

## **Pension Application for Thomas Harrison or Harrisson**

S.8646

State of New York

Montgomery County SS.

On this nineteenth day of September personally appeared in open court before Aaron Staring, Abraham Marrell, John Hand, Samuel A. Gilbert and Henry J. Diefendorf, Esquires Judges of the Court of Common Pleas, in and for said County now sitting Thomas Harrison a resident of Amsterdam in the County of Montgomery and State of New York aged Seventy nine 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 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

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

Entered the service in the month of February in the year 1776 as a militia [militia] man and left the service at the close of the war, the last service was at Fort Plain in the year 1783.

That he entered the service under Emanuel DeGraff Captain, Derick VanVechten ensign, Peter O. VanOlind 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant & b Cyrus Swart 2<sup>d</sup> Lieutenant.

That he was born in Florida, Montgomery County, State of New York on the 7<sup>th</sup> of April 1753 and is now 79 years of age. That he resided in the Town of Amsterdam County aforesaid State aforesaid, when he entered the service as a volunteer under the aforesaid officers and went to Johnstown in month of January or February in the year 1776, and disarmed Sir John Johnson out 4 days that in the year 1777 or 1778, he went to the Block House in Sacandaga in pursuit of a party of Indians, was out about 8 days.

That in the spring of 1776 he went out as a volunteer under Captain DeGraff to Balston & Greenfield in pursuit of the Tories and took about 60 of them and conducted them to Albany was out about 8 days.

That in the summer of 1777 or 78 he was drafted and went to Cherry Valley under Captain DeGraff was out 2 weeks.

That in 1776 was again drafted and went to Herkimer under Captain DeGraff, Gen. Schuyler to [?] with the six nations of Indians, the Cayugas, Onondagas, Tuscoraroras, Mohawks, & Onidas [Oneidas] and was out about 5 weeks.

That in August 1776 went out as a volunteer under Captain garret Putman to the Sacandaga Blockhouse to the Fish house thence to the Mohawk River on a scout out 4 days.

That in the fall of the same year went out as a scout with Cornelius Sixbury & Peter Van Warner out about 5 days.

That in August 1777 was again drafted and went to Herkimer to meet the enemy was out 2 weeks.

That in 1781 turned out and pursued the Toriys [Tories] Indians (who had been burning the houses in Florida on the Mohawk River) to Fort Johnson thence to Johnstown and was then engaged in the Johnstown Battle, pursued the enemy (who

were commanded by Major [major] Ross) to the West Canada [Canada] Creek where Capt. Walter Butler was killed, thence to Herkimer out 8 or 10 days.

That in August 1777 was again drafted and went to Stillwater under Captain DeGraff and was engaged in the Battle of Still Water when Burgoyne was taken was out about 3 weeks.

That in February 1776 before Burgoyne was taken, was pressed and went with his team to Ticonderoga with a load of peas for the army and thence to Albany with a load of Troops, out about 9 days – was again pressed with his team and went to Rome from Albany with Spirits for the Troops was out 2 or 3 weeks – and wood for the soldiers.

Went to Cherry valley at the time it was burned (under Captain DeGraff was out about 10 days as a volunteer stood sentry [sentry] & was shot at in the night. That in the summer 1776 was again drafted & went to Fort Plain under Captain DeGraff was out about 2 weeks.

That in 1774 or 5 went as a volunteer under Captain Garret Putman to Canajoharie at the time General Brown was killed, out about 2 weeks. Thinks all the time he was in the service would make at least 3 years but cannot now recollect with sufficient certainty to State the various and different times and services in which he was engaged from the time he entered the service in 1775 with the treaty of peace in 1783.

The said Harrison can prove his services in part by Victor Putman & Daniel McGraw & the following named persons of his neighbourhood can testify as to his character for truth and veracity & as to their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolutionary War—to wit Nicholas Hill, Frederick DeGraff, Nicholas DeGraff, Walter Swart, William VanOlinda, Albert Van Hald, Philip Phillips & John French.

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 with his mark) Thomas Harrison

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

Letter in folder dated September 8, 1933, written in response to an inquiry.

Thomas Harrison –S.8646. Thomas Harrison (pensioned Harrison) was born April 7, 1753 in Florida, Montgomery County, New York; the names of his parents are not given.

While residing in Amsterdam, Montgomery County, New York, Thomas Harrison served in 1775 at various times as private and teamster in the New York militia under Captains Amauniel DeGrauf, Gerrit Putnam, Veeder, Colonels Frederick Fisher, Harper and Volkert Veeder; he was in the battles of Stillwater, Cherry Valley and Johnstown, was in many scouting parties in pursuit of Tories and Indians, and served until the close of the war, length of service about two years.

The soldier, Thomas Harrison, was allowed pension on his application executed, September 19, 1832, then a resident of Amsterdam, New York. In 1837 he had moved

to the state of Ohio, because “his children, family and friends” were living there. His post office address in 1837 was, Florence, Huron County, Ohio. Names of children, family and friends not shown.

In 1837 Thomas Harrison, Jr. was in Huron County, Ohio, and stated that he was well acquainted with the soldier, Thomas Harrison; no relationship shown.