

(9-1779)

SERVICE

New York

NUMBER

Gifford, Olisha  
Polly

W. 1842.

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CONTENTS

8

8

8650  
New York

Oliver Sifford

Putnam Co in the State of New York  
who was a private in the Company commanded  
by Captain Livingston of the Regt. commanded  
by Col. Jones in the N. C. ma  
for 12 mo 17 dy.

Assessed on the Roll of New York  
at the rate of 41 Dollars 93 Cents per annum  
commence on the 1st day of March, 1831.

Certificate of Pension issued the 22 day of Sept  
1833 and sent to  
Henry B. Cowles, Carmel.

Bears to the list of March 1833 \$83.86  
Pension allowance ending 4 Sept " 20.96

\$104.82

{ Revolutionary Claim, }  
{ Oct June 7, 1832. }

Recorded by W. L. Williams, Clerk,  
Cook Vol. 4 Page 20

3799 - Oct March 1855

March 19/55

Polley Gilbert  
Elisha Gifford

31/4  
S. Smith

Richard  
S. War

Pensioned Records Vol. A pg 74

July 52 2090

W. H. G. G. G.  
W. H. G. G. G.

W. H. G. G. G.

Ira Mead  
Colonel Putnam

Vol. 54  
2090

Vol. 54

1890

April 23 Van R. E. Gifford, history Poor

increase

No. 3090

New York

Polly Gifford  
widow of Elisha Gifford  
who served in the Revolutionary war,  
as a Private

New York City

New York City agency.

Rate 96 Dollars or  
cents per annum.

Commencing July 27, 1868

~~deduct payments made on~~

Certificate dated 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 1869

and sent to Claimant  
Carmel

Putnam Co

N.Y.

Recorded on Roll of Pensioners under act Feb-  
ruary 3, 1853, Page 16 No. 3. Vol. 06.

Dec 27/68 J. N. Smith, Secy.

## SOLDIER BLOOD IN HIS VEINS.

A Veteran Whose Father Fought in the Revolutionary War.

Special to the Chicago Daily News.

NORTHFIELD, Minn., Dec. 17.—This city boasts of an old soldier whose father carried a musket in the revolutionary war. His name is Van R. Gifford and he has lived here many years.



Mr. Gifford was born in Kent, N. Y., Nov. 13, 1837, and is therefore 53 years old. He came west in 1863 and enlisted in company E, 8th regiment Minnesota volunteers. He served three years as a brave and faithful soldier.

At the close of the war he returned to Northfield and has lived here since. He is married and has one son, who lives on a farm near this place.

Elisha Gifford, father of the subject of this sketch, was born in England and came to America when quite young. He served in the revolutionary war with distinction and for many years drew a pension from the national government. When 80 years old he married a woman aged 20. Four children were born of this marriage.

Mr. Gifford is proud of his soldier blood. He has in his possession some of the weapons which his father carried in the great struggle for independence and a copy of the will disposing of them. He has a number of affidavits proving that he is what he claims to be, the son of a revolutionary patriot and is happy in the belief that he is the only surviving soldier of the civil war whose sire fought the troops of George III.

N<sup>o</sup>. 10899.

**BRIEF** in the case of *Elisha Tifford* of *Patterson County* of  
of *Putnam*. — in the State of *New York*  
(Act 7 June, 1832.)

1. Was the declaration made before a Court or a Judge?

*In Open Court.* —

2. If before a Judge, does it appear that the applicant is disabled by bodily infirmity?

3. How old is he?

*83 Years.* —

4. State his service, as directed in the form annexed.

Period—	Duration of Service.			Rank.	Names of General and Field Officers under whom he served.
	Years,	Months,	Days.		
<i>1817-1818</i>		<i>3.</i>		<i>Private</i>	<i>Capt Comfort Livingston</i>
<i>1818-1819</i>		<i>2.</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>Private</i>	<i>Lieut E. Barnum. Capt Thomas</i>
<i>1819-1820</i>			<i>7</i>	<i>Private</i>	<i>Capt H. Mend.</i>
<i>1820-1821</i>		<i>2.</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Private</i>	<i>Do Do</i>
<i>1821-1822</i>		<i>2.</i>		<i>Private</i>	<i>Capt Lake. Col. Sig. Capt. Rame.</i>
<i>1822-1823</i>		<i>1.</i>		<i>Private</i>	<i>Capt Comfort Livingston</i>
<i>1823-1824</i>		<i>2.</i>		<i>Private</i>	

*1817-1818  
1818-1819  
1819-1820  
1820-1821  
1821-1822  
1822-1823  
1823-1824*

5. In what battles was he engaged?

6. Where did he reside when he entered the service?

*Fredericktown County of Dutchess. New York.*

7. Is his statement supported by living witnesses, by documentary proof, by traditionary evidence, by incidental evidence, or by the rolls?

