

# *Favorites*

*from the Pension Applications*

By A.J. Berry & James L. Morrison

## Favorite Pensions

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## Favorite Pensions

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**William Crolius**—This is a widow's application for pension and it is interesting because it gives some of the hardships suffered by the women.

**Joel Bower**—Joel's story begins with his birth and goes through the War of 1812. He was wounded several times and was in some of the major battles.

**Thomas Machin**—Thomas Machin was known for his part in chaining the Hudson River. His son received a pension, fraudulently, and hired a Fort Plain Attorney to represent him. If you feel you must cheat, don't tell your neighbor what you did.

**John Winn**—A capable leader who accidentally killed one of the men under his command.

**Sarah Osborn**—Sarah is a survivor. She went to war with her husband, bore children and cooked, did laundry and serviced the five or so men assigned to her. She lived to be over 100 years. Her descriptions of events and the men are priceless.

**Henry Myers**.—This is another widow's application for pension and it takes place not far from present day St. Johnsville, but on the south side of the Mohawk River.

**Henry Cool**—As you read this pension you might wonder why he made such a point of claiming he was a good and faithful soldier; and then where he was for the rest of the war. If you feel you must cheat, don't tell your neighbor what you did.

**Joseph DeLong**—This poor sod seems to have misplaced a wife.

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### **Books by James F. Morrison**

Non-Fiction

[A History of Fulton County in the Revolution](#) (1978)

[Colonel James Livingston: The Forgotten Livingston Patriot of the War of Independence](#) (1988)

### **Books by James F. Morrison & Gavin K. Watt**

[The British Campaign of 1777](#) (2001)

[Burning of the Valleys](#)

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[Don't Shoot, Part 2](#)

[Don't Shoot, Part 3](#)

[Don't Shoot, Part 4](#)

[Don't Shoot, Part 5](#)

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[It Is NOT Luck!](#)

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[So It Was Written](#)

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[In Her Time](#)

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[The Time Traveler's Children](#)

[The Time Traveler's Husband](#)

[Into The Time Slip](#)

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[Twist In Time](#)

[Time for Love](#)

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Time to Tell Mama

As Time Passes

Never Enough Time

Layers of Time

Time and More Time

### **Counting Series**

Historical Fiction

One for The Money

Two for The Show

Three to Make Ready

Four to Go

Five for The Fire

### **The Browns' Children**

Historical Fiction

The Tail That Wagged The Dog

Where Have All The Crickets Gone?

### **Opie Series**

#### **All About the Palatines**

Historical Fiction

In The Beginning

The Leaving

Tar Camps

Into The Valley

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### **Pension Application for William Crolius**

W.10685 (Husband deceased 21st April A.D. 1830. Widow Mary, she was awarded pension of \$20.00)

The following is a statement made by Mrs. Mary Crolius of what she underwent in some of her Revolutionary struggles.

In 1776 when we anticipated an attack on the City my Father-in-law John Crolius sent his Sloop a new vessel with all his and my Husbands property to—Newark for safety with his aged Father Wm. Crolius on Board.

The Captain Employed proved false to his trust and saw the vessel in the hands of the Enemy which was attested to by my Father Capt. Wm Dobbs who lay with a small vessel in the bay as a guard to watch the motions of the enemy. I believe the vessels name was the Goldfinch or Dolphin. He hailed him & bid make for the kills which he pretended to do until he got out of shot distance—Grand Father was not detained on account of his age and sat at Liberty on Staten Island. On the attack of the British we went to Newark (I mean us women & children) where I remained about three months. I then had a desire to see my Husband & Father & Brothers and to Join my Mother's family which I did do by way of Bulls ferry & Spite Devils Creek where I met my Husband & who saw my first born the first time which was only Six weeks old the next day he took me by water to Tarrytown where my mother was and immediately returned to the Army—and hearing that the enemy was coming and in Westchester we retreated to Peekskill where my Husband, Father &c Joined us after they retreated from White Plains (1) where they was all in the Battle we remained here until the Spring where we collected together a few of the comforts of Life. The enemy came up by water and attacked then we retreated to Compond But returned in one or two but found nothing left but what we stood being plundered the second time of every Earthly comfort our life liberty & religious enjoyments excepting when the British came

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up the river a second time Gen. Macdugal (2) advised my Father to send his family inland where the Public Stores was kept at Danbury Conn. We was here nearly a year and [?] we had a few stores to gather and made a little [?] clothing. The Enemy visited us by way of Norwalk or the Sound where they [show'd] great valour in Killing the Cattle cutting live hogs in two. Thence all our provisions in road set fire to the house and then retreated before the troops under Gen. Mercer Wooster (3) who was unfortunately kild. [killed]

On the advice of my Husband we joined him at Continental Village near Fishkill in the highlands presuming we had no plan of refuge better we were there but a four months when my Husband was appointed Clerk and assistant under Commissary--Eloe of Provision Depot we went to Fishkill where the stores was. We remained here until the year 80 when my husband [got posted] from in collecting provisions for the army & fodder for horses. He was requested by his superiors to desist a while from his extra exertions as it would cause his death but having that the garrisons at West Point & Newburg was in a sorry condition he said the cause and lives of those garrisons depended on their exertions he went out with 100 men was gone three weeks at which time they slept not 3 hours in twenty four and most all that time he eat & wrote on horseback. Served part connetcut [Connecticut?] and all the adjacent counties in this State this I was told by the men, and on his return he had satisfaction to be thanked by those many officers & men he [?] (with those that assisted him) in saving as they personally said from Starvation. He was so much of a cripple in the Spring he thought he would be of but little service to the Army in any capacity so we went to Newark to Establish his Business (a stone ware potter) which he done but little at owing to the tenderness of his Frozen feet, this was in 81 which afflicted him until the day of his death while here Newark we had to keep a lookout for the Tories & Scouts for the same time Especially when they heard we

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Entertained some of the unfortunate men who came that way from the prison ships. They being landed as far up the north river [Hudson] as possible where they lived at the South, this went on until the Battle of Monmouth where my neighbor Mrs. Sanford and my self and our husbands as far as Rahway near Brunswick to join the army after the Battle he returned – and we remained until the Peace when I went to the City and was then threatened with imprisonment by one of the Brothers that supplied the British Navy old Alexander Fink because I went in the city a little before the Army was cald [called?] on for rent of our own house by Matheus the Mayor but he got a cold reception and not being after I had the satisfaction to see Cunningham the provo master as he was termed deliver the Keys of the prison up to our people which closed the scene of many trials and hardships of Mrs. Mary Crolius.

