

Pension Application for George Anthony

S.2341

Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress Passed June 7, 1832
State of New Jersey
Sussex County SS.

On this twenty seventh day of August A.D. 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Judges of the Superior Court of Common Pleas of the County of Sussex—and State of New Jersey—the said Court being a Court of Record having a seal with power to fine and in imprison and having a Clerk—and now sitting at Riverton in and for said County, George Anthony a resident of the County of Sussex—State of New Jersey—aged seventy years—who being first duly sworn according to law upon his oath maketh the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress, passed June 7, 1832.

That this applicant in the spring of the year 1778—lived at Canajoharie on the Mohawk River—that in the month of March of the same year as he believes—he enlisted for nine months—at the same place under Captain McKee (1) in the Regiment of Col. Marinus Willett—that there were about one hundred who enlisted about that time—That the Company was stationed on German Flatts, the residue of Willett's regiment—being at Fort Willett (2) that the whole company including this Deponent were dismissed at the end of their tour—no certificate being given—that in January of the year 1779 according to the best of his belief he enlisted at Fort Willett under Captain James Cannon (3)—under Col. Willett for nine months that they were stationed at Middleburg, Schoharie Co. until they marched to Fort Willett, and remained until they were dismissed—no discharge given—that in the winter/January he thinks of the year 1780—he enlisted at Fort Willett—under Captain John Dennie (4)—Col. Hay—at the same time there were several others who enlisted with him some of whom this deponent thinks may now be living namely Peter Lambert—Peter Adams—John Wormwood—that the Company were stationed at Fishkill on the Hudson—that for a part of the time they were employed in the charge of Foraging with the Horses of the army— That they marched to Tarry Town where they remained a few weeks—they returned to Fishkill where they were dismissed—no discharge given—that this enrollment was for a year—and that the term of service was completed by him—that in the spring of 1781—he was accepted in the Company of drafted Militia, under Captain Lawrence Grose (5)—who was personally known to this deponent—and whom he thinks is still living at Canajoharie NY—for John Gansevoort of Albany in the Regt of Coll. Willett for nine months that they were stationed at Fort Willet—were [sic, where] he remained till the expiration of his term—when he immediately enlisted in the year service under Capt. Y. Fundy (6), Capt. Grose afterwards took command—Captain Fonday being Adjutant of the Regiment—that in February the Regiment were ordered to Oswego (7) that expedition failing he regiment returned to Fort Willett— Where they remained till the term of service (one year) expired when he was dismissed, no discharge given—that in the year 1781 as he believes under Capt. Grose he was in the Battles of Worcester and of Johnstown (8)—under the command of Captain Fundy—that he knows of no person nearer than Albany who can testify to his service—that he is infirm and his suffering much impaired and is unable to state further particulars of his service—that he was born in NY in 1762—He has no record of his age that his present residence is Hardeston in the County of Sussex—that he is personally known to the Rev'd Noah Crane, Dan Hand, James L. Morrow, & Lewis Sherman who will as this deponent believes testify to the character of this deponent for veracity &c.

And this Deponent hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity except the present and declares his name is not on the pension Roll of the agency of any state whatever. (Signed) George Anthony

Sworn and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid. Benjn. Halsey
State of New Jersey
Morris County

On this 30th day of May AD 1833 before the subscriber, a Justice of peace in said County personally came George Anthony, aged 70 years, & being duly sworn, saith, that he is a citizen of New Jersey, living in Hardiston, Sussex County & is the same George Anthony, who, in the August term of the Court of Common pleas of said County of Tryon, in the year 1832, made & subscribed under oath, a written Declaration setting forth his services in the war of the revolution, with a view to obtain the benefit of the law of the U. States, passed 7th June 1832. That his said Declaration, as he believes, was sent on to the Pension office, in the War Department at Washington, through the Post Office, soon after it passed the form of the Court, since which time, he has rec'd no intelligence concerning it. That he apprehends, from the little time taken in drawing up his declaration, & perhaps from the fact that the person who committed his narration to writing, was unacquainted with the business, his service even not stated as specifically, nor detailed as minutely as was necessary, to enable the Department to determine, what amount of pension if any, was due to him under the law.

He has lately reflected more on the subject, & endeavored to refresh his memory on the subject of his revolutionary services, & desires, that the Commissioner of pension will receive this narration as his amendatory Declaration, containing a plain & faithful recital of his enlistment of Services, according to the best of his

remembrance & belief. His memory is much impaired by age & bodily infirmities, & particularly in reference to dates.—

He was born in the County of Schoharie in the State of New York on the 28th day of May in the year of our Lord 1762, according to the family record of his age, as contained in a family bible, not now in his possession.