*By living witnesses.*

8. Are the papers defective as to form or authentication? and if so, in what respect?

*They appear to be in due form.*

I **Certify** that the foregoing statement and the answers agree with the evidence in the case above mentioned.

*James Ord*

Examining Clerk.

Direct to Ira Mead  
Carmel Putnam Co  
New York

State of New York  
County of Putnam } ss

On this 5<sup>th</sup> day of March AD 1855 personally appeared before me Polly Gifford aged 54 years a resident of Kent in the State of New York who being duly sworn according to law declare that she is the widow of Elisha Gifford deceased who was a private in the New York militia in the War of the Revolution that the term for which he entered the service and the time he served are contained in the papers accompanying his application for a pension, that her said husband was placed on the Pension roll April 2<sup>d</sup> 1833 at the rate of 41 dollars 93cts a year, that her said husband died at Kent on the 3 day of June 1837 That she was married to her said husband on the day of May 1830 That her name before her said marriage was Polly Washburn And that she is now a widow

And that she now draws a pension for the services of her said husband payable at the New York agency, that she obtained said pension under the act of February 3 1853

That for proof of her husband's services she would refer to the papers accompanying his application for a pension - That for the proof of her marriage to and of the death of her said husband she would refer to her application for a pension under the act of Feb'y 3<sup>d</sup> 1853

That neither she nor her said husband ever obtained <sup>land warrant under any</sup> act of Congress or applied for any except this application

and that the following is a copy of her pension certificate

Department of the Interior  
Widows Pension

I certify that in conformity with the 2<sup>d</sup> section of the act of February 3<sup>d</sup> 1853

Polly Gifford  
widow of Elisha Gifford who was a private in the revolutionary war is inscribed on the pension list at the rate of Forty one dollars and ninety three cents per annum commencing on the 3<sup>d</sup> of February 1853 & continuing for life unless she should again marry in which case the Pension is not payable after the time of such marriage Given at the department of the interior on this 3<sup>d</sup> day of December 1853

L S

R Mc Clellan Secretary of the Interior

Examined & countersigned

L P Haldes Commissioner of Pensions

The foregoing certificate is recorded in the Pension office on the roll of Pensioners under act of February 3<sup>d</sup> 1853 page 74 vol a

She makes this declaration to obtain the bounty land to which she may be entitled under the act of March 3<sup>d</sup> 1855

Polly Gifford



State of New York

County of Putnam for - On this twelfth day of September in the year one thousand eight hundred thirty two personally appeared in open Court before Frederick Stone, Samuel Washburn & Bennett Boyd Esqs three of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in & for the county of Putnam aforesaid; the said Court being now sitting. Elisha Gifford an resident of the town of Patterson in the county & State aforesaid, aged Eighty three years, who being first duly sworn according to law, both in his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7, 1832 -  
That he was born in the year 1749. at Norwich in the State of Connecticut.

That he has no record of his age now existing. The record of his age made by his father in the family bible, was burnt when the declarant's house was burnt some five or six years ago.

That he lived in Frederickstown in the county of Dutchess which is now in the county of Putnam, in the State of New York, when he was called into the service. Ever since the revolutionary war he has lived in the town now called Patterson in the county of Putnam aforesaid, which was formerly a part of the county of Dutchess. He now lives in the said town of Patterson.

That he first entered the service by enlisting into the service called the minute service, but does not know whether it was called the State troops, or militia. That he never served as a substitute for any person except upon one occasion, herein after to be stated.

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

He first entered the service by enlisting in the minute service under Captain Comfort Huntington for three months. He thinks & believes, this enlistment was, in the Spring of the year 1776. as soon as the boats began to run on the Hudson River in the Spring, he embarked with the company to Peekskill, & embarked there & went to New York city, & served there during the said term of three months at the expiration of which period he was honorably discharged. He does not remember whether the discharge was in words or whether the troops at New York were engaged during this term in building batteries.