The above is taken down as repeated by my mother after a relapse of fifty two years. Wm. D. Crolius

My Husband was Crolius in 75 & 6 was a private in the granediers under Capt. Van Dyke. Col Lashiers (4) Regt at the same time Lieut of Infantry. Capt Jamesway after which he was assistant commissary of Provisions on one occasion rode an Express assisted once as Waggon Master [blot] was appointed assistant Harbour Master with my Brother Joseph Dobbs (5) and preserved and carried to Albany or destroyed all the vessels that lay at or was building at the landings with the stores & that was along the river side to prevent falling in the hands of the Enemy.

My father Capt Wm. Dobbs was Harbour Master and acting as pilot to French Fleett under com'd. DeGross (6) and when not on that Duty acted under Gen. McDougal as Superintendent of Forges he being a practical Blacksmith.

Although following that [blot] sea for a living after he learnt his trade and was commander of Privateer Fox in French war, was nicknamed by Sir Henry Clinton (7) Comodore of Musketos Fleet which he offered a reward for my Father dead or Living he finally

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carried his hellish purpose by hiring my Fathers Servants to poison their master which ended his mortal career in 178[?] while engaged in defending his country by an invading Enemy the British. Regretted by all who knew him.

My Brothers Joseph & William was in the service all the war in Capacities suitable to their [?] where both taken twice and imprisoned in the Jersey which lay at the walabant once while recruiting in Staten Island they served they was out lived Some time after William left a widow who is now living in Connecticut.

The foregoing was not to brag on account of what my family performed then as they done no more than their duty but to convince those who may not have a fair view of things in those days and satisfy that my family one and all done their duty as good citizens. There could be many things added to this that might be interesting to many such as showing how the country people in those days insulted us for not staying away the British and why they made bread for the sick & fatigued Soldiers and they kept part of the flowers [flour?] but on finding this out all us women my fathers sister self & others baked it gratuitously [sic] my husband has been cald [called] a fool for not being able as Elbert Andersons & others who had the salt [offals?] &c but if they was to reflect how many womens & childrens was in his neighbour hood from this city while their husbands was in the army and which Congress made no provisions for they could easily persons when his [?] went being humane beings who had to eat & drink like others.

I hope this recital may not fatigue the Eyes and Ears of those who may read or hear it read as it is the language of a good woman Eighty years of age though in its dictation was actually some fifty five years since and that intentions in petteing [petitioning?] to obtain something to smooth down the five years she may yet live in this rugged rode [road]of life. For Mary Crolius. New York 3 June 1834. Wm. D. Crolius

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Brooklyn State of NY

On this seventh day of September 1836 personally appeared before me Joseph Dean one of the Justices of the Municipal Court of the City of Brooklyn County of Kings and State of New York said Court being a Court of Record having a clerk and seal—

Mary Crolius a resident of Brooklyn, Kings County, New York, aged Eighty one years who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision, made by the act of Congress passed July 4th 1836.

That she is the widow of Wm. Crolius whose revolutionary services commenced on the Second of March 1775 at which time he entered a company of Grenadiers commanded by Captain VanDyke under Col. Lasher, and served in guarding the New York City records—on being relieved from that duty in 1776 he was engaged in the erecting of a work on Bunkers Hill, and in fortifying the banks of the Hudson River.

In the same year, as a Volunteer (in the five months service) he marched from the City of New York, and was in the attack at Harlaem Heights (8)—afterwards in the action at White Plains—and in the retreat to Peekskill—in November of the same year, was appointed Harbor Master under Capt. Wm. Dobbs—and in 1777, after the storming of Fort Montgomery (9) by the English, he served under the orders of General McDougal in removing the vessels and stores to Albany, and in the destruction of such as might be taken by the enemy.

From Albany, after the capture of Gen. Burgoyne, (10) he, under the orders of Col. Morgan Lewis, (11) attended to the transportation of provisions for the Troops at Peekskill.

In 1779, he served in the Quarter Masters Department as Waggon Master, Express rider, and Collector of Provisions.

In 1780, he served under Col. Stevens and continued in the issuing Department till 1781, when, from ill health, he

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returned to New Jersey on his recovery, he volunteered in Capt. Spears company of Artillery under Col. L. Courtland, and served therein until the conclusion of the war with England.

A document, signed by him dated April 26 1825, confirming the foregoing facts, and certified by two officers, James W. Lent & Lewis Rogers, (who served during the war of The War of the Revolution) was forwarded to the War Department in 1825, and may be found on the files of the Pension Office, Washington.

The foregoing information I derive from a statement in writing, made by my deceased husband some years, since for the purpose of obtaining a pension and it is not in my power from the nature of the case, to set forth more explicitly his services.

His character of a revolutionary soldier is well known by a considerable portion of the old and most respectable inhabitants of the City of New York—and to fully satisfied was the New York committee of his services during the Revolutionary War, that they granted for my relief a small pittance, but the greatest that their limited funds would admit her.

She further declares that she was married to the said Wm. Crolius on the 28th day of February 1775 and that her husband the aforesaid Wm Crolius died on the 21st day of April A.D. 1830 and that she has remained a widow ever since that period, as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed. (Signed) Mary Crolius

Sworn to and Subscribed on the day and year above written before me Joseph Dean Justice of the Municipal Court in the City of Brooklyn.

The deponent being by bodily infirmity unable to attend and appear before Court. Joseph Dean, Justice &c.

Memorandum of some of the Duties performed during the Revolutionary War.

On the 2d day March 1775 I entered on Public Duty by guarding the City Records at Wm Bayards House in Capt

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VanDykes Company of Grenadiers under Col. Lasher, I next assisted in the Erection of a Fort on Bunker Hill and fortifying the Bank of the Hudson River in which service I remained till 1776 I then Volunteered in the five months service (12) & on leaving the City we marched to Harlaem heights where we had a skirmish with the Enemy. We then marched to the White Plains where we had a severe Engagement from thence retreated to Peekskill—On the 9th Nov. of same year I was appointed assistant Harbour Master under Capt. Dobbs and remained on this line of duty till 1777—When the British stormed fort Montgomery I received orders from Genl McDougal to take a sufficient number of Watermen and remove all the Craft we could find, to Albany and destroy all such Vessels & Stores as would fall in the hands of the enemy which I executed with apparent satisfaction. While in Albany and after the taking of Burgoine [sic] I received orders from Col. Morgan Lewis, to repair to FishKill with Provisions for the Army that was stationed in that Quarter which I executed—In 1779 I entered the QuarterMasters Department as Waggon master Express rider, & Collecting Provisions for the Army in which I had my feet much frozen—On the 2d April 1780 I was appointed Clerk under Col. Stevens in the issuing department where I continued till April 1781 at which time I was obliged to quit the service owing to ill health and retired in Jersey.

