

Pension Application for William Bellinger

S.28641

State of New York

Montgomery County SS.

On this 20th day of Sept'r one thousand eight hundred and thirty two, personally appeared in open court at Johnstown, the Court of Common Pleas in and for the County of Montgomery, Town of Root in the County of Montgomery and State of New York aged Seventy three years 11 months. Who being first duly Sworn, according to Law, doth 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 and served as herein stated. Vizt. That this applicant declares that Emedately after the commencement of the Revolutionary War he hath been Enroled in the Company of Militia Commanded by Capt. Henry Ekler (1) in the Regt Commanded by Col. Peter Bellinger—

Then Residing in the Town of German Flats;

That this applicant although well sattisified that he hath been ordered out in performing Militia duty in the year 1775, but that he this claimant does not recollect, but this applicant [?] That the first Campaign he was Ordered Out, he went to Caughnawaga (2) Situate in the Town of Johns Town, There Mett in Joining the Militia from Albany and Schenectady under the Command of Genl Phillip Schuyler(3), there remained for Several days, than marching or going to Johnstown (4) Under the Command of the Aforesaid Genl then Causing Sr John Johnson (5) with about three or four hundred men to surrender up to them, the particular object not ascertained, of Sr John proposing at the time That he Calculating to go with his men to Canada, or to Exercising Cruelties and Barbarities on those attached in atchieveing [sic] their Liberties and Independence of the Americans; this applicant then residing in German Flats That this applicant further declares that in the forepart of summer in the year 1777 Under the Command of General Nicholas Herkimer (6), went to Unindela [Unadilla] down the Susquehannie river, when this claimant was drafted, there mett Capt Brandt (7), who had a large party of Warriors, encamped but about a quarter of a mile distance from their Encampment, from that Genl Herkimer, their situate for some several days when Capt. Brandt with two of his warriors came into the Gen'l Encampment where treaty concluded, avoiding in taking Battle.

Next this Applicant declares that on the Sixth day of August same year 1777 again in Battle Under the Command of Genl Herkimer at Oriskany (8) at distance about four Miles below For Stanwix down the Mohawk River which Terminated a Sorous [serious] Conflict and attended with the loss of a large Number of the Militia, than from Tryon County who were Slain at Battle and a great Number wounded and many taken Prisoner.

That this applicant further declares that in the year 1780 he was ordered to remain at Fort Plain with 14 of the Militia to watch and Guard the Fort and Inhabitants contained In the Fort, While all the Militia in mass were ordered out to march to Fort Schuyler, to relief Capt. Gray (9) who was Obstructed with his company of Boatmen & Bateau, loaded with Provisions and supplies, Calculated for the supply of the Garrison at Fort Stanwix, then when the Enemy hat been laying in wait watching the boats at Last, disappointed when under the command of Genl VanRensselaer, guarding the boats and all safe to Fort Stanwix, when the Enemy passing down the Mohawk River to Fort Plain then part of Canajoharie, now Town of Minden, there making an attack on Fort Plain but not succeeded although but 13 abled bodied were besides this claimant in the Fort, and the meeting house next to the Fort reduced to Ashes, Murdering & taken prisoners, and consuming the most of the buildings throughout the whole, now, Town of Minden.

And that the enemy drove away all his cattle and when the Enemy drove away all his horse creatures and when the enemy left the Burning and Consuming all around and Emiediently near the Fort, this claimant decalres that himself with his thirteen associates leaving the Fort & followed in persuing them at a distance of about four miles, [whole paragraph crossed out]

And That this applicant further declares, that in the year 1778 then under the Command of Capt. Adam Lype (10) Continually watching and guarding against the Incursions of the Common Enemy, drafted to Fort Snell in Stonearabia, twice, frequently drafted to Fort Clyde, Twice drafted to Cherry Valle (11), for two weeks each time frequently ordered and by draft to Fort Blank times he does not recollect, when residing in the Town then German Flats, County of Tryon now Town of Warren, twice in the written drafted to go to German Flats, then on duty of Militia services under the Command of Capt. Eackler, he thinks in the year 76. [another paragraph crossed out.]

