

## **Pension Application for William Merryfield**

R.7121

State of New York

Columbia County SS.

On this second; day of August 1833 personally appeared before me one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the County of Columbia William Merryfield a resident of Ghent County aforesaid and an inmate of the Columbia County alms-house aged eighty-one years who being first duly sworn doth on his oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated, --In the fall of the year 1776 in the month of September this applicant was drafted as a private for three months under the command of Captain VanLeuven and was kept on duty in the Counties of Dutchess and Columbia during the time for which he was drafted for the purpose of defending the inhabitants against the incursions and depredations of the tories. This duty was very arduous and toilsome being a great part of the time on duty in the night when the tories were most troublesome, this applicant served his time and was discharged.

In the fall of the year 1777 month of August, this applicant was drafted to go to Saratoga to oppose General Burgoyne, marched from [?] the place of rendezvous to Albany thence up Hudson's River to Stillwater but was not in the principal engagement was there during the last fight with Burgoyne – after the surrender of his army was ordered home and discharged.

Drafted as a private for three months and served out his time. The officers were Harry Livingston Colonell [sic] Samuel TenBroeck, Major Adam Hysradt Captain, Henry Irwin Lieutenant.

In the month of November in the year 1777 and soon after he was discharged from his tour to Saratoga this applicant was again drafted as a private for three months and was kept on duty in the south part of the County of Columbia for the purpose and as a guard of defence against the Incursions of the Tories and after taking a great many of them and killing others was discharged from duty after serving two months of his time, this champaign [campaign?] was called a patrolling expedition and was a finishing of the tories for several years. The officers who commanded on this tour were Colonell Livingston, Captain Hysradt, Henry Irwin first Lieutenant, John Snyder 2d Lieutenant.

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.

Answers to the Interrogatories

1<sup>st</sup> Was born in the year 1752 in the State of Rhode Island.

2d Has no record of his age.

3d Lived in the above County when called into service and has lived there ever since.

4<sup>th</sup> Was drafted on the several expeditions.

5<sup>th</sup> Does not recollect the names of any other officers except those above stated to wit Captain VanLeuven, Major TanBroeck—Colonel Livingston and the others as above set forth—does not remember the names of any regiments except the Manor Regiment in said County – called the Manor Regiment.

6<sup>th</sup> Never received a discharge.

7<sup>th</sup> Person to whom he is known in his present neighborhood and who can testify as to his character for veracity as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution are Jacob J. Simmons and Jacob Simmons.

This applicant cannot obtain the certificate of a clergyman as required by the said pension act for the reason that there is none who can make such certificate.

This applicant has no Documentary Evidence of his revolutionary service and knows of no person who can testify to such services.

On account of loss of memory and debility this applicant cannot give dates and the names of officers more specific than as above set forth.

He hereby sets forth that the time to which he is entitled to a pension is 8 months.

He hereby constitutes Martin VanDeusen agent for him in this matter—to receive papers &c &c.

(Signed with his mark) William Merryfield

Subscribed and sworn before me this second day of August 1833. Medad Butler, Judge

Letter in folder dated May 4, 1939, written in response to an inquiry.

The data contained herein were obtained from the papers on file in the Revolutionary War claim for pension, R.7121, based upon the military service of William Merryfield in that war.

William Merryfield was born in 1752, day and month,; not stated, in Rhode Island. The names of his parents are not shown.

While residing in Ghent, Columbia County, New York, William Merryfield applied for pension on August 2, 1833, and stated that he enlisted in September 1776 while residing in Columbia County, New York, and served three months as private in Captain VanLeuven's New York Company, and was engaged in defending the frontiers of Dutchess and Columbia Counties; that he enlisted in August 1777, served three months in Captain Adam Buysradt's Company, Colonel Harry Livingston's New York Regiment, and was at Saratoga when Burgoyne surrendered; that he again enlisted in November 1777, shortly after the expiration of the last named tour of service, and served two months in Captain Huysradt's Company, Colonel Livingston's New York Regiment.

His claim was not allowed as he failed to furnish proof of six months military service as was required by the pension laws.

There are no family data.