On recovering my health I volunteered in Capt. Spears (13) Company under Col. P. Courtland (14) as an Artilerest [Artillerist] to Guard the Frontiers, and remained on duty till the conclusion of Peace between Great Britain & the United States of America, I then returned to the City of New York to enjoy that Freedom which I had the honour to assist in obtaining. When Congress had made a provision for the Revolutionary Armies—I in 1817 made application for a Pension, which I did not obtain, owing to my having been in the Staff.

New York 26th April 1825 (Signed) Wm. Crolius

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### End Notes—W.10685—William Crolius

1. The Battle of White Plains, N.Y. was fought on October 28, 1776.
2. Brigadier General Alexander McDougall of the Continental Army. McDougall was the Colonel of the First New York Continental Regiment until his promotion on August 9, 1776 to Brigadier General and then he was promoted to Major General on October 20, 1777.
3. The Danbury, Connecticut Raid was from April 25 to the 27<sup>th</sup> 1777. Major General David Wooster was wounded on April 27<sup>th</sup> and he died of his wounds on May 2, 1777.
4. Captain Abraham VanDyck was the Captain of the Grenadier Company in Colonel John Lasher's First Battalion of Independent Companies in the City of New York.
5. In a "Return of Riding Horses Kept by the Officers of the Line and Staff at and in the Vicinity of the Several Posts and Cantonments of the Army, January 6, 1781." Fish Kill Wm Dobbs, Superintendent of Blacksmiths 1 Public. Joseph Dobbs superintendent of Salting Beef 1 Private." They were part of the Quartermaster General's Department. FROM: Revolutionary War Records, ed. George Austin Morrison, New York Genealogical & Biographical Record, Vol. 48, January 1917, p 59.
6. Francois Joseph Paul deGrasse, Marquis de Grasse Tilly. Comte de Grasse, Admiral of the French Fleet that operated along Virginia in September and October 1781.
7. General Sir Henry Clinton of the British Army in New York City.
8. The Battle of Harlem Heights, NY was fought on September 16, 1776.
9. Fort Montgomery, NY was captured by Sir Henry Clinton's troops on October 6, 1777.

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10. Lieutenant General John Burgoyne surrendered the remnants of his invading forces from Canada to Major General Horatio Gates of the Continental Army on October 17, 1777.
11. Colonel Morgan Lewis was appointed deputy Quartermaster General on September 12, 1776 in the Northern Department.
12. On February 11, 1776 Captain VanDyck's Grenadier Company was stationed at the home "of Mr. Nichols Bayard in the Out ward of the City of New York to guard the Records of the Province, removed there by Order of Congress." They were there until March 11, 1776 according to the Pay Roll of Captain VanDyck. The officers were Captain VanDyck, First Lieutenant John Anthony, Second Lieutenant James Byers, Third Lieutenant Ephraim Brasher; with four sergeants, four corporals, 1 Fifer, 1 Drummer and forty privates. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls: 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 72, folder 72, National Archives, Washington, D.C.---On March 4, 1776 at the Provincial Congress meeting "Nichs Bayard Esq. this morning attending was admitted. He informed the Congress, that a Grenadier Compy of Col. Lasher's Regiment had been the guard of the Records of this Colony, since they had been at his house;--that he has been informed it is to be changed and their place supplied by another company. That the said Grenadier Company have behaved so prudently, that it would oblige him to have them continued." FROM: Documents Relating to the Colonial History of the State of New York, ed. Berthold Fernow, State Archives, Vol XV, Weed, Parsons and Company, Printers, 1887, p. 78. - On page 80; Colonel Lasher was ordered to provide a guard of 48 men out of his regiment to protect the records to be relieved from time to time by detachments, so as to give the

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different companies In the regiment their proper proportion of duty. They also ordered that said detachment of 12 men to be the proper guard for 24 hours.

13. Captain Spears is unknown. A Spears as an officer of any grade was not found in the Continental Artillery Regiments.
  14. Possibly referring to Colonel Philip VanCortlandt, who commanded the Second New York Continental Regiment. A Captain Spears was not part of this regiment which was an infantry regiment.
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### **Pension Application for Joel Bower**

S.29020

A sketch of the military services of Joel Bower in the United States Army during the War of the Revolution.

I was born in south Hampton Old England 20<sup>th</sup> Feb. 1763. I was about 5 years old when my Father emigrated to America, his name was Phinihas, he first settled on Long Island but at the commencement of the Revolution he moved up the North River & settled in Orange County. I was about this time apprenticed to Capt. Samuel Chard master carpenter (1) in the beginning of the year '77 he entered himself 3 sons & 2 apprentices in the Government Artificers at New Windsor, we drew our arms and accouterments we were at the Battle and storming of Fort Montgomery on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of October of this year, General James Clinton commanded, his Brother George, then acting governor of the State was also there with a small body of militia, the attack commenced from the best of my recollections between the hours of 12 & 1 o'clock (2) which was continued without intermission the remainder part of the day & under cover of the darkness of the night they succeeded in mounting the wall before we discovered them. The greater part of our soldiers were taken prisoners, the officers and a few soldiers with myself made our escape by a passage out of the fort next to the River which was