When the war of the revolution began, he was living in Schoharie County, New York, upon the valley of the Mohawk river, which was then an Indian frontier, & frequently subject to Indians depredation & outrage.—And his military services, were principally performed in that section of County, when Indian assault in its worst form, was after visited upon the frontier settlements.—He cannot tell the year, nor the period of the war, when his first enlistment was made, & in order to enable the Department to fix the time when his services were performed, he is under the necessity of beginning his narration nearly in the middle period of his services. He recollects distinctly that when Major Andre was first taken prisoner, this Deponent was then in service, upon his third enlistment, performing garrison duty at West Point, on the Hudson river, & guarding military stores at the town of Fishkill, in Captain John Denny's Company & Colonel Hay's regiment of the New York line—This his 3rd enlistment, as before stated, was made at Canajoharie where he then lived, upon the Mohawk river valley early in the month of January prior to Andre's capture (9), under the said Captain John Denny, & his term of engagement was, one year. He was stationed with his company at West Point upon garrison duty, & occasionally in guarding the public stores at Fishkill as before stated & the river shores in that neighborhood. His year of service was performed in this manner & when it expired, he was discharged verbally at Fishkill, early in January & went home.

His first tour of service, or his first enlistment, was about two years before Andre was taken prisoner. He then lived at Canajoharie, & early in the month of April as he believes, he enlisted for the term of nine months, at Canajoharie, in Captain McKeen's company, who lived at Cherry Valley, to serve in Colonel Marinus Willett's Regiment of the New York line.—He was stationed on the German Flats & Fort Herkimer the whole time, guarding this frontier against Indian depredation.—He served out the nine months in this duty, & was discharged in time of the holidays, the last of December, or 7th of January, following the enlistment.—During this term of service he was personally & actively engaged in the battle of Sharon in Otsego County against the combined army of Indians, British & Tories.—His Captain (McKeen) was killed in this battle, which was fought at the time after wheat harvest & Lieut. Thornton (10) commanded the company the remainder of this campaign.

His second enlistment was at Albany in Captain James Cannon (11), (or perhaps Kennon's) company, in Colonel Willett's Regiment, of the New York line early in the month of April, for the term of nine months. About two weeks after his enlistment, the company was marched to the Mohawk Valley, & was stationed at Johnstown, Schoharie, & Fort Willett, guarding the frontier against the Indians till the nine months expired, when he was discharged at Fort Willett, in time for the holidays about the 7th of January.

His 3rd enlistment was for one year and under a Captain John Denny, in Col. Hay's regiment & is the one which was first related in this declaration & need not be repeated in its order. He referred to it, out of its order mainly to fix the time, as a starting point.—

After his 3rd enlistment, under Captain Denny expired, he again enlisted, a 4th time, in the early part of April, in Captain Lawrence Gross' company at Canajoharie & in Col. Willett's Regiment. Was stationed at Fort Willett & Fort Herkimer, to defend the frontier against the Indians. In June or July of this summer, the battle of Johnstown was fought in which this deponent was personally engaged under Colonel Willett.

In the month of November following his last mentioned enlistment, & about one month before it expired, Colonel Willett captured a strong desire to enlist a Regiment for one year; & this Deponent accordingly enlisted for one year, in November in Captain Yellis Fonda's company of Infantry. This same Captain Fonda, was acting Adjutant in Col. Willett's regiment, during the whole of this Deponent's service under Col. Willett. He remained at Fort Willett, till in the dead of winter, January when having been reinforced by a regiment of Long Island troops (12), Col. Willett, taking command of both Regiments, marched forthwith to Oswego, to reduce that fort, as this deponent was informed.—an Indian guide deceived the Army, the enemy having the tidings of Willett's approach, he returned immediately to Fort Willett, without storming the fort, as he had intended.—In the spring following, peace having been proclaimed, he was discharged at Fort Willett, before the term of his enlistment expired, on or about the 15th October (14). He never recd a written discharge, nor a commission. He always performed duty as a private soldier, except when in Captain Gross' company of 9 months service, the Sergeant having sickened (15) & died, this deponent was appointed to perform Sergeant duty in his stead, which he did, until the enlistment expired. But for this he did not receive a Sergeants warrant or commission.—He knows no living witness of his service any where. If any be living in the Mohawk valley or [?] in New York, he has neither the means nor the health to go in quest of them.—The Clergyman Rev. Mr. Crane, where he lives; gave certificate of his character & standing for veracity, which he believes was attached to his original Declaration, but knows nothing of his personal services unless by report.—He has stated his revolutionary services with a conscientious regard to truth, so far as his memory served him; & and for its frailty, he desires that the charitable indulgence, which is due to old age, in attempting to give a narration of events transacted more than 50 years since. He verily believes he