He does not remember the names of any field or company officers other than the said Comfort Ludington, whose wife declared on this same afternoon, Elijah Buckley & John Brady, lieutenants, Abigail Perry, sergeant & think, Sergeant was Abigail.

The declarant was afterwards drafted for eight months service in the militia, but on account of the dangerous sickness of his wife, his name substituted by the name of Jonas Gorman, who performed the service for the whole period of eight months & died a few years afterwards.

The declarant again entered the service under Lieutenant Eliakim Barnum for two months - as declarant believes in the year <sup>or 1777</sup> 1777, was marched to the fort at the place called Constitution Island nearly opposite West Point, and remained in garrison there for the said term when he was discharged. There was but one regiment there as he believes, but he does not remember the name of any field or company officer there, except the said Barnum & Captain Storms. nor does he know whether he was in the State troops, or militia.

The declarant again entered the militia service in the year 1777. - He marched on a militia warning, under Captain Hezekiah Mead to Danbury, upon an alarm. The enemy had burnt some houses & retreated before Captain Mead's company arrived there, & the declarant returned with the company & was discharged after a weeks service. He does not remember the name of any other officers who were there.

He was again called out on an alarm under Captain Hezekiah Mead, the time not recollecting, was marched to Fishkill, Dutchess County, thence to Scort Brook Plains, in Westchester County, and after ten days service was discharged. He believes there was but one company engaged in this service, but he does not recollect the name of any other officers.

The declarant again, several times entered the service in the militia for <sup>two</sup> months under Captain ~~in~~ <sup>Hezekiah</sup> Mead & he believes

in Colonel Ferris' Regiment, or it may have been Colonel  
Elizah Townsend's Regiment. Was marched to Fishkill where they  
remained <sup>two</sup> months with his company, when they were discharged.  
He remembers the names of no officers who were there except the  
said Captain <sup>and</sup> Lake, Colonel Ferris, Colonel Elizah Townsend  
& Captain John Crane - & can not remember the month or year  
of this service.

The declarant again entered the service in the militia, as a sub-  
stitute for one Zebulon Wright who was drafted for two months - &  
the declarant marched with the company to Fishkill Dutchess  
county, then crossed the Hudson River, & marched to Goshen, in  
Orange County, afterwards returned to Fishkill & was there dis-  
charged with the company - He does not remember the name of  
any officer engaged in this service, there was but one company on  
this expedition the captain was then a stranger to the declarant,  
& the declarant can not now remember his name -

Zebulon Wright for whom the declarant served as a substitute  
died near twenty years ago - The declarant can not remember  
the month or year of this service -

The declarant again entered the service under Captain Bonfort  
Livingston - ~~the time of the enlistment & service is not recalled~~  
He can not remember the year or month when he enlisted, but  
he served a month under this enlistment in the winter in very  
severe weather - He was marched with his company by land to near  
New York city, & for a time stationed near a fort then in possession  
of the enemy - They had a skirmish there & retired & hid

They succeeded in the main object of the enterprise, which was to secure  
provisions & forage, & they brought up such provisions & forage as  
could be procured to our troops at White Plains - The inclemency  
of the weather was such that many perished with the cold - at  
the expiration of this month's service, the declarant was honorably  
discharged - He does not remember the names of any officer ex-  
cept Captain Bonfort Livingston -

During the revolution the declarant served as guard, upon the road in Frederickstown for one month in one winter, and one month in the next winter, to watch & protect the country against the depredations of the Tories who were then making great ravages - The facts are not recollecting by declarant. For the first month above spoken of, the declarant stood guard in the roads, every other night in Frederickstown - and the month spoken of the next winter, he stood guard every fourth night. In both instances, this service was rendered by the order of Captain Hezekiah Allen, & as declarant understands & believed it was by the command of Colonel Henry Livingston.

The declarant further states, that he resided in Frederickstown before mentioned during the whole revolutionary war & in each and every time he entered the service as hereinbefore stated. And that the foregoing declaration contains a true statement of the general circumstances of his services in the revolutionary war the places in which he served, the names of the regiments, and officers & other facts & circumstances required by the War Department so far forth as the declarant is able to recollect or detail the same.