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not known to the British. They kept the fort but 3 days before they evacuated and burned it. A Cousin of mine whose name was Samuel Jones lay sick in the fort at this time and not being able to escape, & his comrades were prohibited the privilege of bringing him assistance so he was burned to death, our quarters this winter '77 was at New Windsor, in the spring of '78 we were stationed at West Point where we were engaged in building barracks, gun carriages, platforms &c, we were constantly equipped for the common defence & as liable to be ordered to battle as the Regular Army. Sometime in the forepart of the month of June of this year we received orders to reinforce Gen. Washington's army then in New Jersey, as Sir Henry Clinton was about to evacuate Philadelphia and concentrate their forces at New York, we joined a party on the Hackensack river & thence marched hastily down & joined the main body, in a very short time the British army made their appearance and a desperate battle ensued which is called the Monmouth Battle. (3) I was on the right of the left wing in Clinton's Brigade, I stood in the front rank where we sustained a tremendous cannonade as well as heavy fire of musketry for a considerable time we then were impetuously charged by the Dragoons, and in their second charge a Dragoon aimed a deadly blow at my head which would have instantly killed me, but I raised my musket to shield my head from the meditated stroke, which caused his sword to glance & cut off my two middle fingers & the little finger about half off, this was my right hand which was holding on the small of my gun, my hand has ever since been very much disabled from this wound, as he was then passing me he made an underhanded blow at my head, and the point of his sword passed through my left eyebrow which made a deep incision & considerably stunned me, at this instant his horse was shot through the head & fell dead at my feet as I recovered from the last blow I received, I drew my bayonet & would have terminated his existence had not Adjutant Johnson (4) caught me by the shoulder & bade me desist saying

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“no murder here you young rogue the man cries for quarter” I was now sent to the rear of the army, the next day we was conveyed a few miles to a barn which was used as a kind of temporary hospital, from this place we were sent to Morristown and there I remained until I had recovered of my wounds so as to join the service again at West Point, where I remained Untill the Campaign of '79 we then joined Colonel Haythorn's Levies (5) With the intention of attacking New York, thousands of troops were gathered here on this occasion, & a larger quantity of Malitia was collected at this time than I see at any other place during the war, but the plan was defeated on the account of Count De Estaings not being able to get one of his largest ships over the Bar at Sandy Hook to cooperate with the land forces so the enterprise was abandoned, & when this campaign closed we returned again to West Point for winter quarters. At the opening of the Campaign in the spring of '80, I joined Clinton's Brigade in the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion under the command of Colonel Willett, (6) we crossed the river at West Point & marched down to Kings Ferry & then we crossed the river, & marched to Fort Lee (7) where we remained a long time, or until Major Andre was taken prisoner & executed, we then returned to West Point where I remained as formerly until the Spring of '82 when I with 39 others of the artificers was sent to the frontiers on the branches of the Delaware to reinforce Colonel Spauldin (8) for the purpose of keeping the Indians in check who was making great havock amongst the settlers at this time. Very soon after we joined Colonel Spaulding's forces the Quarter Master of the regiment was taken sick & left the army & by the recommendation of Capt. Dodge (9) to Colonel Spaulding I was appointed to that station in which & acted until I left the army in the fall of this campaign a large force of Indians came down upon the settlers & drove off a large number of their cattle, we pursued them & gave them battle but they were to numerous for us we were defeated & obliged to retreat. I received a shot in this engagement which passed through my left leg about midway

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from the foot to the knee I laid under a log the following night, in the morning from the great loss of blood I was scarcely able to raise myself, but with the greatest exertions I succeeded in crawling to the bank of the river where I fell in company with 5 others of the wounded, where we fixed a kind of raft of old logs & c. and floated down the river until we came to the settlements where we were taken care of, and as soon as I got able to walk I got a furlow, subject to return to the army at the shortest notice, I then went home to my parents in Orange County where I remained until the next season, when we got the news that the army was to be disbanded. I then went to New Windsor & received my discharge from the army.

My discharge with many other valuable things that I possessed was burned at the house of Capt. Stephen Hopkins an officer of the Revolution in the year 1809 at Lewiston, NY whose house was burned when he & his wife was absent visiting a certain sick person about ½ mile distant. All the compensation I received for the 6 years I was in the army was not available for more than \$25. When pay-day came I with many others paid no attention to it, the paper which we drew was of but little consequence as for instance when I was on the Frontier in a certain Barrack room there was 19 of us, we collected all the "shin plasters" we could, amounting according to the face of them to \$1008, which was all put in a hat & I carried it to a certain Old Scotch lady who kept a kind of grocery & all I could get for this amount was a half pint of Brandy which I carried to my quarters & then we rationed it out in a teaspoon so that all might get his share.

I know nearly all the principal officers of the Revolution. Washington, LayFayette & many other distinguished persons of the Army was in the habit of frequently dining at my Father's house during the war.

After various misfortunes in life I commenced a kind of trade in salt to Canada by this means I got considerably

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acquainted with many people of this Province & a short time before the breaking out of the war of 1812 I had moved to Niagara where it was well known that I was an old American soldier & not apprehending any trouble & it being difficult for me to leave my little effects & being then an old man I concluded by taking no part in the war I might remain unmolested, but in this I was mistaken, I was apprehended by one Major Kirby of the incorporated Mounted Malitia as I was returning from my labour with a hoe on my shoulder & they forced me to run before them 1 ¼ mile to the guard house threatening to blow out my brains, I was then sent across the lake to York where I was locked up in a cold filthy prison where I suffered incredible hardships for more than two years, during my imprisonment I endeavored to acquaint the government of the U.S. of it but whether they ever received the intelligence or not I am unable to state. Many years ago while I was in the State of Indiana I received a letter from a friend of mine stating that Congress had granted a pension to the soldiers of the Revolution & that I could draw mine on application, I immediately came to this Province for the purpose of disposing of some little property I owned here, calculating then to proceed to Washington for the purpose of obtaining this pension, but before I had got my little business accomplished I was seized with an inflammation which settled in my left knee which has made a perfect cripple of me ever since, almost entirely loosing the use of this leg, so that it is impossible for me to walk a single step without the assistance of a crutch combining this with the infirmities which has accumulated during the various privations, hunger, cold & fatigues of the Revolution & the hard & cruel imprisonment in the late war all combining to render me a feeble helpless old man, & at this late period soliciting that assistance from the government which I am sure they will not refuse to one who never shrunk from danger when the liberties for the country were at stake, who fought, who bled, & who endured all the privation of the war for 6 long years, ever willing

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to sacrifice ease & enjoyment with all the pecuniary considerations for my country's good. I should have applied sooner for my pension but this place is mostly settled by old country people who feel a kind of delicacy in communication, with the government of the United States. Untill now I came across Isaac Hallock a citizen of that country who has undertaken the business for me, who & on my behalf I have legally authorized to receive my pension and arrearages or any communication the government may think proper to make. Again for me to bring forward any living evidence to substantiate my claim at this late period would be impossible as all that I know anything about has passed away, I can now only refer you to the rolls & documents of the Army in which I acted for proof of my assertions, humbly trusting that the government will be pleased to overlook what is impossible for me to pervert, remembering that this appeal is from an old Revolutionary Soldier. (Signed) Joel Bower

C.E .Home District /Joel Bower being duly sworn before Alexander Campbell Esquire, and P. F. Whitney Esquire two of her Majesties Justices of the Peace and of the District aforesaid, says that he is the person described in the above sketch, that the relations contained therein are perfectly true, to the best of his recollection, and that he has authorized Isaac Hallock to act in his behalf. Alexander Campbell J.P.; P. F. Whitney J.P.

