

Pension Application for John G. Christie

R.1940

State of New York

Livingston County SS.

On this second day of October one thousand eight hundred and thirty three personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas now sitting John G. Christie a resident of Caledonia in the county of Livingston, and state of New York, aged eighty four years and upwards 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 in the month of April and about the 10th 1777 this declarant being a resident of the town of Milton then Albany County, but now Saratoga County and State of New York was drafted into the service of the United States under the command of Captain John Collins (1) whose company was attached to a regiment commanded by James Gordon (2) as colonel who was afterwards promoted to the office of General. This declarant well recollects that Andrew Mitchell (3) was his major and John Ball and a man by the name of Wood (4) were his Lieutenants. That this deponent was marched to Ballstown in the said county of Saratoga and State of New York from thence he this declarant went in pursuit of a party of Tories that had previously been out on a plundering excursion in this vicinity of this declarant's residence. That he assisted in taking them, and found the said body of Tories commanded by one William and Thomas Frazer; after which this declarant obtained liberty of the said Captain Collins to return to his residency, but that he did not receive a written discharge having been absent fifteen days.

That afterwards to wit in the months of April and this declarant thinks about the twentieth 1778 being still a resident of the Town of Milton aforesaid this declarant received from Colonel James Gordon a written command to rendezvous forth-with at at [sic] the City of Albany and State of New York this declarant accordingly went to Albany—the officers in this expedition this declarant cannot recollect except General Schuyler, Colonel Van Schaick (5), and one that he received from one Bateman (6) a dismissal from this service—nothing important occurred but that he recollects of going to half moon point and forts Ann and Ticonderoga for the purpose of pressing forward wagons and supplying the garrison at Fort Ticonderoga with provisions. After the four months, for which he had orders to go out expired this declarant returned to his home at Milton aforesaid.

This declarant further says that subsequently to the time last above mentioned to wit in the month of May 1779 this declarant received another order from Colonel Gordon aforesaid to equip himself for nine months service and repair immediately to Albany that he did not obey this order, that in the month of June thereafter this declarant was taken before one John Collins aforesaid who ordered him to go into the service of the United States as a substitute for one Daniel McIntyre, who by reason of his sickness was unable to go, that about the twentieth of June he this declarant in pursuance of said order went to Albany aforesaid from thence to Stone Arabia or Stone Robbie as it was more commonly called, and that from the scarcity of provisions he was discharged by John Ball who was his lieutenant. The Captain who commanded at Albany and Stone Robbie (7) this declarant does not recollect tho he remembers that Major Mitchell was yet with him and also General van Rensselaer—(8). This declarant was in no battle or engagement and nothing important occurred where he was stationed, and this declarant says he was at this time in the service of the United States for the space of nine months when his term expired and he returned to Milton aforesaid.

That the whole time he was in the United States service during the war of the revolution was twelve and a half months. That he knows of no person living whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service. 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 any agency in any state.

And to the particular interrogatories of the court, this declarant answers that he was born in Glendawhart in Perth Shire in the Highlands of Scotland on the 16th day of March 1749 O.T. [Old Time]

That he has no record of his age except that it is kept by the clerk of the Parish in Scotland where he was born.

That he was living in Milton then Albany but since Saratoga County & State of New York that since and immediately succeeding the Revolution he lived for six years in the City of Albany, then he removed to the town of Johnstown and is now in the County of Montgomery where he resided for twenty six years that he removed from thence to Caledonia in the county of Livingston aforesaid where his now resides and where he has resided for the last eighteen or nineteen years.

That he was drafted into the service at the two first times, and the second as a volunteer, that is referred to his being drafted this declarant says he so understood it at the time, but that he supposes it was a mere request made by the commanding officer in the vicinity of his residence.

That General Schuyler, General Van Rensselaer, Colonel Van Schaick, & one Bateman but he does not know what post the aforesaid Bateman filled, the other officers, were as enumerated in his declaration.

That he never received a written discharge but that when the terms severally for which he was in the service expired he was dismissed by the commanding officers. That he is known to Hon. Willard H. Smith, Col. Robert McKay and Angus Cameron who can testify to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution. That by reason of the distance to Caledonia and the expense and delay attending it he has been unable to procure the attendance in court of a clergyman. (Signed John G. Christie)

Sworn and subscribed in open court the day & year aforesaid. S.G. Haven Dep. Clk

The words "aged eighty four years & upwards" and the words "General Schuyler, Colonel VanSchaick & one Winne was the wagon master" interlined before signing. S. G. Haven, Dep. Clerk