That this claimant further declares that on the 23 day of Oct. 1781 Majr Ross (12) with his Incendiary Crew Vizt Tories and Indians and some regular troops unsupported. Early in the morning Aprized the the [sic] Inhabitants some distance off the Mohawk River with their merciless Tomahawk, Scalping knife, and Combustibles to set fire to buildings [sentence crossed out] and down along the River was destroyed, some killed and some taken prisoner, and forced along to Canada with chiefly all the buildings consumed to ashes, when at the same time the father of this Claiment was taken prisoner and one of his brothers killed, this applicant declares that on being ordered out to march to in pursuit of the Enemy when mett Col. Willett on the way to Johnstown, Col. Willett

intimately acquainted with the claimant allowing and ordered him to return in consequence of the Situation with his father and brother and his [part written looks like 'and his cattle destroyed and after this they were taken prisoner', but not sure] the consequences escaped the battle in Johnstown But he thinks the next day again went in pursuit of Majr Ross with his incendiary Crew, under the command of Col. Willett at a distance of about fifty miles when overtaking some part of Majr Ross men (13), some killed and several wounded and their pursuing along to the West Canada Creek where Col. Butler was shot dead across the Creek and Ross with his Indendiaries put to flight.

And this applicant further declares that it is altogether impracticable for any one Militia Soldier to describe the number of tours and trips, days nor months as not one among thousands this claimant feels assured, can tell as to various duties and services performed from the commencement to the close of the War—Only this claimant declares, that in compliance with the orders and requisitions of his superior officers as well than in conformity to a Resolution passed by the Old Congress May 27th 1775, as also in obedience to the laws and Resolutions passed by the state of new York—That this Applicant declares that from and after the year 1775 always has kept himself well armed and acquipped and always in readiness at a moments warning, and always did perform Militia duty on each and every occurrence or Emergency when called upon 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. Only this applicant further declares that the last of July 1781 then ordered out under Col. Willett at the time when the Indenderiaries had consititued a Cruel Conflagration around about Fort Timmerman murdering, burning and taken prisoners, when this Claiment in pursuit of the Incendiaries under Col. willet as aforesaid at a distance of about thirty miles in pursuit but in vain—

This Applicant further declares, that in the year 1780 (15) he believes, when a place called Springfield, then Tryon County now Otsego County marching out in mass, under Capt. Lype and under the Emedient Command of Col. Willett after a general Conflagration caused by a large body of Incendairies from Canada and further this applicant saith not—(Signed) William Bellinger

Sworn to and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid. Geo. D. Ferguson, Clerk

