

Pension Application for John Geesler

R.4394

State of New York
Montgomery County SS.

On this 26th day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty two personally appeared before me Phinas Randall a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Montgomery, John Geesler a resident of the Town of Canajoharie in the County of Montgomery & State of New York of the age of eighty four 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 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated to wit. He volunteered and enlisted for the term of nine months about the first of June in the year 1781, in the county of Montgomery & State of New York in the company commanded by Captain Frederick K. Getman (1) in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Andrew Gray (2) in the State of New York and that he continued to serve in said Corpse [sic, Corps] until about the first day of March 1782 when the term for which he had enlisted expired.

And further says, that in the year 1783, in the month of May he again enlisted for the term of three months in the State of New York in the company commanded by Capt. Nicholas Coppernoll (3) in the regiment commanded by Colonel Andrew Gray in the Line of the State of New York that he continued to serve in said Coprse until about the first of August 1783 at which time the term of his enlistment terminated when he was discharged from the service in Stone Arabia in the State of New York, that at the time he volunteered & enlisted last above mentioned he resided in the town of Palatine County of Montgomery and State of New York, that at neither time he received no written discharges. And that he has no documentary evidence of the service he performed in the Revolutionary War. And that he knows of no person living whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his said services. And that during said terms of nine months & three months he was engaged in no civil employment.

And that he marched from Stone Arabia to Fort Plain and thence up the Mohawk River to Fort Herkimer & through the Counties of Montgomery, Herkimer, and Schoharie along the valley of the Mohawk River; that since that time he has resided in the State of New York, that he hereby relinquishes every claim whatsoever to a pention [pension] except the present and declares that his name is not on the pention roll of the agency of any state. (Signed with his mark) John Geesler

Subscribed and sworn before me the day and year first above mentioned. P. Randall the first Judge of the Montgomery County Courts.

Montgomery County SS

We John Warner and Peter Plets residing in the town of Canajoharie and County aforesaid hereby certify that we are well acquainted with John Geesler who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration, that we believe him to be eighty four years of age that he is reputed & believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a soldier of the revolution, and that we concur in that opinion. John Warner, Peter Plets.

Sworn before me this 26th day of September AD 1842.

Questions proposed to said John Geesler

Q1. Where and in what year were you born?

Ans. I was born in Hesse Castle in Germany—in the year seventeen hundred and fifty eight.

Q2nd. Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Ans. I had a record—which in Germany but lef [left] it there—or have lost the same since I came to this country.

Q3d. Where were you living when called into service; where have you lived since the Revolutionary War; and where do you now live?

Ans. I was living when first enrolled in Stone Arabia—then in Tryon County now Montgomery County—N. York—and also at the second enrollment—I have lived since the Revolutionary War—for the first year when enlisted—then about eleven years in Canajoharie same county—Then about thirteen years in the town of Sullivan Madison County—N. York—Then in the town of Clay & Canton in Onondaga County N. York—for many years & now lives in Canajoharie Montgomery County N. York.

Q4th. How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer; or where you a substitute and if a substitute for whom?

Ans. There was a requisition for a draft of militia—And on both occasions I volunteered to serve a draft—on my own account and not as a substitute for another.

Q5th. State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served; such Continental and Militia Regiments as you can recollect, and the general circumstances of your services.

Ans. Andrew Gray was the Col. of his Regiment—One Newkirk (4) was the oldest Col. My Capts. name was Frederick Getman—I was a stranger to the Country & the Language & do not recollect names I remember the name of Col. Willett (5) Col. VanRensselaer (6) & Gen. Schuyler (7) but was not personally acquainted with them—I deserted from Burgoyne's (8) Army near the Highlands—and was wounded in the act of desertion—And my horse shot from under me—

Q6th. Did you ever receive a discharge from the service and if so by whom was it given? And what has become of it?

Ans. I received a written discharge from Capt. Frederick Getman & from Capt. Coppernoll—I have long since lost them—I do not know where they are.

Q7th. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity & their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution.

Ans. Peter Pletts—John Warner, Lawrence Gros—Jonas Diefendorf & Andrew Roof.

I Phinehas Randall a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Montgomery do certify that I proposed the above interrogatories to said John Geesler, land that I wrote his answers to said Interrogatories as above; and I also certify that said John Geesler (9) on account of old age and bodily infirmity, in my opinion is unable to attend in open court for the purpose of submitting to the above examination. Dated this 26th day of September AD 1842. P. Randall first Judge of the Montgomery Courts.

End Notes—R.4394—John Geesler

1. Frederick Getman was a Captain in Colonel Peter Bellinger's Fourth Regiment of Tryon County Militia. Captain Getman was taken prisoner on June 21, 1782. There is only a muster roll for 1779 and 1780 for this company but no one living at Stone Arabia would have served in this company.
2. Andrew Gray served as a sergeant in Colonel Jacob Klock's Second Regiment of Tryon County Militia. A check of officers for the Montgomery County Militia to 1800 do not show Gray as a Colonel. On October 2, 1786, in Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant Peter Schuyler's Regiment of Montgomery County Militia appointed Captain of the Second Company was Samuel Gray; Frederick Getman, lieutenant; Jacob G. Snell as Ensign. FROM: Military Minutes of the Council of Appointment of the State of New York, 1783-1821, ed. High Hastings, James B. Lyon, State Printer, Albany, 1901, Vol. I, P. 102.
3. Nicholas Coppernoll was commissioned Ensign on September 29, 1780 in Captain Henry Miller's Company in Colonel Klock's Regiment. Nicholas was appointed Captain of the Ninth Company of Light Infantry on October 2, 1786 in Schuyler's Montgomery County Militia. Same source as end not 2, page 103. In appears that the service John refers to is after the War of Independence, which is one of the reasons that his pension application was rejected.
4. He is probably referring to Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant John Newkirk of the Montgomery County militia.
5. Marinus Willett, Colonel of New York state Levy Regiment in 1782 and 1783 in the Mohawk Valley.
6. There are several Colonel and Lieutenant-Colonel VanRensselaer's.
7. Major General Philip Schuyler
8. Apparently John was in one of Lieutenant General John Burgoyne's German Regiments attached to his campaign army of 1777. John does not state if he was taken prisoner before or after General Burgoyne surrendered his army on October 17, 1777.
9. John amended his pension application on November 21, 1842 and also the testimony of Henry Murphy and Peter House. Murphy and House had served in the First Regiment of Tryon County Militia during the War of Independence. John Geesler, son of the applicant applied for his father's pension on September 16, 1852. He stated his father died about 1845 leaving no widow surviving. This John was living in the Town of Minden, Montgomery County in 1852.