
Pension Application for John P. Gramps, Sergeant

W.17959

Declaration

In order to obtain the benefits of the actions of the act of Congress of the 4th of July 1836.

State of New York

Montgomery County SS

On this 23rd day of August 1838, personally appeared before me, David F. Sacia a Judge of Montgomery County Courts, being a court of record, Nancy Gramps, widow of John P. Gramps deceased of the Town of Palatine, County and State aforesaid aged seventy eight years last, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions, made by the Act of Congress, passed July 4th 1836 that she is the widow of John P. Gramps who was a private soldier in the Militia in the Company Commanded, by Lieut. Andreas Dillenbagh (1) until 6th August 1777 when the said Lieut. Dillenbagh was slain at the Battle of Oriskany as always understood. Under the Chief Command of General Nicholas Herkimer (2) and in the Regt. Commanded by Col. Jacob Klock.

Deponent further saith, that immediately after Lieut. Dillenbagh was slain at Oriskany Battle Lieut. Severenus Cook (3) succeeded in taking Command and continued in being the Command of the same Company from and after this aforesaid 6th day of August 1777 from year to year until the final termination of the War of Revolution, excepting three different tours in rendering Batteau Service, she the saith Claimant saith, that she had heard her husband often and frequently observe that he had been enlisted in the Batteau Service at the different services, first as understood under the Command of Capt. William Petterson (4) she saith claimant believing from the early part in Spring until late in fall, in the year 1777.

And Claimant further saith that her husband often and frequently told and saith that he hath been enlisted under the Command of Capt. Samuel Gray (5) two tours, vizt in the years 1779 and 1780, that early in Spring 1779 commencing in transporting with bateaux, provisions and other necessaries from Schenectady up along the Mohawk River to supply the garrison at Fort Stanwix, and some other forts situated up along the said river until the time of General Clinton's (6) expedition down the Susquahanny. Capt. Gray with his boatmen and boats as understood from Otsego Lake floating from the Susquehanny was with that section of the Army then under the Chief Command of General James Clinton to Tioga Point there awaiting the arrival of General Sullivan with the main army at the time when General Sullivan and General Clinton then dispersed the Indians and Tories to the west in destroying their crops and habitations and that they the said Company vizt Capt. Gray with his Company of Batteaux men did not return to their various places of residence until forepart in winter, calculated to have rendered at least the length of 9 months United States service during said tour in 1779 and 1780. Claimant further saith that she has likewise often and frequently heard her husband observe and say that he again was enlisted under the said Capt. Samuel Gray early in Spring in a Company of Boatmen and they had commenced early in Spring and continued in transporting provisions and other necessaries from Schenectady up along the Mohawk River to supply the garrison at Fort Stanwix and other forts situate up along the said Mohawk River and that by the statements of her deceased husband he at least must have rendered nine months service to the United States during said tours, vizt 9 months in the year 1780.

Claimant further saith that it is impracticable for her to remember or recollect all and the innumerable tours which she heard her deceased husband relate to the United States

during the war, shall only relate one or a few tours in each and every year from the year 1776 from year to year to the final termination of the Revolution.

Jan. 1776 as instructed not only by her husband but also by others that her husband was ordered out in mass under the General Command of General Herkimer with the whole Brigade of the Tryon Militia when joined General Schuyler (7) at Caughnawaga from thence to the Village of Johnstown causing surrender of Sir John Johnson with as stated 400 associates of Johnson.

Claimant further saith that same year in fall, again ordered out in mass, the whole brigade, again under the Command of General Herkimer at the time of the general conflagrations at Balstown, ordered to Tripes Hill (Tribes Hill) when returned to Stone Arabia, saith continued from first to last 3 weeks.

Claimant further saith that the Militia were often alarmed, and called out frequently drafted and satisfied and Assured that her deceased husband could not [screen?] himself in being an Idel [sic] Spectator, Claimant further saith that her deceased husband, declared to her that he was engaged in the boat service under the Command of Capt. William Peters and understood that the Capt with his company of boatmen have rendered their bateau service to the United States on the North River from Spring until late in fall, but cannot specify the precise length of time but should suppose nothing short of eight months.

1778 Claimant further saith that this was a sereous and destructive year to several parts of the then County of Tryon, she believing in June (8) the incursion and general conflagration at Springfield, again in October at the time of the incursion and general conflagration at Herkimer in the south side of the Mohawk down to Fort Herkimer and on the north side of the said Mohawk River down to Fort Dayton, all made desolate.

