

Pension Application for John Kiff

S.23751

State of New York

County of Rensselaer SS.

On this third day of October 1833 personally appeared in open Court before Daniel Gardner Esquire one of the Judges of the Troy Mayor's Court now sitting John Kiff a resident of Pittstown in the County of Rensselaer and State of New York aged between seventy five and eighty years, who being first 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 7, 1832.

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

That in the spring of 1776, he enlisted for six months in a company commanded (he thinks) by Capt. Samuel Hodge he resided at Pittstown Rensselaer County & State of New York at the time he enlisted marched northward, cannot recollect any particulars of that service, served his time out and returned home in the fall following.

That in the spring of 1777, he enlisted in a company commanded by Capt. Henry Vanderhoof for six months, marched Northward was at the surrender of Burgoyne served his time out he resided in Pittstown, County of Rensselaer and State of New York cannot recollect any particulars of that tour except the surrender of Burgoyne and was under Generals Gates & Arnold.

That in the spring of 1778 he enlisted in the same company to wit, Capt. Vanderhoof's, Lieut. Nathaniel Ford & Ensign Simon Vandercook & Col. Peter Yates Regiment & was the same summer in the service for six months or over. Resided at Pittstown aforesaid at the time of enlisting does not recollect any particulars of that service only they marched north in the spring of 1779.

He was detached and went up the Mohawk River, either under the command of Capt. Vrooman or Capt Drake at Fort Plank or Fort Plain and was there on guard when Lieut Henry Hare and Sergeant Newkirk were hung as spies, the troops at that place was under the Command of General James Clinton and soon after the execution, he was detached with a number of men to march to Fort Stanwix or Fort Schuyler and soon after detached with sixty men under the command of Capt. Vrooman & Drake for the purpose of destroying the enemies Boats at the three rivers or the Castles, and on the march from the upper Castle to the Lower Oneida Castle they were attacked by the British green coats (so called) and Indians to the number of 700 commanded by Sir John Johnson, Brandt and Butler and their company all made prisoners. They were then marched to Canada and confined to Prison there until the summer of 1780.

That he then came down with a party of British and Indians commanded by Major Ross and Walter Butler to take the fort at Johnstown under the command of Col. Willett that when they arrived there he made his escape and joined the Americans, and was again under the command of Capt. Vanderhoof after being a prisoner Vanderhoof after being a prisoner among the British [?] ten months, that he

thinks he was called out frequently on alarms after his return from Canada but cannot recollect distinctly about his service after that. That when he was about two years of age (as he has been informed) his father died and his mother married a man by the name of Nicholas DeLong, after that he was frequently called by the name of John DeLong and recollects being called by the name of DeLong frequently in the service.

That he never had any written discharge from service.

That he was born at Voluntown in the State of Connecticut, does not recollect what year. That there is a record of his age in the family bible belonging to his father, and that his step father carried it to Baltimore when he removed away from Pittstown County of Rensselaer to Baltimore, Maryland State. When he was called into service he resided at Pittstown County of Rensselaer & Sate of New York.

That since the Revolutionary War he has resided at Pittstown & Schaghticoke in said County of Rensselaer until within fifteen years, that he removed to Oneida County and from thence to Upper Canada & has resided there for the 15 years past and now resides in Pittstown aforesaid that he entered the service of the United States as above stated, that he cannot recollect any more of the regular officers with the troops where he served than those that he has stated, nor any more particulars of his service.

That he never received a Discharge from the service, that he knows General Gilbert Eddy, Major Michael S. Vandercook the Rev. Wilber Sherman & Mr. James Wool and a great number of other respectable persons residing in his neighborhood who can testify to his character for truth and veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution. That he has no documentary evidence of his services. That he knows of no person except James Wool who can testify to his service or any part thereof. 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. (Signed with his mark) John Kiff

Sworn to & Subscribed the day & year aforesaid. Henry R. Bristol, Clerk