has faithfully served his country in various enlistments, for the full period of four years & two months, having been discharged one month before his time expired, in consequence of peace.—He is aged, infirm & very poor, having not a foot of land nor a cow for his family's comfort—is dependent on the labor of a son, a youth of 19 years, for his daily bread—is lame—totally unable to labor, & almost blind.—He has a disease of the heart as his physicians tell him, which totally disqualifies him for action, exercise, if he had the strength to perform. – For his services as above stated, he can only beseech the government of his County to allow him a pension, to provide himself & his family with an honest piece of bread during the few days of life which remain to him. (Signed with his mark)
George Anthony

Charles Freeman Justice Peace.

End Notes—S2341—George Anthony

1. George has his officers and Tories mixed up. In 1778, George would have served in Colonel Samuel Campbell's First Regiment of Tryon County Militia. Robert McKean could not have been in Colonel Marinus Willett's Regiment of New York State Levies in 1778 as it was not formed until April 1781. Robert McKean was appointed Captain in April of 1779 in Colonel Henry K. VanRensselaer's Regiment of New York State Levies, Captain McKean's Company was stationed at the German Flatts and the nearby forts.
2. Fort Willett was a blockhouse built in 1781-1782.
3. James Cannon served as a Lieutenant in Captain Elihu Marshall's Company in Willett's Regiment in 1781. In 1782 Cannon was appointed Captain in Willett's Regiment and served until the end of 1783.
4. Captain John Denny (Denny) did serve in the Quartermaster General's Department in 1780 but so far his muster or payrolls for his company have not been found. Colonel Udney (Udny) Hays was an Assistant Deputy Quartermaster General.
5. George enlisted on May 27, 1781 in Captain Lawrence Gross' Company in Lieutenant-Colonel commandant Marinus Willett's Regiment of New York State Levies. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 78, folder 173, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
6. Jellis A. Fonda (J was pronounced as Y in German and Dutch) served as a Lieutenant and Adjutant under November 7, 1782 when he was appointed Captain to replace Captain Abner French who had retired from the service in Willett's.
7. The Fort Oswego Expedition, led by Willett, was in February of 1783.
8. George in his May 30, 1833 pension application, amended his 1832 application and corrected it to some degree. Worcester he changed to Sharon which is correct. The Battle of New Dorlach or Sharon Spring was fought on July 10, 1781. The Battle of Johnstown was fought on October 25, 1781. Captain Gross commanded the company in both battles. Captain Gross submitted an account for a saddle that he had lost in the Battle of Johnstown to the State of New York after the war for payment for the loss.
9. Major John Andre was captured on September 24, 1780 and hung as a spy on October 2, 1780.
10. Lieutenant John Thornton served in Captain Stephen White's Company in Willett's Regiment in 1781. Captain McKean was mortally wounded at New Dorlach and died during Willett's return march to Fort Rensselaer.
11. George was enlisted on May 27, 1782 in Captain James Cannon's Company in Willett's Regiment. The following was extracted from Willett's Descriptive Book No. 4, Doc. No. 11105, Manuscripts and Special Collections, New York State Library, Albany, N.Y. George Anthony, born at Canajoharie, (Canajoharie) Tryon County, New York, enlisted by Captain James Cannon for 2 years. Age -18, size 5 ft, 7 1/2 in., complexion -dark, Hair—brown, Eyes—brown, occupation—labourer, Remarks—Pock Marked.
12. George is mistaken but close. The regiment was the First Rhode Island Continental Regiment.
13. The Oneida Indian guide was Captain John O. Willett had him arrested on suspicion of deceit but he was released when Captain John admitted he was following tracks in the snow which he thought would lead him to Fort Oswego and he had become lost in the darkness.
14. George again is mistaken. According to Captain Cannon's payroll/muster roll he served a full 12 months in his company in 1783 as a private. His pay for the year was £ 80 . . 0 . . 0. He had been paid £ 26 . . 60 . . 0 and was owed £ 33 . . 30 . . 0 FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 78, folder 173, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
15. George is again mistaken. According to Captain Gross' muster roll the four sergeants and corporals served their full nine months and George served only as a private.