

Pension Application for Martin Wygant

S.19517

State of New York

Orange County SS

Personally appeared before me—Gittal Ogden Fowler First Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in and for Orange County Martin Whygant [sic] of the Village of Newburgh aged seventy years who having been duly sworn doth on his oath depose and say.

That he entered the service of the United States as a private in the Company of Captain James Denton of the Regiment of Colonel Jonathan Hardenbergh, on or about the middle of June in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy eight. The said company was Militia, the Lieutenants name was William Palmer, James Clark, was Ensign, according to the best of my recollection, Eleazer Gidney orderly sergeant in the month & year aforesaid at the time that wheat was beaded out and in blossom, we were ordered to march to West Point on an alarm, was marched from Newburgh, thro New Windsor and Cornwall, and from there over the mountains; to West Point--

At West Point we remained then days from thence we marched to the Forrest of Dean, we remained at the place last mentioned three weeks, Colonel Malcolm and Captain Black of the Continental Army were there at the same time.

The object of our Regiment being sent on this service was to prevent the enemy from penetrating the Country above the Highlands by passing thro the defiles in the mountains. We remained in service at this time a month, and were then discharged at West Point.

In the month of June in the year 1779, a detachment of our Company under the command of Eleazer Gidney aforesaid was sent to West Point to fortify. We worked there two months under the command of a French Engineer. I worked at Fort Willis and Richard Albertson who belonged to the same company worked at the same time and the same period at Fort Putnam.

In the month of October 1779 a detachment of said company under the command of Martin Whygant my uncle who was then Lieutenant of said company was ordered against the Indians at Mumbanckus—We marched thro' the old Paltz and from thence to the place last mentioned—at the Paltz we met with VanCortlandt's Regiment which was stationed afterwards or a few miles south of us on the Indian frontier—We remained in service at this place one month and [a] half according to my recollect and belief. Eleazer Gidney before named was with us on this occasion in the year 1780. A detachment of our company of whom I was one under the Command of Lieutenant Gue was ordered to Nessiog on the Indian frontier. This was the first week in March, and we were stationed at DeWitt's the father of the Surgeon General of this state. I often stood guard with Simeon DeWitt. I served at this place at this time seven weeks. Warwick was burned by the Indians a few days after we left Neponog.

In the month of March 1782 a Detachment of our company was ordered down to the lines at the mouth of Croton River—by General George Washington as [Videtts?] to watch the motion of the enemy, we were placed under the command of Captain

William Van Wart—we remained at that place on that service one month, we had a written order from General Washington to proceed on this expedition which is lost, and Deponent also saith Richard Albertson and Isaac Belknap Esquire are the only persons living known to deponent who were with Deponent at West Point—in the summer of the year 1778 before—stated their affidavits are annexed, and that Richard Albertson and William Mitchell served with Deponent in his second tour at West Point; and Deponent also saith that John Penny whose affidavit is annexed served with deponent at Mombaccus and Nepenog on the Indian frontier in the years 1779 and 1780 and is the only living witness of said service.

And Deponent also saith, that Richard Alberson before named is the only witness living who knows of Deponents service as a Vidette at Croton River, and Deponent also saith that he is old and very infirm insomuch that service not be able to attend the next Court of Common Pleas or any other court of Record.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pention [pension] or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

And in answer to the interrogatories put by the said Judge in conformity to the directions of the Secretary of war Deponent saith that he was born in Newburgh aforesaid in the year 1762, he has no record of his age lived at Newburgh when called into service, and has lived there ever since. That he was Drafted into the service. The regular officers with the troops where he served were Colonel Malcolm and Captain Black. That he never received a written discharge. That he is known to General Isaac Belknap, George Leonard Smith, John Mandiwill and Jonathan Noys who can testify to his character, for veracity and belief of his services as a Soldier of the Revolution. (Signed) Martin Wygant

Sworn to and subscribed this 6th day of July 1833 before me. Gilbert Ogden Fowler, First Judge of Orange County. Sworn to in open court the eleventh day of February 1834 before me. Asa Dunning Clerk.

Letter in folder dated October 8, 1937, written in response to an inquiry.

The record of Martin Wygant is furnished your herein as found in pension claim, S.19517, based upon his service in the Revolutionary War.

Martin Wygant was born in 1762 in Newburgh, Orange County, New York. The names of his parents are not given.

While a resident of Newburgh, New York, Martin Wygant enlisted about the middle of June, 1778, served as private in Captain James Denton's company, Colonel J. Hardenbergh's New York regiment, on an alarm to West Point and was discharged after serving one month. In June, 1779 he enlisted and served two months as private in a detachment of Captain James Denton's company under Eleazer Gidney, orderly sergeant, was again sent to West Points to fortify Fort Willis. In Ocober, 1779, he enlisted in a detachment of Captain James Denton's company and served one and one half months as private under his uncle, Lieutenant Martin Wygant, Colonel J. Hardenbergh's New York regiment, against the Indians at Mombaccus. He enlisted the

first of March, 1780, in another detachment of Captain Denton's company under Lieutenant David Cue (probably meant for Guon), in the same regiment and served seven weeks again on the Indian Frontier. He enlisted in March, 1782, and served one month as Vidette in Captain William VanWart's New York company at the mouth of Croton River engaged in watching the movements of the enemy.

Martin Wygant was allowed pension on his application executed July 6, 1833, while a resident of the Village of Newburgh, Orange County, New York.

No reference was made in the claim to wife or children of the soldier.