

Pension Application for Samuel R. Griffin or Griffing

S.22802 Date of Death Aug. 21, 1836.

State of New York

Chenango County SS.

On this ninth day of May AD 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Court of Oyer and Terminer and General [Jail?] delivery in and for said County, being a Court of record now sitting at Norwich in and for said County Presents.

Hon: Robert Monell, Smith M. Purdy, Charles York. Circuit Judge, Judges.

Samuel R. Griffin a resident of the town of Norwich in the County of Chenango and State of New York aged sixty eight 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 provisions in the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

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

In the year 1781, at Lyme, in Connecticut he entered the company of Connecticut State Troops or Militia under the command of Captain Simeon Allen, Lieutenant James Burnham of Norwich, Ensign Ramford Comstock of New Gordon under Col. John Mean of Horseneck.

He entered as a substitute for Nathan Griffin of Lyme who was drafted. H joined his company on the 3d day of February 1781 and immediately marched to Horseneck marching on their route thru New Haven Fairfield Stanford &c. They lay at Horseneck three months, when he was discharged verbally by his Captain. At Horseneck he was with the rest of the troops engaged in guarding & protecting the county & inhabitants from the incursions and ravages of the British at the expiration of his said term of three months he returned to his fathers in Lyme. During this trip the following persons were in the same company with him viz. Joseph Chubb now of Preston, Chenango Co. N.Y. a pensioner, Nathaniel Roland of Lyme—William Collins of Groton, a Sergeant in the company: David Johnson of Lyme. He served as a private during this term, 3 months about 8 or 10 days after as May 1781 while residing in Lyme, Connecticut aforesaid he enlisted at that place for six months in a company of the Connecticut State troops or Militia as a private under the command of Captain Josiah Burnham of Lyme; Lieutenant Zachariah Marvin of Lyme; Ensign James Burnham (a son of the Captain)—the Colonel of the Regiment was Col. Ledyard.

Immediately after enlisting he marched with the company of New London (about 16 miles)—at Newtown he was stationed a portion of the time at Fort Griswold and a small part of the time in Fort Trumbull, standing guard.

He was at Fort Griswold at the time of the attack by Arnold—but was not in the Fort at the time.

He was sent out with a small party on a scouting & was back of the fort at the time. After the British had retired, he went back to the fort where he remained until his six months had expired (which was early in November) when he was discharged at New London verbally by his Captain, with the rest of his company.

James Bloss and Joseph Bloss of Hebron, Elkanah Jones of the same place a Corporal in the Company; David Johnson who was out with him before were all out with him in this tour at New London.

He has no documentary evidence of this services and he knows of no person living whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service excepting Joseph Chubb whose affidavit is herewith sent to the Deponent. He has written for additional evidence twice to Lyme, Connecticut & cannot procure any—those whom he supposed he could rely on for proof, are removed or dead.

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.

In answer to the interrogatories required to put by the Department to applicants for pension he answers as follows.

1. He was born at Lyme, New London County Connecticut on the 30th day of August 1760.

2. He has seen the record of his age in his father's Family Bible at Lyme which is now in his brother's possession at Lyme—and he presumes it is upon the town record of Lyme.

4. He was called into the service as he has stated, the first time by going as a substitute for Nathan Griffin, his elder brother who was drafted—and the last time he enlisted.

3. [sic] At the time he was called into the service he resided at Lyme as stated in the body of his declaration—since the war he resided in Lyme till 1810 when he removed to Oxford in this County from there to Augusta in Oneida Co. N.Y. – from there to Southold on Long Island and from there again to Oxford and from thence to Log City Madison Co. NY and from there to Norwich his present residence about two and a half years since.

5. Elijah Ransom and James Ransom went both from Lyme to New York—Elijah was Lieutenant & James Captain in the Continental service—John Griffin of Lyme he also knew.—He was a major and went to New York. He saw Washington at Horseneck. The general circumstances of his service are as stated in the body of his declaration.

6. He never received a written discharge from the service was always discharged verbally as is stated in the body of his declaration.

7. He would give the names of Peres Randall late County Clerk; James H. Pike Clerk; David & S. Bedford, County Treasurer. No Clapp Postmaster, Peter B. Grainrey, Esq—David Brown, Tailor; Benjamin Chapman Merchant; Truman Enos Tanner; Dr. Henry Mitchell, Member of Congress, John J. Hubbard Editor of the Norwich Journal and a member of the State Senate; Elder Jedediah Randall; Elder Jabez L. Swan. This declarant states that the reason he does not produce his witnesses of character &c in Court is that the Clergyman upon whom he relies as the only one who knows [?] of his character &c is unwell and now confined to his bed by sickness. (Signed) Saml R. Griffin

Sworn & subscribed the day & year aforesaid P.B. Prindle Deb. Clk.

Letter in folder dated February 27, 1932, written in response to an inquiry.

Reference is made to your request of recent date, for information relative to Samuel R. Griffing, a soldier of the Revolutionary War.

The data which follow are obtained from the papers on file in pension claim, S.22802, of Samuel R. Griffing or Griffing, based upon his military service in that war.

Samuel R. Griffin or Griffing was born August 30, 176—(record torn), in Lyme, New London County, Connecticut.

While living in Lyme, Connecticut, he enlisted February 3, 1781, and served three months as a private in Captain Simeon Allen's company, Colonel John Mead's Connecticut regiment, as a substitute for his older brother, Nathan Griffin or Griffing, and was engaged in guarding the country and inhabitants of Horeneck from attacks by the British. He enlisted in May 1781, and served six months as a private in captain Josiah Burnham's company, Colonel Ledyard's Connecticut regiment.

After the Revolutionary War he resided in Lyme, Connecticut, until 1810, when he moved to Oxford, Chenango County, New York, and from there to Augusta, Oneida County, New York, then to Southold on Long Island, from there again to Oxford, from thence to Log City, Madison County, New York, and from there to Norwich, Chenango County, New York.

He was allowed pension on his application executed May 9, 1833, at which time he was living in Norwich, New York, where he had moved two and one half years before, and on that date stated that he was aged sixty-eight years and "upwards".

Soldier stated that John Griffing, of Lyme, Connecticut, was a major in the Revolutionary War, and went to New York, but did not state his relationship to himself.

There is no reference to wife or children.

Samuel R. Griffin or Griffing died August 21, 1836.