End Notes—S.28641—William Bellinger

1. Henry Eckler was appointed captain May 1776 and was commissioned as captain June 25, 1778 in Colonel Peter Bellinger's Fourth Regiment of Tryon County Militia. Eckler's company was raised from the Kyle Settlement (Chyle) area not the Town of Warren, Herkimer County. This settlement was destroyed in 1778 and most of the inhabitants including Captain Eckler abandoned the settlement. Many settled around Fort Plank and Plain.
2. Caughnawaga is now the Village of Fonda and the Town of Mohawk, Montgomery County, NY.
3. Major General Philip Schuyler of the Continental Army, lived in Albany. He had a summer home, mills etc., in Saratoga, which is now Schuylerville, Saratoga Co.
4. John's Town is supposed to be two words. Sir William Johnson built the settlement and named it after his son John.
5. Sir William Johnson died on July 11, 1774 and his son John inherited the largest share of his father's estate. Sir John was a Royalist or Loyalist, meaning he was loyal to King George III of England and was arming his tenants and fortifying Johnson Hall. General Schuyler was sent to either arrest him or have him sign a type of parole that stated he would remain neutral. May 1776, Sir John fled to Canada with about 150 of his tenants. In June of 1776, Sir John was granted a warrant to raise a regiment to fight for England. The regiment was named the King's Royal Regiment of New York.
6. Nicholas Herkimer was appointed Colonel on August 26, 1775 of the First Regiment of Tryon County Militia. On September 5, 1776 he was appointed Brigadier General of the Tryon County Militia.
7. On June 27, 1777, Captain Joseph Brant met with General Herkimer at Unadilla for a conference, Herkimer tried to get Brant to either join the American cause or at least to remain neutral. It almost turned into a battle instead of a conference, but it was averted at this time. Captain Brant and his Mohawks remained loyal to the King of England and fought against the Americans.
8. The Battle of Oriskany was fought on August 6, 1777. Sir John's Regiment of Yorkers (men from New York were not called New Yorkers but Yorkers. This applied to the Loyalist regiment as well as the Five New York Continental Regiments in most period writings) and Captain Brant played an important part in the ambush of General Herkimer and the Tryon County Militia.
9. Captain Samuel Gray and his company of Batteaumen. They were warned by a friendly Oneida warrior that Captain Brant lay ready to ambush them on the river. Captain Grey ordered the bateaus to shore and prepared for a fight. He also sent one of his men to get help. Robert VanRensselaer, who had been appointed Brigadier General on June 16, 1780 of the Second Brigade of the Albany County Militia, marched with what Albany County Militia he could gather to the Mohawk Valley. He had also ordered Lieutenant-Colonel Samuel Clyde of the First Regiment of Tryon County Militia to march west along the south shore of the Mohawk River and Colonel Jacob Klock of the Second Regiment of the Second Regiment

of Tryon County Militia to march west along the north shore of the Mohawk River. Brant on learning that at least 500 or more militia were coming in his direction decided to burn the Oneida Village and their Fort named Fort VanDyck. He then circled around the advancing militia and arrived at the Canajoharie District and destroyed the settlements there on August 2, 1780. After completing the destruction of present day Village of Fort Plain and the Town of Minden, he broke his raiding party into three groups. Brant took his party to Vrooman's land in the Schoharie Valley. He destroyed that settlement on August 9, 1780.

10. In 1778, William was in Captain Francis Utt's Company in Colonel Samuel Campbell's First Regiment of Tryon County Militia. On Captain Utt's payroll for May 27—December 31, 1778, William had served 1 month and 25 days. Pay due to him was £ 4. . 17 . . 9 1/3. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 72, folder 89. February 1779, First Lieutenant Adam Leipe replaced Captain Utt. On Captain Leipe's payroll for June 15, 1779 to July 5, 1780, William had served 96 days as a corporal. He was owed £ 9. . 4. . 0. In February of 1779 he had served 18 days. On the payroll for July 6, 1780 to July 20, 1782 he had served 6 days. He was owed £ 0 . .10. . 8, as a private. In 1784 he produced a certificate number 11319 for £9 . . 7 . . 9. He made his mark for his pay. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-2246, Roll 72, folder 89, National Archives, Washington, DC.
11. One of his tours to Cherry Valley was when it was destroyed on November 11, 1778. He made a supplemental application on June 12, 1833.
12. John Ross, a Major in the King's Royal Regiment of New York. Second in command of the raiding party was Captain Walter. They destroyed several settlements from Currytown which is now the Town of Root, Montgomery County, east to Warren's Bush, now Town of Florida, Montgomery County. On October 25, 1781 Lieutenant Colonel Commandant Marinus Willett and his American forces caught up with Ross at John's Town and battle soon raged until darkness and Ross retreating from John's Town.
13. This was the rear guard under Lieutenant John Ryckman (Rykeman). Ryckman was of those captured.
14. Captain Butler's party now become the rear guard. His father John was the Lieutenant-Colonel. Captain Butler was killed on October 30, 1781 at the West Canada Creek.
15. Springfield was destroyed in 1778. William corrects this in his supplemental application.