

Pension Application for Peter Groat

S.10768

State of New York

Columbia County SS.

On this third day of December personally appeared before me Tobias L. Hogeboom a Judge of the Common Pleas in and for the County aforesaid Peter Grant a resident of Chatham in the said County of Columbia and State aforesaid aged seventy nine 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 herein stated.

This applicant with the whole company in which he was enrolled was called out in the month of January 1776 on the 15th day of that month to go to Johnstown for the purpose of taking Sir John Johnson—

Marched from Claverack in said County to Albany thence to and through the City of Schenectady from thence up the Mohawk to Johnstown was kept on duty these three weeks and was discharged – (Sir Johnson having been taken and put on Paroll) [parole] this applicant with the rest of his comrads [comrades] then returned home. General Schuyler commanded the company in which this applicant was enrolled was commanded by Captain Jacob Philips and Lieutenant Henry Miller—George Philips Insign [Ensign]—Simon New was Serjeant. [Sergeant]

This applicant further states that he was drafted to go to Exeter on the Northern extremity of the State of Massachusetts in the fall of the year 1776, cannot recollect the precise time of the fall, thinks the month of September was marched to Boston from thence to Exeter, was kept on duty there six weeks and was discharged.

William VanRensselaer was quarter [quarter] master and Jeremy Miller Lieutenant as this declarant best recollects remembers no other officers – went to take some prisoners there, they had on hand. This applicant further states that he was drafted in the month of June 1777 (thinks about the middle of the month) to go to Stillwater up the north river was kept on duty there and about that place till the month of October—about the middle of that month when he returned home with the company to which he belonged.

This applicant was at the battle of Stillwater but was not in the principal engagement. Jacob Philips was captain at this time but this Declarant cannot til whether he was the commander of his company on this champain [campaign] or not. Benedict Arnold was a general commander at this Battle—Recollects no others except General Gates—was on duty at this time four months.

This applicant was again called out to go to Schenectady in the month of September in the year 1779 to guard that place form the Indians and tories. Marched up there through Albany was kept on duty one month and was discharged Jeremy Miller was Lieutenant commandant on this expedition.

This applicant was again called on and volunteered his services to go to Tryon County in the early part of the fall or 1781 to resist the forces under Brant and Butler. Marched through Albany & Schenectady to Canajoharry where they had a battle with the Indians and Tories—drove them—followed them to the Unadilla River and returned home the same way—was on duty the time five weeks Jeremy Miller was Lieutenant commandant (sd Jacob Philips capt. remains at home)—George Philips was acting Ensign on this champaign [campaign].

In the year 1779 this applicant with 8 or 10 of the company was called out by the officers commanding to go to Albany to guard sixteen or seventeen Tories who were put in Jail in the City of Albany—Captain Abraham Fonda commanded this champaign [campaign]—was on duty two weeks and discharged—

This applicant further states that at times other than those periods above mentioned he was ordered out on duty on sudden incursions of the Enemy—to resist the Tories, and protect the inhabitants from the innumerable depredations committed by British Indians and Tories—for a guard of protection more or less through he was frequently for two days—a week – and fortnight, the exact time of each of which, this applicant cannot now recollect but is positive that at such times he was on duty in the aggregate at least six months.

During the time of service in which this applicant was engaged he was a soldier—enrolled when at home in the Claverack Regiment.

This deponent further declares and makes oath that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot recollect the names of all the officers under whom he served nor the exact period of service but according to his best recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned in the above several statements—the whole amount of which time is fourteen months and twenty two days.

This declarant further declares that the reason why he has not obtained a clergyman's certificate is that there is none in his vicinity and he knows of no one whose certificate he can procure.

Answer to the Interrogatories.

1st This applicant was born in the Town of Claverack County aforesaid in the year 1753.

2^d He has no record of his age.

3^d When called into service this applicant lived in Columbia County then Albany County, town of Claverack where he has resided all his lifetime except about three years which time he lived in the adjoining town of Chatham where he now resides.

4th Was called into service as a militia man and was drafted except on the tour to Schenectady when he was a volunteer.

5th Some of the Regular officers who were with the troops where he served were General Gates and Arnold—General Schuyler but this applicant cannot now recollect any other officers of the regular army under whom he served—he cannot recollect the names of any Regiments except Claverack and Kinderhook Regiments—the general circumstances of his service are that he was on duty to Johnstown—to Exeter—was on

the champain [campaign] to Stillwater—to Schenectady—to Canajoharry—to Albany – and in numerous other tours of duty more or less at intervals through the war.

6th Cannot recollect of ever having taken a written discharge from service.

7th The names of persons to whom he is known in his present neighborhood and who can testify as to his character for truth and veracity and their belief as to his services as a soldier of the Revolution are William Pike and Alexander Templeton.

This declarant further states that he has no documentary evidence and knows of no person who can testify to his service—whose testimony he can procure—except William Pike whose affidavit is hereto annexed.

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.

The persons to whom he is known and who can testify as to the common report of his revolutionary services and his character for truth and veracity are William Pike and Alexander Templeton. (Signed) Peter Groat.

Sworn before me 3rd day of December 1832, Tobias L. Hogeboom.