

Pension Application for Garret Harsin

W.10082 (Widow: Elizabeth)

State of Indiana SS

Fifth Judicial Circuit

On this fifth day of September, personally appeared in open court, before Betheul F. Morris, John Sleeth and Azariah Williams judges of the circuit court of Shelby County State of Indiana, now sitting Garret Harsin, a resident of Sugar Creek Township in the County of Shelby and state of Indiana, aged seventy nine years, on the fifteenth day of June last past, 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 & served as herein stated viz:

First. Sometime in the month of June, in the year one thousand seven hundred & seventy six, he the said Garret-Harsin, volunteered as a private soldier in the City of New York for the term of five months, in a company of volunteer Rangers, under the command of Captain Charles Dixon, of which company, if his memory after so great a lapse of time does not deceive, Thomas Warner was First-Lieutenant; and Garret Kipp Sergeant, of the Regiment to which the said company of Rangers,--called the Swego Rangers & was attached, General Scott was commander, & John Lasher a Colonel of the same, being young at the time & somewhat regardless of passing events & matters which did not particularly interest him, he does not now remember, more particularly, the names of the several officers belonging to the said regiment.

The soldiers composing the said Regiment, as he believes, were enlisted, with the exception of the Company of Rangers to which he belonged, & of which mention has first been made. During this first engagement, the only battles, in which he was called out—in defence of his country, was that of Long Island & Harlem Heights which first occurred about one week after the landing of the British Army on the Island;--an event which took place on the 22nd day of August, in the aforesaid year of 1776.

In this battle, either throughout, or in the past, General Washington was present & next morning, retreated across the Island to the City of New York. During this term of service, he is not aware that there were any regular troops where he served, unless at the battle of Long Island, & he is in cosequence [consequence] unable to mention the names of their officers. ; Besides the regimen to which he belonged & which has been mentioned, he remembers the second regiment, then under the command of Colonel McDougal.

During this first term of service, the only march performed was from the City of New York to the scene of the engagement on Long Island & thence back to the city. He received in this case no written discharge, but—being in a miserable condition—destitute of clothing & bereft—of nearly all the necessaries of life—General Washington, about a week after the battle & between midnight—and day break, dismissed the soldier in a body at Harvest Straw [Haverstraw?] on the North River.

When he entered the service he was a resident of the City of New York, where he was born, in Carman, now called Princess' street.

On the 15th day of June, in the year one thousand seven hundred and fifty three, of which fact he formerly had a record on a Bible which has been lost.

Second: Sometime in the summer of the year one thousand seven hundred & seventy seven, he the said Garret Harsin again volunteered, as a private soldier, for the term of three months, in a company under the command of Captain Moses Contine [Cantine?] in the State of New York to march against Butler & Brandt who were then at Scoharie [Schoharie].

He does not with any certainty at this time, remember the names of the officers of the Regiment to which his company belonged and not having been engaged in any battle during this term of engagement nor meeting with the regular army, he of course unable to recite the names of any officers then & there in the regular service of the United States.

About two weeks before their term of service had expired, the soldiers, who together with him had volunteered at the last mentioned time, were in a body dismissed without any regular written discharge. He was at the time of this second engagement a resident at Sophis or Esopus Landing, two miles from the town of Sophis, on North River in the State of New York. The company was formed at & marched from this place to Scoharie [Schoharie] on North River, in the state of New York.

The company was formed at & marched from this place to Scoharie. When they arrived there the enemy had fled.

Third: In the autumn of the year 1777 & immediately after the dismissal of the soldiers last mentioned, he entered a third time into the service of his country, as a private volunteer, in a company commanded by the aforesaid Moses Cantine, in State of New York.

The term of service for which he volunteered at this time was three months. He is unable to state, with certainly, the names of the subordinate officers of this company, not only on account of the distance of time; but because, being a Baker by trade, the captain kept him; generally engaged in the exercise of this calling, except when an engagement, or some other emergency, required his services as a soldier, at his post, or in the field of battle. The same fact, in some measure, prevents his remembrance of the names of the officers of the Regular Army stationed or being where he served.

He is assured, however, that General Gates was principal commander of the army there and that Colonel Wyncoop to the best of his belief, was an officer of the regiment—to which the company belonged in which he served. At the time of entering the third time into the service, he still lived at the above mentioned Sopuis' Landing, where the company was formed. He proceeded by water from this place up North River, to the City of Albany & thence by land to the town of Saratoga in New York. At this place General Burgoyne and his army were captured. The American army then escorted Burgoin's as prisoners of war, to the City of Albany, where they were

discharge, in a body, without certificate, at the close of their term. Je was present & engaged in the said capture. He together with seven others & a sergeant, carried Burgoin's aid wounded from the field 6 miles to Half moon ferry on his folded bedstead.