The declarant was honorably discharged in all the above cases in which he states that he was discharged. They were generally verbal. He recollects that he received one written discharge, which was at the expiration of his term of service in Conestogow, Island above stated. He does not remember by whom it was given, nor what has become of it, if it is lost or destroyed. In fact he is not certain that it was preserved, until his house was burnt five or six years ago, if it was, it must have been <sup>then</sup> destroyed, for all his writings & papers of every description were then destroyed by the fire.

He has no documentary evidence & knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services, except those whose affidavits are hereto annexed.



He can support his character for veracity & the belief of his  
services as a revolutionary soldier of the revolution by the  
following persons among others, to whom he is known in his present  
neighborhood, viz. Edward Smith now of Carmel in said county  
& Daniel Kent of Pittston in said county.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity  
except the present, & declares that his name is not on the pension  
roll of any state.

Sworn to & subscribed in open  
Court Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> 1832  
J. Mowhouse Clerk

Elisha Gifford  
his  
mark

We Edward Smith residing in the town of Carmel in the  
county of said, & Daniel Kent of Pittston in said county

hereby certify that we are well acquainted with Elisha Gifford  
who has subscribed & sworn to the foregoing declaration, that we be-  
lieve him to have been eighty three years of age, that he is reputed &  
believed in the neighborhood where he resides, to have been a soldier  
of the revolution & that we concur in that opinion.

Sworn & subscribed the day & year  
of said in open court.  
J. Mowhouse Clerk

Edward Smith  
Daniel Kent

And the said Court do hereby declare their opinion after the in-  
vestigation of the matter & after putting the interrogatories presen-  
ted by the war department, that the above named applicant  
was a revolutionary soldier believed as he states, & the Court  
further certifies that the said Edward Smith resided in the

State of New York }  
County of Putnam } 3

on this fourteenth day of April AD 1853 personally appeared in open court before me Ambrose Ryder County Judge of Putnam County aforesaid Polly Gifford a resident of Kent Putnam County State aforesaid aged fifty two years who being duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the Act of Congress passed February 3<sup>d</sup> AD 1853 that she is the widow of Elisha Gifford who was a private in the New York militia who was a pensioner under the law passed June 7<sup>th</sup> AD 1832 and was placed on the pension roll April 23<sup>d</sup> AD 1833 and obtained his pension money at the Pension agency in New York City that his annual allowance was \$41.93 that he resided in the Town of Patterson Putnam County State of New York when he first obtained his pension She further declares that she was married to the said Elisha Gifford on the ~~twenty~~ first day of May one thousand eight hundred and thirty that her husband the aforesaid Elisha Gifford died on the third day of June one thousand eight hundred

red and thirty seven; that she was mar-  
 ried to him at the time above stated  
 she further avers that she was a  
 widow at the passage of the act and  
 is still a widow and that she has  
 never before made application for  
 a pension. She further avers that  
 she has not preserved a record of her  
 marriage to the said Elisha Gifford  
 that she was married to him by  
 one Jonathan Morehouse Esq who  
 has since moved to the state of Illi-  
 nois and is now dead that she does  
 not know whether he the said More-  
 house preserved a record or not  
 that it is out of her power to obtain  
 it if he did

Dolly Gifford

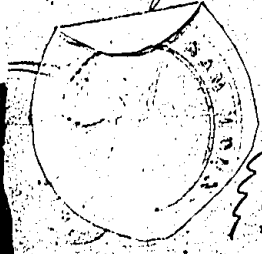
Sworn to in open court on the  
 day and year above written

Ambrose Ryder County Clerk  
 of Putnam County  
 Jm Mead clerk }

State of New York }  
 Putnam County } s

whose genuine signature is affixed to the above declaration  
 Ambrose Ryder before whom the forego-  
 ing declaration was made is Judge  
 of the said County and of the courts  
 thereof duly commissioned & sworn  
 and that the Court aforesaid is a Court  
 of record

In testimony whereof I  
 have hereunto set my hand & seal the  
 affixed the seal of the said courts  
 this 14<sup>th</sup> day of April A.D. 1853



{ the above genuine signature  
 is affixed to the above  
 declaration in presence  
 by me } Jm Mead clerk  
 Jm Mead clerk