

Pension Application for Thomas Folger

S.10697

State of New York
County of Saratoga

On the fourth day of September one thousand eight hundred and thirty two, personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for said county now sitting, Thomas Folger of the Town of Charlton in said County aged seventy 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.

He was born in the Town of Illington in the County of Norfolk, England on the twenty-sixth day of April one thousand seven hundred and fifty six. He has a certificate of his age signed by the Rector of the Parish in which he was born. He came over to America with his parents in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy-four and settled in Curriesbush in the then County of Albany, now town of Princetown in the County of Schenectady. After the Revolutionary War he removed to said Town of Charlton and has resided there ever since.

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

In the spring of the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy five, he volunteered his services in the Army of the Revolution as aforesaid. He procured his name to be enrolled in the militia company in his beat, to wit, the Company of Captain Thomas Wasson (1) in Colonel Abraham Wemple's Regiment. The name of the other company and field officers whom he recollects were as follows, Abraham Swits and Myndert Wemple (2) Majors, John Thornton (3) Lieutenant, William Moore Ensign, John Swertin (4) Orderly Sergeant.

He performed military service with the detachments of militia from said regiment and were from time to time ordered out, sometimes to cooperate with the regular troops and at other times to defend the inhabitants of different settlements on our frontiers from the depredations of the British, Indians and Tories. In these services he was employed for a longer or shorter period every year from the time he entered into the service as aforesaid until the termination of the war.

How often he was out every year and how long in each expedition, it is impossible for him to remember yet he conscientiously believed that the time he served his country in the Revolutionary War exceeds two years.

He has performed garrison duty at sundry times at the following military posts and forts, at the upper, middle and lower forts of Schoharie on three different occasions, was on several occasions at Schenectady, Fort Hunter, and Fort Paris (Stone Arabia). He was at Fort Edward in the fall of the year, 1776, also when General Burgoyne (5) and his army were in that vicinity in the fall of the year, 1777, was at Fort George when it was destroyed by the American troops & was in General Schuyler's retreat to Bemis's Heights.

The next day after General Gates arrived at Bemis's Heights he was discharged. The term of his tour of duty on that occasion having expired. He then went home, and had remained there only two days when he was again ordered out to the west. He was several times at the German Flatts, performing garrison duty there, also several times at Johnstown and at Boman's [Bowman's] Creek. After the last named place was destroyed by the British and Indians, he went out as a scout in company with Red Jacket, (6) two other Indians and Lieutenant Thornton aforesaid. He was out as a scout also on several other occasions.

There was a noted Tory named Joseph Bettis in the neighborhood of Ballston, who was continually communicating intelligence to the enemy. It therefore became a matter of some importance to have said Bettis, and he associates, apprehended. Small parties of militia men were from time to time ordered out for this purpose, but for a great while with little success. He was at length however, taken prisoner and executed at Albany as a spy. He (the claimant) was several times in pursuit of said Joseph Bettis.

He was at the middle fort of Schoharie in the fall of the year 1780, when Sir John Johnson arrived there with a large party of British and Tories to destroy the settlements in the valley of Schoharie Creek. He saw the celebrated Murphy of Morgan's Rifle Corps, (7) fire upon the British flag as it approached said fort with a demand to surrender.

In the summer of 1781, he was with the troops under Colonel Willett in their engagement with the British and Indians under Major Ross. (8)

He was with the troops that pursued Major Ross in his retreat on this occasion, and in company with the party of Oneida Indians who followed Walter Butler, saw said Walter at West Canada Creek, shot

at by an Oneida Indian, (9) who then swam across said creek, (said Walter being on the opposite side) and tomahawked and scalped his fallen foe.

He went from thence with Colonel Willett's Regiment to Mayfield (10) and encamped there. He assisted in taking a British soldier prisoner, who was by order of Colonel Willett given up to the Oneidas, who tomahawked him in revenge for the loss of one of their number, that had been stabbed by one of the enemy, and as their prisoner was found with a bloody knife in his hand, he was suspected to have been the murderer.

The following are some of the regular officers whom he knew: to wit, General Arnold, General Van Rensselaer, Adjutant Jellis A. Fonda, Colonels Gansevoort, VanDyck and Van Schaick. (11)

He never received any written discharge from the service, and believes it was not customary to give written discharges to those who served in the militia.