Sworn before us at Pickering in the District aforesaid this 17<sup>th</sup> day of December 1845.

Declaration. In order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress of the 7<sup>th</sup> June 1832.

Home District

Province of Canada SS.

On this twenty fourth day of January 1846 personally appeared before us A. Campbell and P.F. Whitney two of her majesties Justices of the Peace for said District Joe Bower a resident of Pickering in the Home District and Province of Canada aged Eighty three years the 21<sup>st</sup> of February next who being duly

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sworn deposes and saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise time he entered the army, neither can he positively state whether he enlisted, volunteered or under what particular form he entered the service, but according to the best of his recollections he entered the government Artificers in the month of March in the year 1777 at New Windsor which was under the command of Capt. Samuel Chard Master Carpenter, but thinks he had no commission only acting as foreman, but thinks that Capt. Machin (10) who was termed by us the "engineer" had a Commission, states he see one Capt. Moody (11) frequently in company with Capt. Machin but thinks he had nothing to do with the Artificers, & that he Capt. Moody afterwards had the command of a company in the Artillery & remained in this station to the end of the war, he drew arms & equipment from the government stores & is sure that the artificers was at this time a legally authorized branch of the army but has no knowledge of their being at this time organized into companies with their officers as mentioned by the pension department he was first engaged in assisting to put a Chevaux de frises (12) across the river at New Windsor. Nearly all the artificers with whom he was associated was at the battle of Fort Montgomery on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of Oct. 1777 and the only one of his party who escaped with him was Jeremiah Smith. James Thompson, Thomas Horton & several others of their party was taken prisoners and but one lived to return his name was Scott Francis.

During the engagement he was under the command of General James Clinton whose head was nearly white as snow. His brother George was there with a small body of Militia he does not recollect the names of any other officers at the fort at this time, this battle commenced he believes between the hours of 12 & 1 o'clock PM which was kept up the remainder part of the day, the night being dark & a piece of wood standing but a short distance from the fort prevented their discovering the British

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## Favorite Pensions

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troops until they had mounted the wall all the principle officers a few privates with himself escaped on the side of the fort next the river. The rest were all made prisoners. The British kept possession of the fort but three days before they evacuated & burned it. A cousin of his Sam<sup>l</sup> Jones perished in the flames as stated in the sketch forwarded to the department under date of 16 or 17 of Dec. last. Their quarters this winter '77 was at New Windsor. At the opening of the Campaign of 1778 they were stationed at West Point where they were engaged in building barracks Gun Carriages, platforms &c until they received orders to reinforce Gen. Washington's Army in New Jersey as Sir Henry Clinton was about to evacuate Philadelphia for the purpose of concentrating their forces in New York. They left West Point & marched to [Sacoat?] a Dutch settlement in NY thence they marched to Morristown in NJ and then to the Hackensack river where they joined another party & then marched to the main army, he was in the Monmouth Battle but did not know, he does not recollect the names of the officers he was stationed on the right of the left wing of Clinton's Brigade, in this battle he was wounded by a dragoon, by having his two middle fingers cut off & the little finger nearly half off from the same person he received another wound by an underhanded blow the point of his sword passed through his left eye brow, at this instant the dragoon's horse was shot through the head & fell dead at his feet, and as soon as he had recovered a little he drew his bayonet at his antagonist but Adjutant Johnson caught him by the shoulder saying "no murder here you young rogue the man cries for "quarter" he was now ordered to the rear of the regiment, he see a great number fall this day from the excessive heat, want of water &c. He is positive that General Washington and General Lee, highly disagreed this day that Gen. Lee had badly arranged the left wing so that their plan was defeated and the British Army gained the bridge. Gen. Washington this day was mounted on a [?] gray horse & he see him ride from the extremity of one wing to

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## Favorite Pensions

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the other with great velocity, he also states that great indignation was felt by the army towards Gen. Lee for his bad management in this battle. After deponent the next day he was conveyed a few miles with the rest of the wounded to a barn from there they were sent to Morristown where he remained until he had recovered of his wounds & then he returned again to the service at West Point where he remained until the campaign of '79 he then joined Colonel Haythorn's Levies with the intention of attacking [attacking] N.[ew] York he states that a great number from the service at West Point joined these Levies, that he was in the company commanded by Capt. Seth Marvin (13) one Johnson was their Lieutenant does not recollect the names of any other officers, this company was stationed at FishKill, so when this plan was abandoned he returned again to west Point for winter quarters. At the opening of the Campaign of '80 he joined Clinton's Brigade in the fifth battalion under command of Colonel Willett do not recollect the names of any other officers they crossed the river at West Point marched down to Kings Ferry then recrossed the river & marched to Fort Lee where they remained a long time or until the execution of Major Andre. They then returned to West Point where he remained in the Artificers employed building wood boat repairing vessels that were engaged in the service &c. as there was no particular call in the campaign of 81 he did not leave West Point. At the opening of the campaign of 82 he with 39 others was sent to the frontiers on the branches of the Delaware to reinforce Colonel Spaulding's forces for the purpose of keeping the Indians in check who were making great destruction amongst the settlers in this section of the country. They marched to Goshen the county town of Orange County from there to the lower forks of the Delaware where they joined Capt. Abram Westfall's (14) Company Colonel Spaulding on the account of poor health left the service and Colonel Weisenfelt took the command very soon after he joined this regiment the quarter master was taken sick & left the army and by the