I, John Christie (9) was born in Scotland Perth Shire in the year 1749 in year 1775 I came to America from British Shore to British Shore Landed in New York June 1775 in year 1776. I and Peter McPherson took up land on the Quisie Creek Kaydrasaries Patent Albany County now Milton Saratoga in the year 1777 Carnl Gorden sent a letter that one of us must of up the Mohawk River to help General Gansevort (1) against the Torries and Indians so Peter went I staid taking care of our place and property for we had none but ourselves to look to things we had he served 4 months you'll find his name and pay in the Record of that Department. In year 1778 said Gorden sent me a letter requesting me imediatly to repair to Albany to service 4 month as a milietaman [militiaman] which I did obeyed and went to Albany Praided at the Old Dutch Church in Albany and one Sergeant Sole calld the Roll there I ansured [answered] John Christie now John G. Next morning he gave the Roll to one Winnie (11) to Press Waggon up through the Bought and Neskune [Niskayuna] arley in April a Friday Slete and snow Bad Rods [Roads] Horses weak next morning orders came the farmers should goe home and that we should return to Albany with Battoes. Ephraim Curry and one of the Cannadie (12) [Kennedy] was out with me at the time so we had nothing to do but send Torries [Tories] down to New England for you must know that the must know that the Torries was sent down to New England by the milieta and Burguynne (13) drums Sent the Whigs after them then we had pace [peace] for two year clear from Lake Champlain to the South Weast end of Stone Obia so youll look at the record of that Department and find that Peter McPherson and John Christie to Dras [Draws] pay for milieta pay for them years the year 1779 I recd [received] andother [letter] from Gorden requesting me to [go to] Albany again as a substitute for one Daniel McIntyre he had [Sorelys?] and got clear I for Bear till two fellows came brought me before the Captain Colledge who told me I must Either go to Canada or go to Goal or go to fight I told him I would not sacrifice my life for another man life but I would voluntar in the Defence of my Neighbour [neighbor] life or proper if I seen need But thar was no need in my time of duty yet Lost in the time of the Revolution.

1 fouling [fowling] piece I brought from Scotland 50 bushel of potates [potatoes] that I saved for two years provision for myself and one Eye 1 barrow Hog and two hundred acers of land by the state. So I have not one G'd [?] and intersesser but my one eye and trembling arm and crooked fingers but yet I live amont Good Neighbor so this you to your charity in the name of him in whom I Belive Jesus Christ That you will hear him in my present Case. I served the year 1779 under Majour Mitchel StoneRobia Lieutenant John Ball but no Roll called for milica [militia] nor to draw our own ticket the three years a letter from gordononly and their he dismissed us Leat in the fal for we had been without provision starving for three or four days only what they pick up among the settlement no comasries [commissaries] stors but all was eat up at last so I finished my time of duty in [Isrell?] but I ought to be allowed two months of McPherson he was [?] substide [substitute] But a partiner and his pay lies their for when he could not stay any our place he went to Canady [Canada] the year 1781 in that hear I lost my eye saving my Hogs from a Scout of Indians its nothing to hear of war at Distance But to come peoples [Doors?] they they what it is my eye and other troubles I was born 1749 old time so if this comes to yours you will now belive to be [Countersibe?] When I cAme 25 I livd since [??] and living [?].

In addition to what I have to give you more light that I have been through the whole Revolusion [Revolution] Warr in the 1777 when my partiner Peter McPherson was with General Gansvort the Cochanwague [Caughnawaga] Indians moved for Bargoyne's Camp they halted at one Tuttle Between two or three miles north of where we lived at the same time a scout of Contnel [Continental] troops meet their 41 In number as I was Infom none eskept [escaped] but eight so I heard the noise of firing I went up next day to know what it meant so in my travel I found one dead in the path the sculp [scalp] cut square but not taken off so I went up Miss Tuttle told me that 50 of yong [young] Indians warriors spring up slaughter them but so they had to send to [Gallamg?] to bury them youll know we had pace [peace] in them years of my servie [service] 1778, 1779 pace in the year 1780. The Devel was permitted to assume the command among which Whigs and Torris [Tories] but I blive [believe] the Torres mured the must accoding [according] to the account in them days more crull sant Leger and Buttler Sir John Sohnston Burnt Cohanwagno (14) and Colonel Monro (15) come through our settlement with 200 Torries and 100 Indians killd one John Shoe [Shew] (16) from Johnstwon was hunting back of my lot they left word of it at the lour [lower] settlement that we should burry him which we did and setn word to his parents abot it and the Indians killed another in Balston [Ballstown] one stow they both speard by Indians they too General Gorden (17) prisoner Captain Colledge and good many others besides bruning house and grain went of fthat is last murder in our settlement except our Indians 1781 I lost my eye saving my hogs from scout of Indians they took one Barrow I wish that they had taken the whole and I saved mine eye &c.