The following are the names of persons to whom he is knows in his present neighborhood, and who can testify as to his character for veracity, and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution, viz: Ahusuerus Wendell, Benjamin Marvin, Kenneth Gordon, Eleazer Dows.

He knows of no witnesses now living who can state in detail their personal knowledge of his services as aforesaid, and can produce no witnesses to prove any part of said services other than those whose affidavits are herewith procured and hereto annexed, viz the affidavits of John J. Schermerhorn, Bartholomew Schermerhorn and John I Vrooman of the County of Schenectady.

Here 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) Thomas Folger

Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open court, Thomas Palmer, Clerk

We, Benjamin Marvin, residing in the Town of Charlton in the County of Saratoga aforesaid, and Kenneth Gordon residing in the said town of Charlton, do hereby certify that we are well acquainted with Thomas Folger, who has subscribed and sworn to the forgoing declaration, that we believe him to be seventy-four years of age, that he is reputed and believed in the neighborhood where he resides, to have been a soldier of the revolution, and that we concur in that opinion. (Signed) Benj. Marvin, Kenneth Gordon

Sworn and subscribed the day and year first aforesaid. Thomas Palmer, Clerk

End Notes—S.10697—Thomas Folger

1. Thomas Wasson was commissioned captain on June 20, 1778 in Colonel Abraham Wemple's Second Regiment of Albany County Militia (Schenectady District).
2. Abraham Swits was the First Major and Myndert M. Wemple was the Second Major in Colonel Wemple's Regiment. Nicholas Veeder was originally appointed the Second Major and Wemple was commissioned on June 20, 1778 in place of Veeder.
3. On June 20, 1778 the following officers were also commissioned in Captain Wasson's Company: John Little as First Lieutenant, John Thornton as Second Lieutenant and Jacob Solivan (Sullivan) as the Ensign. On February 25, 1780 John Thornton was commissioned First Lieutenant as John Little had moved to Johnstown, Tryon County, William Moore as Second Lieutenant as Thornton was promoted and Alexander Crawford as Ensign and Solivan had died.
4. On examining the muster rolls of Captain Wasson's Company this name or any name close to this was not found. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls, 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 77, Folder 170, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
5. Lieutenant General John Burgoyne with a British Army and Allies were invading New York from Canada. They were using the North River (Hudson River) as their mode of travel heading to Albany. The American Army under Major General Philip Schuyler and later (August) Major General Horatio Gates replaced Schuyler retreated before Burgoyne's Army until Stillwater. Here after two large battles and on trying to escape back to Canada with his army, Burgoyne surrendered his army on October 7, 1777.
6. This Red Jacket is unknown. The most noted Red Jacket was a Seneca and served with the British against the Americans.
7. On October 17, 1780 Sir John Johnson with about 700 British, Loyalists, and Indians, attacked the settlements in the Schoharie Valley. Timothy Murphy in 1780 actually was a private in Captain Isaac Bogart in Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant John Harper's Regiment of New York State Levies. In 1779 when Murphy's enlistment was up in Colonel Daniel Morgan's Corps of Riflemen (The Seventh Virginia Regiment) he remained at Schoharie. Murphy did fire on the flag of truce.
8. The Battle of Johnstown was fought on October 25, 1781. The American forces were commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant Marinus Willett and the British forces were commanded by

- Major John Ross. On October 30th, the advance guard of Willett's troops on reaching the West Canada Creek were opposed by enemy troops under Captain Walter Butler and after a brief skirmish, Butler and several of his men were killed or wounded.
9. The Oneida Indian usually credited with shooting Butler and scalping was Anthony.
 10. This appears to be a faulty memory on this incident. After Willett left the West Canada Creek on the 30th he returned to Fort Rensselaer in the present day Village of Fort Plain. Thomas has the incident mixed up with where it happened, year, and the officer in charge. Unfortunately at this time it is unknown when this incident may have taken place or where.
 11. Major General Benedict Arnold, Brigadier General Robert VanRensselaer, Adjutant Jellis A. Fonda served in several regiments including Willett's in 1781, Colonel Peter Gansevoort of the Third New York Continental Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel Cornelius VanDyck and Colonel Goose VanSchaick both of the First New York Continental Regiment.