Fourth: In the close of the year 1777, he entered as a sailor, on board a ten gun public vessel called the Hudson, of which Captain John Parmer was commander, on this vessel he served as a sailer [sailor] for the term of eighteen months. This vessel laid at West Point sometimes as a guard ship & sometimes as a store ship & at other times was sent up & down the river, for provender for the army.

Fifth: Immediately upon leaving the Hudson, he entered the artificiers shop, in the QuarterMaster General's department at FishKill in State of New York. Here John Parcels was captain & Thomas Parcels his brother foreman, & Colonel Hugh Quarter Master General. In this shop he served upwards of two years, making wagons & doing other similar works necessary & proper for the army. He then voluntarily left the shop, with a certificate of services from Captain Parcels, which has since been lost.

At the close of the Revolution, he left New York & settled in Bourbon County in the state of Kentucky, where he lived till the year 1826, where he removed to Shelby County in the state of Indiana where he now resides.

He is destitute of all documentary evidence of his aforesaid services nor does he know of any one living who, from personal knowledge, could testify of the same. Some years ago, he applied through David Tremble, then a member of congress from the state of Kentucky to be placed on the pension list, but the application was unsuccessful, in consequence, as the said David Tremble, informed him of some defect in the Declaration which may have been as to his name, which is properly called Garret Harsin, but being of Low Dutch origin was usually at the time of the revolution, both written & pronounced Horser.

He has never received any pension for his services. The states as persons to whom he is known & who can testify as to his character for veracity, the Reverend Eliphalet Kent & John Hendricks Esqr of Shelbyville & Messrs Lewis Morgan & John Morgan, who live in the immediate neighbourhood of the applicant, in the above named county of Shelby.

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 or Territory [Territory]. (Signed) Garret Harsin.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid. Sylvan B. Morris Clerk. S. C.C.

Letter in folder dated March 12, 1936, written in response to an inquiry.

Reference is made to your letter in which you request the Revolutionary War record of Garret Harsin, who served in the New York Troops and received pension while residing in Shelby County, Indiana.

The data which follow are obtained from the papers on file in Revolutionary War pension claim, W.10082, based upon the military service in that war of Garret Harsin.

Garret Harsin was born June 15, 1753, in New York City, on what was later called Princess Street. He stated that he was of "low Dutch origin" and that his name during the Revolution was spelled and pronounced "Horser". The names of his parents are not shown.

While residing in New York City, Garret Harsin volunteered in June, 1776, served as a private in Captain Charles Dixon's (probably meant for Dickenson) company, Colonel John Lasher's New York Regiment, was in the battle of Long Island, the retreat from New York and the battle of Harlem Heights and served five months; in the summer of 1777, while residing at Esopus Landing, New York, he volunteered and served three months as a private in captain Moses Cantine's New York Company and went to Schoharie; he volunteered in the autumn of 1777, and served three months in Captain Moses Cantine's Company, under Colonel Wynkoop in the New York Troops; during a part of this tour, he acted as baker for the troops; he was at the capture of Burgoyne; about the close of the tour 1777, he entered on board the "Hudson", a public armed vessel, commanded by Captain John Parmer, and served as a sailor for eighteen months; the vessel lay at West Point a part of the time as a guard ship and a part of the time went up and down the river with provisions for the army; immediately after leaving the river with provisions for the army; immediately after leaving the "Hudson", he went into a shop as an artificer under Captain John Parcels, Quartermaster General Hughs, at Fishkill, New York, and was engaged in making and during other similar work for the army; length of service, two years.

At the close of the Revolution, Garret Harsin left New York City, and settled in Bourbon County, Kentucky, where he resided until 1825, then moved to Shelby County, Indiana.

He was allowed pension on his application executed September 5, 1832, while residing in Sugar Creek, Township, Shelby County, Indiana. He signed Garret Harsin.

He died September 24, 1838, while residing in Shelby County, Indiana.

The soldier married June 15, 1784, in New York City, Elizabeth, maiden name not shown. The date and place of her birth and the names of her parents are not given.

Soldier's widow, Elizabeth, was allowed pension on her application executed August 10, 1841, while residing in Morall Township, Shelby County, Indiana. In 1845, she stated that she was then aged eighty-two years.

The widow stated that she had eight children by her husband, Garret Harsin, of whom six were living in 1841. The oldest child was a son, George Harsin, who was born April 22, 1785, in 1841, said George was residing in Port William Kentucky. In 1841, daughter Maria Harsin stated that she was forty years of age and lived with her mother in Shelby County, Indiana. No other names of children are given.

In 1841, the widow stated that her brother, Christopher Doughty, was aged eighty-five years, and that when she last heard from him about four years previous thereto he was residing in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.