And again sometime in November at the time of the Cruel Massacre (9) at Cherry Valley not saving the mother with the child unborn in her womb when to claimants own observation and knowledge, Col. Jacob Klock's Regt in each and every one of these foregoing mentioned occurrences were ordered out and satisfied [sic] that the deceased soldier no time had kept back by looking or in seeing his fellow Associate, Militia, Soldiers, advancing towards the common Enemy without his sharing the same faith with all others ~~ besides sereous occurrences have transpired during the course of this year which has drawn the Militia from their places of residence, drafted, sometimes in consequence of alarms, and watching and rendering Garrison duty.

1779 and 1780 Claimant further saith that her husband from the early part in Spring until forepart in the winter, was engaged, and enlisted under the Command of Capt. Samuel Gray in rendering boat service as aforesaid vizt eighteen months in the course of the two years vizt 18 months.

The applicant further declares that Capt Gray with his company of boat men during the latter year vizt 1780 have met with some sereous obstacle in consequence of the Enemy from Canada when on the 19th day of October same year, that Claimant has reason; to believe that her deceased husband with his Capt & others of the same company of bateaux men were Engaged twice in battle first under the command of Col. Brown in Stone Arabia (10) in what is called Col. Brown's Battle (11) against Col. John Johnson with his incendiary associate army from Canada when Col. Brown was slain in battle, when the said John P. Gramps again with his Capt and some other of his company, pursuing the enemy at a distance of about eight miles again engaged in battle on Klock & Failings field under the Command of Col. Lewis DuBois (12) when the enemy withdrew themselves in confusion ~~and same season in July Capt Gray was waylaid by Capt. Brandt (13) and detained for ten or eleven days when relieved by Col. Klock's and Col. Clyde's Regiments.

Also in May previous (14) when on their way to Fort Stanwix, stopped at Fort Hunter with their boats by Sir John Johnson saith with 800 Incendiaries.

1781 The applicant further declares that her said husband latter part in July was engaged in what is called Landman's Battle against a large party of Indians and Tories headed by Lieut. Jacob Klock (15) from Canada the Americans Commanded by Capt Henry Miller, Capt Samuel Gray and Lieut. Jacob Sammons, when the enemy took flight.

Claimant further saith that from the early part in Spring until late in fall her deceased husband almost continually kept on the alert, after often and frequently called out in consequence of the incursions of the enemy as claimant may know by what her husband did frequently observe to her, besides personally recollect that frequent serious occurrences have been perpetrated by the common enemy at the time of the general conflagration at and all around Fort Timmerman (16) when her deceased husband beyond any doubt under the command of Col. Willett went in pursuit of the enemy, again engaged in Johnstown Battle (17) under the command of Col. Willett against Major Ross with his incendiary associates from Canada (18) and again after the battle pursuing the enemy to the West Canada Creek under the command of Col. Willett, when Capt Butler and others of the British was killed and a number of prisoners taken of the British.

1782 During the course of this year, claimant saith and declares that a number of serious occurrences have exhibited itself, murdering, burning and many prisoners taken to Canada, that from the early part in Spring until late in fall, the Militia were continually kept on the alert and that the deceased soldier has done his full equal part of duty on behalf of the United States during said January.

1783 The applicant further states and declares that at the time of Col. Willett's expedition to Oswego that her husband drove his team of black horses and sleigh and personally knows that her husband did start and went with and under Col. Willett on the expedition to Oswego and not returned until when Col. Willett with his men returned again.

She further declares that she was married to the said John P. Gramps on the 17th day of January 1783, and that he went under Col. Willett to Oswego on his Expedition in February and not returned until some time later the same year 1783, that her husband the said John P. Gramps died on the 5th day of August 1819 and that she has remained a widow ever since that period as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed.

Sworn to and subscribed on the 23rd day of August 1838 before me.

Nancy Gramps (her mark)

D. F. Sacia Judge

State of New York
Montgomery County

On the 11th day of August 1838 personally appeared before me John W. Hawer, a Justice of the Peace in and for the County of Montgomery, aforesaid Delia Ehle, widow of John C. Ehle, deceased of the Town of Minden, County and State aforesaid aged seventy years past, who has been duly sworn according to law deposes and saith, that she has been personally acquainted with John P. Gramps and Nancy Bellingger sister to the said deponent.

And deponent further saith that she perfectly recollects and remembers that the said John P. Gramps and Nancy Gramps otherwise then Bellingger were legally and lawfully joined in lawful matrimony in January 1783 by the Rev. Doct. John Daniel Gros D.D. that she was present when the marriage ceremonies was performed that at the time of the marriage she observed seeing them joining hand in hand until the marriage covenant was concluded.