For if you had the Roll of that Departure it would be but 4 months to each for we never hear a Roll Call befor of or after But Gordens but a letter no Roll (18) of Mustring [muster] at Stone Robia wehre my own officers I ought to be allowed 1 year and 3 months first of all when I heard of Milicia [Militia] pension I went to George Hofmon if I had the name of being an old Revolusiner told that of would be giving Title before the estate more had that but listed soldiers I asked if he would intercede for me his answer[answer] was I should procure a Bail for 10 dollards and 10 more if he got it for me that conditions I could not agree to for I could not get bail and indeed I thought it was not me he was but for himself so I am still behind but still I hope I'll be up with the best for honesty is the best policy for a [Little?] with a Blessing is Better than the whole world with God Curse that I believe to be truth so I send this to yoU by him in whom I believe that he lives and I live inhim also.

To J. Edward Comm'r of Pension

If an answer would be sent to the John G. Christie (19) Caledonia Springs. To Judge Smith.

End Notes—John G. Christie –R.1940

1. Captain Tyrannis (not John) Collins commanded the Fifth Company in the Twelfth Regiment of Albany County Militia commanded by Colonel Jacobus (James) van Schoonhoven.

2. James Gordon was the Lieutenant-Colonel of the Twelfth Albany. Gordon was a Brigadier General of the Washington County Militia after the War of Independence when Saratoga County was formed from Washington County of February 7, 1791. He was then the Brigadier General of their militia.
3. First Major Ezekiel Taylor and Second Major Andrew Mitchell of the Twelfth Albany.
4. William McCrea was the First Lieutenant, the Second Lieutenant was Benjamin Wood and the Ensign was David Clark. John Ball was not in the Twelfth Albany as an officer. He was the Second Lieutenant in captain Samuel VanVeghten's Company in Colonel Cornelius D. Wynkoop's Fourth New York Continental Regiment in 1776. Ball was then appointed a First Lieutenant in Captain Aaron Aorson's Company on November 21, 1776 in Colonel Peter Gansevoort's Third New York Continental Regiment. He served with this regiment until May of 1778.
5. Major General Philip Schuyler and Colonel Goose VanSchaick of the First New York Continental Regiment.
6. It is not known if his remembrance of the name is correct. A John Bateman was the Adjutant of the First Canadian Continental Regiment from December 18, 1776 to June 23, 1779. In 1780 he served as Adjutant in Lieutenant-Colonel John Harper's Regiment of New York State Livies. He is often listed as Baetman or Bakeman.
7. Detachments of Albany County Militia were drafted to serve three months in 1779 to garrison forts in the Mohawk Valley including Fort Paris in Stone Arabia.
8. Robert Van Rensselaer was Colonel of the Eight Regiment of Albany County Militia. He was appointed Brigadier General on June 16, 1780 of the Second Brigade of the Albany County Militia.
9. This declaration is included as it is in his own handwriting and has some important details.
10. He must be referring to the year 1777. Gansevoort was a Colonel at that time. Gansevoort was in command of Fort Schuyler (Fort Stanwix) which stood in the present day City of Rome, New York. In August of 1777 the fort was besieged by British forces under Lieutenant-Colonel Barry St. Leger.
11. Possibly Jacob Winney. He served in several capacities during the war.
12. I found a John Curee and a Thomas and John Kennedy (Canada, Kanada, Cannadie, etc) serving in the Twelfth Albany.
13. General John Burgoyne surrendered his British forces on October 17, 1777.
14. Sir John Johnson burnt Caughnawaga on May 22, 1780. This settlement took in the present day Village of Fonda and parts of the Town of Mohawk, Montgomery County.
15. Captain John Munro of the King's Royal Regiment of New York attacked the Ball's Town settlement on October 17, 1780.
16. John Shew with his father Godfrey and brothers Henry, Jacob, and Stephen were taken prisoners at or near their home at Fish House, now in present day Town of Northampton, Fulton County NY, on June 3, 1778. Their home was burnt and Mrs. Shew with the smaller children went to Fort Johnstown to live. John Shew and fellow prisoner Joseph Scott were kept by the Indians and taken to their village in Canada. Shew and Scott escaped in 1779 and returned home. Shew with friend Isaac Palmatier of the Ball's Town settlement were hunting on the 17th of October and were taken prisoners. Some of the Indians recognized Shew as having escaped from their village and he was separated from the prisoners and killed. John's brothers, Henry and Jacob were serving in Captain Garret Putman's Company in Colonel Harper's Regiment. After receiving word of John's death they were given a furlough to bury their brother properly.
17. Lt-Col. Gordon was kept a prisoner until November 19, 1782 and captain Collins was help a prisoner until May 21, 1783.
18. I didn't find John's name listed in Captain Collins Company but I did find him serving in Captain Thomas Hick's company in the Twelfth Regiment.
19. In another declaration dated May 16, 1836 Montgomery County, New York John explains that he added the "G in his name to distinguish him from others", (John Christies). Justice of the Peace Wm McConnell swore to and made out this declaration.