. Jersey, and the town of Princeton in the same state to Trenton, at which two places last named, he performed the remainder of his services for said term of three months, that during this period of service, the applicant was engaged in a skirmish with the enemy at a place in New Jersey called Bondbrook, in which the latter were beaten, but the Americans however, lost several men, that several regular officers were with the applicant in said skirmish, but he cannot now recollect their names, that after the expiration of said term of three months, he was discharged by his captain before named, and immediately afterwards, at Trenton aforesaid, hired himself as a substitute for one John Shirts in the company commanded by Capt. (name not recollected,) in the Regiment commanded by Col. Forrest, of the New Jersey Militia, to serve three months, and served out said term, and was regularly discharged by said Captain last named, that during this period he was in the battle at Trenton on the morning of the 26th of December 1777, when Genl. Washington captured the Hessians, but was in no other battle or skirmish during said term last named, that after receiving his discharge as aforesaid, he returned to his father's residence in said County of Orange in the State of New York, and there remained until the month of Feby 1778, when he was drafted with others of Captain Dewitt's company of Militia, and marched under the command of Captain _____ in Col. Newkirk's regiment to guard the frontiers of said State of New York against the depredations of the Indians; that the period for which he was thus drafted, was six months, and he served out the same accordingly, and was regularly discharged by the Captain last named; that during this period of service he was engaged in several skirmishes with the Indians, in one of which Capt. Little of the said regiment was killed; that the scene of the said skirmishes was in Ulster County N. York; that he served with several regular officers during this tour, but cannot now recollect the names of any others than Capt. _____ and Majr. Blue of the New York Line; that the place at which he was discharged, was DeWitt's Mills, on Neversink river, & the time was in August 1778, that he was a private only during said three periods of service, and as to his discharges above mentioned, they have been lost long since; that he afterwards from August 1778 until the latter part of the year 1781, a ranger in guarding against the depredations of the Indians on the frontiers of said state, and during all of that long period, he was in said Captain Dewitt's Company of Militia, that he cannot specify his services as required at the War Department, as the business of rangers was to go out in scouting parties once or twice in every week according to emergencies, & they remained out not more than two or three days at each time making their observations on the movements of the enemy, that from the nature and character of this enemy, the company to which the applicant belonged was at all times obliged to be on the alert, that the captain who directly commanded said rangers, was named Alexander Woody, & the Col. was named Blue as before stated; that if this statement of his services while a ranger should not be deemed sufficiently certain to authorise it to be taken into account at the War Department, the applicant's claim for the same must be, and is hereby waived, & his claim is merely confined to the three periods of service first mentioned, amounting in the aggregate to one year.

The said applicant finally states, that he has no documentary evidence, and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his service. 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.

Sworn to and subscribed the
day and year aforesaid
Danl. Gano Clerk

his
Henry X Gunsalus
mark

The following interrogatories were propounded by the Court to the above named applicant;
1st Where and in what year were you born?

Answer - I was born Ulster County in the state of New York on the 8th day of December 1759.

2nd Have you any record of your age, and if so, where is it?

Answer - I have a record of my age in my bible taken from the original record in my father's bible in his hand writing, more than thirty years ago.

3rd Where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the Revolutionary War, and where do you now live?

Answer - I was living in Orange County, New York when called into service, and remained there during, & until seven or eight years after the Revolutionary War, & then removed to N. Jersey & ultimately to Hamilton County about thirteen years past.

4th How were you called into service, were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute? And if a substitute, for whom?

Answer - I first volunteered for three months, & next was a substitute for three months for John Shirts, and lastly, I was drafted for six months; as before stated, and I subsequently was a ranger until after the capture of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown, Virginia, in which latter capacity I had to perform duty two or three days in each week, in scouting parties sent out by my Captain, to reconnoiter and give notice of the approach of the Indians.

5th State the names of some of the Regular officers, who were with the troops where you served, such continental and Militia regiments as you can recollect, and the general circumstances of your services.

Answer - I cannot recollect the names of any other regular officers than those already named; but I recollect serving with Capt. Moody of the New York Militia, in addition to the militia officers already named; & the general circumstances of my service have been fully stated already.

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Answer - I received a discharge at the expiration of each term of service, as above stated, signed by the respective Captains under whose command I served at the time, but all of said discharges have been lost long since.

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood, and who can testify as to your character for veracity, and their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution.

Answer - I am known to Ebenezer Hulse Esqr, sheriff of Hamilton County, Ohio, Danl. Gano Esq. Clerk of said County Common Pleas Court, Mr. Jno. Harris, Genl. James Findley; formerly a member of Congress, & numerous others, who would testify for me, as to my character for veracity, and also as to their belief of my services as a revolutionary soldier.

Sworn to & subscribed before
me in open court June 23d 1834
Danl. Gano Clk

his
Henry X Gunsalus
mark