Deponent further saith that according to the best of deponents knowledge or belief that the said John P. Gramps and Nancy his wife have lived and cohabitated together in becoming husband and wife until the 5th day of August 1819 when he the said John P. Gramps died when the said Nancy Gramps became the widow of the said John P. Gramps and yet remaining his widow to this present day and is yet living and not intermarried again.

And deponent further saith that the said John P. Gramps as she always understood hath been a faithful and enterprising Revolutionary Militia Soldier from the early part of the war until the termination of the war.

Deponent further saith that the said deceased soldier which she well recollects that in the month of February 1783 after he had joined in lawful wedlock with her sister, Nancy that her husband had been with slay (sleight) and horses and go under the command of Marinus Willett at the time of his campaign to Oswego that she well recollects his pair of black horses drove before his slay, and deponent further saith the reason why she happened to remember or recollect the same Occurrence were percularly, because they had only been there for a such a short period before considering it an unpleasant precarious [time?] and further deponent saith not.

Sworn to and subscribed this 11th day of August 1838 before me John W. Hawer, Justice of the Peace.

Delia Ehle (her mark)

This letter was included with the pension papers. The copy is very bad.

June 10, 1937

Mrs. George Hildebrand
111 Prindle Avenue
Johnstown, New York

Dear Madam:

Reference is made to your letter in which you request the Revolutionary War records of John P. Gramps pension number W17959. Lieutenant Johannes Bellinger, killed at the Battle of Oriskany and Jacob James Kronkhuit, variously spelled.

Because of the great demand for Revolutionary War data and the limited clerical force available for furnishing such information, it is impossible to comply in full with each request pertaining to soldiers of that war. The record of John P. Gramps is furnished you herein, the data for which were obtained from the papers on file in pension claim, W. 17959., based upon his military service in the Revolutionary War.

John P. Gramps (the name appears also, as Gremps and Grumps) was born in Tryon County, New York. The names of his parents and date of his birth are not shown.

While a resident of Stone Arabia, Tryon (later Montgomery) County New York, John P. Gramps belonged to a company of Militia under the command of Lieutenant Andrew Dillenbagh and Colonel Jacob Klock. He entered the service in January 1776, under the above named officers and served at various times on tours throughout the entire war. Lieutenant Dillenbagh was killed at the Battle of Oriskany, August 6, 1777 after which Lieutenant Serverinus Cook or Klock took command of that company. Soldier served also under Captain Henry Miller and Colonels Lewis DuBois and Marinus Willett. It was stated that he participated in the Battles of Oriskany, (not legible) Stone Arabia, Klock's Field and Johnstown and in may incidences with the Indians and Tories in said Tryon County and along the Mohawk River. He was in a battle

called "Landman's Battle" and marched to Cherry Valley at the time of the massacre at that place. He also served three tours as batteauaman, one tour on the Hudson River under Captain William Peterson in 1778 and two tours on the Mohawk in 1779 and 1780 under Captain Samuel Gray. This service lasted from the time the ice broke up in the river until late in the fall of each year. In 1779, the boats conveyed the troops under General James Clinton to Tioga Point on the Susquehanna River where they joined the army under General Sullivan and went under that officer (in the campaign against the Indians. In 1780, the boats carried provisions and other to their necessary supplies from Schenectady to Fort Stanwix and other forts along the Mohawk. In January 1783 he went under Colonel Marinus Willett on an expedition to Oswego Fort and drove his team of black horses and sleigh and did not return until sometime in March of that year. The entire length of his service was over two years.

John P. Gramps married January 17, 1783, Nancy, daughter of John Bellinger. The date and place of birth of Nancy and the name of her mother are not shown. They were married by the Reverend Johan Daniel Gros, D.C., pastor of the Reformed Dutch Church of Canajoharie, New York.

The soldier died August 5, 1819 at Stone Arabia New York and his widow died at Palatine, New York September 5, 1838, aged seventy-eight years.

The widow was survived by the following heirs:

Catharine or Caty Gramps, who married Aaron Vedder. In 1838 they were residing in Palatine, New York she aged forty-eight years and he sixty-ones years.

Peter Gramps, of Van Buren County, Michigan.

Elizabeth Gramps, widow of Daniel Feney of Fort Plain or Minden, New York.

Laney Gramps, wife of Samuel Cook, of Danube, Herkimer County, New York

Mary or Mariah Gramps, wife of John Reece of Virgil, New York.

Edward Shults of Van Buren County, Michigan and John A. W. Shults or (not legible) children of Nancy Gramp and her husband Christopher Shults both Deceased.

The pension which was due Nancy Gramps was allowed for the benefit of her surviving heirs.

