

Pension Application for John Dufendorf or Diefendorff

W.24061 (Widow: Catharine)

State of New York

County of Montgomery SS.

On the 29th day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred & thirty two, personally appeared before Henry J. Dufendorf Esquire one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of said County, John Dufendorf, a resident of the town of Minden in the County & State aforesaid, aged ninety years in May 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 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 after mentioned:

That in the month of February 1776, he was called upon and entered the service of his country in a company commanded by Capt. Henry Diefendorf, Lieut. Jacob Diefendorf & Ensign George Countryman, in Colo. Ebenezer Cos's Regiment, that the company to which he so belonged was then marched to Johnstown a distance of about eighteen miles, when the militia from different directions were collected, that they were then stationed several days under Command of Gen. Schuyler whence they were discharged & he returned home.

That in the month of June following he was again called out in the company to which he so belonged, with the Regiment under Colo. Cox & marched under the command of Gen. Herkimer to Cherry Valley Otsego County, thence south to Unidilla [Unadilla] when they were stationed about three weeks, until a compromise was made between Gen. Herkimer & Colo. Brant who then commanded a party of Indians, troops, & Tories, when they were discharged & they returned home. The precise time of service in going to, staying at & returning from Unidilla aforesaid he cannot state, but that he did as he believes, at least two months actual duty in the service of his country.

That in the month of June 1777, he was again called into the service of his country by his said officers above named and stationed, with the company to which he belonged, near the place where Fort Plank was afterwards built, was built, was then kept on duty about eight days. When they were allowed to return home for a short time, that he was called out at different times, put on duty & sent out in scouting parties, in different directions, until about the first of August following when he, with the regiment to which he belonged marched to Oriskany in the County of Oneida, when he was on the sixth day of August engaged & Colo Cox were killed—that about three days after the battle they returned home when he was again kept on duty and out in scouting parties, the most of the time until about the first of October following when they were marched towards Stillwater on their way to join in the battle against Burgoyne, that when they arrived near the place of battle, they were informed that the battle was over or that they were not wanted and they returned home.

When he continued on duty & out in Scouting parties as circumstances required until some time in the month of November following when hostilities of that

season ended, that he was the most of the time during that season in the service of his country & was required to be in constant readiness and that he did, as he believes, at least three months actual duty in that year in the service of his country.

That in the month of May 1778, he was again called into service by Capt Jacob Dufendorf, who succeeded Capt. Henry Dufendorf killed in the Oriskany battle as above stated, that he was stationed at Fort Plain then kept on duty & out in scouting parties in different directions, as circumstances required to check the Indians & tories, that he was so kept on duty the most of the time until in the month of November following when they were marched to Cherry Valley about twelve miles south of Fort Plain to protect the inhabitants from tory and savage cruelties, that they did not reach that place in time to save it from savage destruction but remained there a short time, buried the dead & then returned, that soon after he so returned hostilities of that season ended & he was dismissed and that during that season he did, as he believes, at least four months actual duty in the service of his country.

That in the month of May 1779, he was again called into service by his said Captain was stationed at Fort Plank, then kept on duty & out in Scouting parties to protect the inhabitants 7 check the Indians and Tories, that he was so kept in service almost continually, was occasionally allowed to go home for short periods but was required to be in constant readiness, that he so continued to serve until about the month of December following when hostilities of that season ended, and that during that season he did, as he believes, at least four months actual duty in the service of his country.

That about the first of May 1780 he was again called into service by his said captain, was stationed at Fort Plain, then kept on duty & out in scouting parties as circumstances required until about the last of July when he in the company to which he belonged with other companies under the command of Colo. Klock & Gen. Van Rensselaer marched to Fort Stanwix in the County of Oneida, about fifty miles up the Mohawk River to guard the government boats & property to that place, that they were employed [employed] about eight days in that service, that after they returned home he was again stationed at Fort Plain, there kept on duty & out in parties, as circumstances required, until about the twelfth day of October following where they were marched against the enemy commanded by Sir John Johnson who was burning & destroying up the north side of the Mohawk River, that they marched across the river under command of Colo. Clyde, the successor of Colo. Cox, that on the north side of the river they joined a body of troops under command of Colo. DuBois & a body of men under Gen. Van Rensselaer, they pursued the enemy up the river towards the East Canada Creek, overtook them commenced an engagement near dusk fought some times when the enemy retreated, that night crossed the river & marched westward. That the next morning they pursued them several miles, but finding that they were out of reach, they returned.

That after they so returned the was again stationed at Fort Plain, then kept on duty, & that out in parties as circumstances required, until sometime in December following when he was again allowed to go home, and that in the various duties done

by him during that season he did, as he believes, at last three months actual duty in the actual service of his county.

What about the first of May 1781 he was again called into service by his said Captain, was again called into service by his captain, was stationed at Fort Plain, then kept on duty & out in parties as circumstances required, the greatest part of the time until in October following, was left to guard the Fort when Colo. Willet marched to Johnstown with others & fought the battle with Butler & Ross and that when Colo. Willett with his men were marching up the Mohawk River, he joined them & pursued Butler & his party to the West Canada Creek when they were overtaken when Butler & several of his party were killed, and they returned home and that he did during that season as he believes, at least three months actual duty in the service of his country.

That he has no documentary evidence, and that he knows of no person, whose testimony he can procure who can testify to all of his services.

That he was born in the town, County & State aforesaid in the year 1742.

That he has a record of his age in his Bible which he here exhibits.

That he was living in the town, County, & State aforesaid when called into service as aforesaid where he has since continued to live & now lives.

That he was called into service at the different times & in the manner above mentioned.

That he cannot now state the names of regular officers who were with troops; Continental or Militia regiments or the general circumstances of his service, other than as the same is by him above stated.

That he never received a written discharge from the service.

That Solomon H. Moyer & Andrew Moyer are the names of persons to whom he is known in his present neighborhood, who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution, and that there is no clergyman residing in his immediate vicinity.

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) John Dufendorf

Sworn to, and subscribed the day & year aforesaid before me, Henry J. Dievendorff a Judge of Mont. Comm. Pleas.

Letter in folder dated December 31, 1923, written in response to an inquiry.

I have to advise you that from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim W.24061 it appears that John Dufendorf, or Diefendorff, the son of John, was born May 10, 1742 in Minden, Montgomery County, New York, and while living in said town, he enlisted in February 1776 and served as a private in Captain Henry Diefendorf's Company, Colonel Ebenezer Cox's New York Regiment, then in June 1776 he enlisted and served in the said Company and Regiment, two months in all.

He enlisted in June 1777 and served as a private in Captain Henry Diefendorf's Company, Colonel Ebenezer Cox's New York Regiment; was in the battle of Oriskany (where said Captain and Colonel were killed); there months service during said year.

He enlisted in May 1778 and served four months in Captain Jacob Diefendorf's Company, Colonel Clyde's New York Regiment, and in May 1779 he enlisted and served four months in said Company and Regiment.

He enlisted May 1, 1780 and served three months as a private in Captain Jacob Diefendorf's Company, Colonel Clyde's New York Regiment, and again on May 1, 1781 he enlisted and served three months in said Company and Regiment.

He was allowed pension on his application executed September 29, 1832 while a resident of Minden, New York. He died July 26, 1834 in said Minden.

Soldier married April 19, 1768 in Stone Arabia, Montgomery County New York, Catharine (or Catty) born July 27, 1746, the daughter of Augustinus Hess, and who was allowed pension on her application executed October 14, 1837 while a resident of Minden, New York. She died December 15, 1838.

Soldier's daughter, Gertrude Dygert, was a resident of Minden, New York in 1837.