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## Favorite Pensions

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recommendation of Capt. Dodge to Colonel Spaulding he was appointed to this station in which he acted until he left the army. Capt. Dodge did not belong to this regiment, but was acquainted with deponent & was at that time on the frontier; cannot recollect to what company he belonged this regiment was divided in companies & extended 60 miles in length in the fall of the campaign a force of Indians came down and drove off a drove of cattle belonging to the inhabitants & they pursued them & gave them battle but they were to numerous. They were defeated & obliged to retreat, the company to which Deponent belonged was the only one out of the regiment which was in the battle, the greater part were militia, and they were commanded by one Capt. Wood (15) of the Malitia who was taken prisoner by the Indians, he does not remember the names of any other officers who were in this engagement deponent saith also that he was wounded in the left leg in this engagement that he laid under a log the following night, that from the great loss of blood he was so weak in the morning that he could scarcely raise himself, but by the greatest exertions, he succeeded in crawling to the bank of the river where he fell in company with five other of the wounded, the name of one was Patterson, (16) they constructed a kind of raft of logs &c and floated down the River until they came to the settlements, and as soon as he got able to walk he got a furlow subject to return to the service at the shortest notice he then went home to his parents in Orange County, and that in the following spring they got information that the army was to be disbanded, he then went to New Windsor and received his discharge from the army. Does not recollect by who his discharge was signed he thinks the time he received his discharge from the best of his recollections was either the last of May or the first of June in the year 1783, deponent further said that he was not employed in any civil pursuit from the time he first entered the service in March 1777 untill he had received his discharge as above. Deponent further saith that he cannot from the failure of

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## Favorite Pensions

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his memory that how it was or under what particular form that he entered the different branches of the army, only as he supposes that he was detached from one company to another where his services were most needed, neither can he state for what period of time he first entered the service, but that he never was free from service from the time he first entered untill he received his discharge. He further states that his Discharges from the army was burned in the house of one Capt. Stephen Hopkins (17) of Lewiston NY whose house was burned in the year 1809—That shortly after the war he settled in Ontario Co. NY where he remained many years & then being engaged in bringing salt to Canada, he lived in various places and for the past 14 years in the township of Pickering Home District Canada. Deponent further says that he never before has applied for his pension and his reasons for not doing so, he states to be, that he never heard that there was a pension for him untill about seven years ago while he was in the State of Indiana, that he then returned to this Province for the purpose of arranging his business so as to apply for his pension, but was taken very sick before he had accomplished his design, and that reduced to the lowest design of poverty and made a perfect cripple by his illness he never found a person to vindicate his cause neither could he even learn what steps were necessary to take of the purpose of obtaining it and that from age weakness and debility it was impossible for him to act for himself and that now from his late increased bodily infirmities, he apprehends a possibility that he may not be in a situation of rendering further instructions in his case therefore he has authorized Israel Hallock of this Township of Pickering his agent in the settlement of his claim, trusting that the said Israel Hallock will consummate his designs in this matter. Deponent further says that at the time he entered the service at New Windsor he was a resident of Orange County he further says that he knows of no living evidence that he can bring forward to substantiate his services.

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## Favorite Pensions

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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 any agency in any state. Again deponent says as a further reason for not applying for his pension that he had understood that it would be required by him to bring forward two living evidences to prove his services by that he had embraced every opportunity in making inquiry for such, but was always informed that they were not living and finally he had come to the conclusion that it would be useless to make application until Israel Hallock suggested the idea that it was not required or believed it would not be in his case since taking the above, deponent says that he has called to his recollection the names of the following officers that commanded in the 5<sup>th</sup> battalion of Clinton's brigade at the period that that he deponent was in the battalion. Capt. Hammock (18) a French gentleman Capt. Steward a Scotch gentlemen, Capt. DeBois, Duchman [sic], Capt. Vanderbergh, also a Duchman, Capt. Dodge an Englishman and Adjutant Johnson, a Scotch man. That after he left this battalion the five battalions were reduced to three. (19) (Signed) Joel Bower.

Sworn and Subscribed to before me the day and year above written. P.J. Whitney JP; Alexander Campbell J.P.

End Notes—Joel Bower—S.29020

1. I haven't found a payroll for Samuel Chard and his company of Artificers. These usually are civilian contractors working for the Continental Army. Joel would only have been fourteen years of age in 1777.
2. The Battle of Fort Montgomery was on October 6, 1777.
3. The Battle of Monmouth was fought on June 28, 1778.
4. Ensign James Johnston of the Fifth New York Continental Regiment. He was not appointed Adjutant until July 14, 1780. In 1778 he was the Sergeant Major of the regiment.

## Favorite Pensions

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5. Colonel John Hathorn of the Orange County Militia had command of levies which were active from October 20, 1779 to January 1, 1780.
6. Colonel Lewis DuBois resigned on December 22, 1779 as Colonel of the Fifth New York. Lieutenant-Colonel Marinus Willett of the Third New York became the Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant of the Fifth New York on July 1, 1780.
7. Fort Lee was in New Jersey.
8. Colonel Albert Pawling (sometimes spelled Paulding). He had a regiment of New York State Levies in 1779, 1780, and 1781.
9. Henry Dodge Captain in Colonel Frederick Weisenfel's Regiment of New York State Levies in 1782.
10. Captain-Lieutenant Thomas Machin in Colonel John Lamb's Regiment of Continental Artillery (Second Regiment). Machin had served in other artillery regiments previous to this enlistment. He had been wounded at Bunker Hill on 17 June 1775 and wounded at Fort Montgomery, NY, on 6 October 1777. He was appointed a full captain on 21 August 1780.
11. Captain Andrew Moody (Moodie) of Colonel Lamb's Regiment of Artillery.
12. *Chevaux de fries* in this instance, is a type of river obstruction to prevent passage of ships. It can also be used to prevent a cavalry charge on an encampment of soldiers and often is able to be moved from one position to another. The barrier can be as simple as a bunch logs with their cut off branches sticking out to impale a man, or a more permanent type of stone with the inside part consisting of sharp stones sticking up to greatly slow progress.
13. Seth Marvin and Lieutenant John Johnson were part of Colonel Hathorn's Levies