In 1838, Delia Ehle, a sister of Nancy Bellinger Gramps was aged about seventy years and resided in Minden, New York. She was the widow of John Ehle.

Solder had a brother, Peter Gramps, also a cousin, Hendrick Gramps. There are no further data in regard to Peter or Hendrick.

Harmon Vedder, a brother of Aaron Vedder, husband of Caty Gramps, daughter of this soldier was living in Montgomery County New York in 1840, and stated that the Herman?) was born in 1773.

Very truly yours.

A. D. Hiller

Executive Assistant to the Administrator

Note: the pension was awarded, \$80 per annum.

End Notes—W.17959—John P. Gramps

1. Andrew or Andreas Dillenbach was appointed the first lieutenant of Captain John Keyser's Fourth Company in Colonel Jacob Klock's Second Regiment of Tryon County Militia on August 26, 1775. Captain Keyser was appointed a second lieutenant in Captain Christopher P. Yates' Company in 1775 in Colonel Goose VanSchaick's Second New York Continental Regiment. Keyser died in November of 1775 in Canada and in 1776 Dillenbach was appointed the captain of the company. He served as captain of the company until he was killed at the battle of Oriskany on August 6, 1777. There are no muster rolls or payrolls of Keyser's or Dillenbach's Company.

2. Brigadier General Nicholas Herkimer commanded the Tryon County Militia Brigade. General Herkimer was severely wounded at Oriskany and his leg was amputated. He died on August 17, 1777 from complications from the amputation.
3. Severinus Klock was the second lieutenant in Captain Keyser's Company and then the first lieutenant in Captain Dillenbach's Company. Severinus was then appointed captain of the company and was commissioned on March 4, 1780.
4. Captain William Peterson's Company of Bateamen in the Quartermaster General's Department.
5. John is listed as serving from April 8 to December 16, 1779 for a total of 283 days in Captain Samuel Gray's Company of Bateamen. The muster rolls and pay rolls are torn and or missing so although he served in 1780 the length of service is unknown. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 78, folder 181 and Roll 122, folder 78, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
6. In 1779, Major General John Sullivan and Brigadier James Clinton each raised an army and by August they would join forces and march against the Iroquois Villages in Western New York.
7. In January of 1776, Herkimer was the colonel of the First Regiment of Tryon County Militia. He wasn't appointed brigadier general until September 5, 1776. Major General Philip Schuyler had marched from Albany with the Albany County Militia and joined forces with Herkimer at Caughnawaga. After several days Sir John Johnson agreed to General Schuyler's terms and avoided a battle or imprisonment.
8. Late in June and again on July 18, 1778, Springfield suffered attacks. The German Flats was attacked on September 17, 1778.
9. Captains Walter Butler and Joseph Brant attacked Cherry Valley on November 11, 1778.
10. The Battle of Stone Arabia was fought in the morning of October 19, 1780 and the Battle of Klocksfield was fought in the afternoon on the 19th.
11. Colonel John Brown commanded a regiment of Massachusetts Levies which were stationed at Fort Paris. Colonel Brown was killed at Stone Arabia on his 36th birthday.
12. Colonel Lewis DuBois was appointed on July 1, 1780 to command a regiment of New York State Levies. Actually Brigadier General Robert VanRensselaer was the American Commander at the Battle of Klocksfield.
13. Captain Gray had been warned of Captain Brant's ambush near old Fort Schuyler, near present day Utica, on the Mohawk River. Captain Gray put his bateaus to the north shore and sent for help. Brigadier General VanRensselaer marched to the aid of Captain Gray but Brant had already left. On August 2, 1780 Captain Brant attacked the settlements in what is now the Village of Fort Plain and the Town of Minden in Montgomery County. NOTE: The fort in Utica was an old fort from the French and Indian era, built by Peter Schuyler but was in ruins during this time.
14. On May 22, 1780 Sir John Johnson destroyed the settlements in what is now the Town of Mohawk and the Village of Fonda, Montgomery County.
15. Jacob J. Klock was the son of Colonel Klock. The Battle of Lampman's was fought on July 29, 1781. Captain Henry Miller was from Colonel Klock's Regiment. Lieutenant Jacob Sammons from Captain Lawrence Gros' Company in Lieutenant Colonel Commandant Marinus Willett's Regiment of New York State Levies.
16. Various dates in August 1781 are given for the raid. They range from August 5 to the 22nd.

17. The Battle of Johnstown was fought on October 25, 1781. Major John Ross and Captain Walter Butler commanded the British forces.
18. Captain Butler was killed in the Skirmish at West Canada Creek on October 30, 1781.
19. Willett's Expedition against Fort Oswego was in February of 1783.