## Favorite Pensions

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14. Captain Abraham Westfall was in Colonel Frederick Weisenfel's Regiment of New York State Levies in 1782. On page 30 of New York Certificates issued to Weisenfel's Regiment New York Troops to March 6, 1787, certificate No. 3479 £20..19..6 was paid to him on November 11. Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246 Folder 169, Roll 77, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
  15. Joel is mistaken when this happened. Captain John Wood of Col. William Allison's Regiment of Orange County Militia was taken prisoner on 22 July 1779, at Minisink. Captain Joseph Brant and his raiding party dealt the patriots at Minisink Battle a severe blow. Colonel John Hathorn's Regiment lost the following officers in this battle: Adjutant Nathaniel Finch, Ensigns Gabriel Wisner and John Wood. Colonel William Allison's Regiment lost the following officers: Lieutenant-Colonel Dr. Benjamin Thurston (Tusten), Captain Samuel Jones and Ensign Ephraim Middagh. Captain Benjamin Vail of the Second Regiment of Ulster County Militia was also killed.
  16. Possibly Joseph Patterson of Colonel Hathorn's Regiment.
  17. Possibly the Captain Stephen Hopkins who had served in a Rhode Island State Regiment.
  18. The officers mentioned were of the Fifth New York. They are as follows: Captain John F. Hamtranck; Captain James Steward; Captain Philip DeBevier (often listed by soldiers as Debois); Captain Henry Vanderburgh. Dodge and Johnson were previously noted. It should be noted that Dodge had served as a Lieutenant in the Fifth New York.
  19. There were five New York Regiments plus some of the additional continental regiments were consolidated into two New York Regiments on January 1, 1781.
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## Favorite Pensions

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### **Thomas Machin Papers**

Albany July 31, 1779

Dr. Sir

Your favor of the 27 Inst. Is come to hand. I am happy to find that you enjoy your health.

Nothing could have been more unexpected than to be taxed with and attention to your Letter when I immediately answered then on my arrival here in behalf of my Father who is a? that time has extremely ill, and since unexpectedly fell a victim to his disorder—He suddenly expired the 13<sup>th</sup> of this month and have left us to lament the loss of an affectionate and indulgent Parent—A loss rendered still more severe by the situation of the times. You, who have a sympathizing heart no doubt will feel for us—The dispensations of In[?]dense, since our Retreat have been severe—that I trust that our support will be equal to the Tryalls (sic) we undergo.

I apprehend the Western plans will fall through—and your will return [rest of page cut off] New Windsor when I shall expect to hear you and be assured that your favors will be acceptable to Dear Sir. Your Loyal Obed Humble servant, Henry Rutgers

P.S. The ladies desire their comp<sup>n</sup>.

Capt. Machin

Can't read date or place.

Mr. Tappan informs me that you have again carried home the old muster rolls there is a return call for which cannot be made out till you arrive or send the roll the Adjutant is waiting for the Return of your company therefore don't [?] of sending or brining these yourself.

Wave my Compliments to your lady and believe me most devontly , Your Obed Hum'd Sev't Woodward.

The Barracks, 1<sup>st</sup> February 1783.

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## Favorite Pensions

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Dr. Sir

Your friendly polite & agreeable letter of the 17<sup>th</sup> withto came safe to hand, the contents of which gave me real pleasure but it was mixed with pain, f r it made me reflect on the length of time that has passed since you have favored me with a line, I grant on affairs of so much consequence as the Choice of a partner for life ought & no doubt did take up much of your time & intention, but since a few minutes in the course of several Months might have been devoted to a Friend, but is complaining is a disagreeable subject leave it, & beg leave to assure you and I sincerely congratulate you on your change of Condition & would be very happy to be acquainted with the Lady whose merit has intitled her to the first place in so good a heart so that of my Friend Machin, you see I take it for granted that merit & nothing else induced you to fix for life.-- --

Your tender feelings for your 'old Friends', I highly approve of, but as for Miss P----- not one word will I hear on the subject I cannot allow you even to thing----very hard you will say, but remember at the same time in an old [?] experienced Friend that says so, I think [can't read a line] they are so quick of conception & withal so very nice in that point that a thought of another person once dear to you hardly escapes them, if I esteemed you less than I do I should not have said so much on so nice a subject—I am pleased with the prospect of a visit from you & your spouse pray let it be as soon as convenient for we talk of removing to the Country some time in April where is yet uncertain. I have given the contents of your order to Mr. Nesbit. [Philadelphia Merchant] And have a hundred things to say to you but at present am inspired no in a humour for writing them, so I desire you will come & see us & give me an opportunity to tell you personally how much I am. Sir your real Friend & very humble Servant. E. Porter

## Favorite Pensions

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Colonel Porter joins me in abundance of love & Compliments to yourself & Lady, Genl Clinton & his Lady &c &c &c.

New York 19<sup>th</sup> October 1784

Dear Sir

I have not yet laid in any wood for winter as may depend once on your providing it for me agreeable to your Promise, repeated to Mrs. Clinton when she saw you in Kingston—It is not high Time that I was supplied This Cole Weather is fast advancing & it may soon be difficult to procure it, even at every advanced & Since I request therefore that you will not delay sending it and be pleased to let me hear from you on the [?] by the very first Conveyance as it will relieve me from some anxiety & Suspense to be assured that nothing has inter? to occasion a Disappointment—My compliments to the Mrs. Machin & believe Me your Friend & Humble Servt. Geor. Clinton  
Capt. Thomas Machlin

Camden, May 4<sup>th</sup> 1782

Dr. Sir

I shall not make any apology for breaking in upon your retirement at this time—the intimacy that hath subsisted between I hope will be sufficient—a short amount of our situation and that of the country is the subject of my story.

A supernumerary quantity of Artillery & min indered the General to leave two of our Companies & their pieces at this place—our situation at first was rather disagreeable but upon consideration that no fault of ours had occasioned it—but that it was the common fortune of war—Our station soon became familiar—balls assembly's & several desertions because more frequent, as our acquaintance enlarg'd contentment aided the furtive success while with social mirth & a Temperate clime we eluded the piercing blasts of Boisterous winter--& vimal flowers

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## Favorite Pensions

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covered the fruitfull plain before me thought the verbose [?] ware half expended.

All nature now looks gay—the fields covered with virdense and the woods with odouiferous perfumes & friendly shades afford a [?] from busy cares -- & a fit asylum for studious contemplation. From this romantic description you may probably entertain a high opinion of the place—a short geographical perhaps may at your right.—Camden (or Pine Tree) is situated a mile N. of the Wateru? River—some distance above it is called the Katawba & forty miles below on the Junction of the Congru it is called Santa—it then becomes a Capital River & empties into the sea fifty miles N. of Chalreston & ten S. of George Town—Camden has been a fine village supported chiefly by trade The River being navigable for large boats—but is now reduced to a very few homes it has been in possession of the British near a year—They had it fortified by a line of stockades round the Town flanked by seven redoubts---in distance from harbor is about 120 miles—the country at some distance is little [?] but Banon? fine land but on the river it is extremely rich & well settled—its situation is rather low and the great Quantity of stagnated water under is unhealthy—especially near the river there the only good land is almost all the country below this place has that disadvantage—the land is rich but often almost the whole face of the country is covered by water—the army has deficiently in finding dry ground to encamp on--& the method of cultivating their land by keeping the river fields under water add greatly to render the air unwholesome.

The people in general are gay & hospitable The own large possessions but seldom live long to enjoy them—a man of sixty in the low Country is very rare—here are widows plenty—Gen. Green lives near Dorchester town by river from Charleston—his farm is small & very bad [?] provided for—particular in clothing—but they are very healthy & in good spirits—the enemy soldiers venture out & desertion are very frequent among them General Mospree? Is in

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## Favorite Pensions

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Georgia & has gained some late advantages over the [?] at Savanna.

My paper tell me I must stop—should be happy in a Correspondence with you at [bad spot] [?] with you—present by best respects to Gresion, Woodward & all the gentlemen of the Regt, Capt. Ferguson & McClure & duty present their compliment to you—they are all they officers that are here.

Believe me to be your old friends. R. Parker

New York 9<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>m</sup> 1784.

Dear Sir.

The wood you sent me is just now delivering the sloop came down on Friday; but before she discharged that other part of her Cargo the present Basis return which I presume has delayed her something—I will give my receipt to the Boatman (Skipper) for the number of loads and agreeable to your Request pay the amount to Capt. Flessing on his calling for it which I concluded now have directed him to do—I am sorry you have been put to by my Inconsequency in getting the wood down as I could have easilly supplied myself here had I not depended on being provided by your—It is now however too late and I must pay on for what I shall still want—If you can (besides what I have now received), furnish me fifteen cord it will suffice—if you cannot certainly do this let me know it & precisely how much I may depend on by the very first opportunity that I may endeavour ton make up the Deficiency here.

I wish you could procure me a snug Wheel-Barrow & send it to. I want it in my garden—I am glad to hear your workers are in such forwardness & sincerely wish they may answer your Expectation I fear most your spending too much in the first [?] instance & in this case the Profits may not Justify it by [part can't be read] the intent for you & care & Laborer, but of this you [part can't be read] another with Jude.

## Favorite Pensions

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How [can't read this part] ?reties of different kinds – To ask among you do [?] continue to dispose of them & what Rate. This is information I wish to have from different [Can't read part of it] will you give it me from your by [?] Conveyance

Mrs. Clinton joins in Respects to Mrs. Machin with Dr. Sir  
Your Most Obed. Servt Geo Clinton.  
Capt. Machin

Little Britain 11<sup>th</sup> December 1784

My Dear Sir

I returned from New York last Evening and expect to go there again in a few Days.

The Governor has for some times been wanting a Secretary for Colo. Malher is married and entered in the Merchantile business and has given me an Invitation to live with him this Winter and Officiate in that Canacter which I will with Chearfulness acceptons I think it will be very advantageous to me—

I did intend to wait on your before I left the Country if you had not wrote to me as I wish to settle with you in any manner convenient to me—

I am very [?] it is not in my power to send you some cash by the bearer but you may rely on my seeing you soon for the purpose also mentioned—My Father left home this morning for New Windsor and is not yet returned—Please to present my compliments very respectfully to Mrs.Machin.

I am My Dear Sir with Sentiment of Esteam your Friend  
G? Clinton  
Captain Machin

New York May 25<sup>th</sup> 1785

Dear Sir:

You will believe me when I tell you that I was very happy to meet our old friend Peter Nestle here and that it would have

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## Favorite Pensions

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been greatly augmented had you been with him—Since I left you I have been at Delham except Six Months which I spent in the West India. I have not as yet been able to fix in any business—Am bound from this place to Boston tomorrow and from thence, shall return immediately to New Haven where I propose spending the summer unless I find some unexpected opportunity of going into business—Six days a gone I was at Hopewell and had once concluded to make you a visit but found it impossible for want of time as some affairs of importance hurried me back to New Haven—I had forgot to inform you that I live with a Merchant in Boston five of six months and believe I should have do ne very well had he not have failed as he was an old friend of mine and was supposed to help me—[Letter ends here]

Phil<sup>a</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup>26 1781

Dear Tommy

I have long waited with anxious expectancy of Receiving a Letter from you; but at length find myself disappointed; & yet cannot account for it—It is time you may be loaded with Laurels, but from my Observation of Manking I have Witherto, on such occasions, found the Turk? Run more free in their Pen & their Invention much Improved:--But candor & my high opinion of your generosity & friendly disposition induceth me to fix the most favourable construction on my disappointment; by attributing it to miscarriage; or the great hurry of business in matters of more importance—but hope with a Leisure Hour presents itself, to be favoured with a few lines—The great & Glorious News from you Quarter has gladdened the Hart of every Whig—Discharging of ?non from the Ships & on Shore Luminations. Fire works, breaking Quakd & Tories Windows for Non-Lumination: Huzza: Huzza: Huzza: What pleasing sensations must you Brave Heros feel in making a Divil of the poor Lord & his Army—go on & prosper—peach must follow—such long strides will soon overtake that bright goodness—my dear fellow you intimated an Intention to

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## Favorite Pensions

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Wed & browse on the Luxuriant Protuberance of Matrimony; If you still continue of the same opinion, I shall endeavour to have a Lady provided; that on your return the Marriage Ceremony may be performed with expedition--- --- --- ---

Province Island Money is at 1 1/3 for 1 Hard the late emissions at 3 for one hard—

We soon expect to hear of an engagement between the French & British Fleets, it is said they were seen within a few Leagues of each other--- Various are the Conjectures here respecting your future movements, some are so sanguine as to expect an attack will be made on New York this Campaign—and all agree that Charlestown must soon share the fate of York—so you see every thing is planed & you have nothing to do but Execute

I Pray Write me a long letter—present my most respectfull Compliments to my Brother Officers and believe me to be with every Sentiment of Friendship & Esteem.

Dear Tommy, Your Obedient Servt Andrew Porter  
Capt. Thomas Machine

“At a Council of Appointment held at Kingston the 12<sup>th</sup> of March 1783.

Present. His Excellancy Governor Clinton, President

The Hon<sup>ble</sup> Jonathan Lawrence, William B. Whiting, Johns Haring (Esquires Members)

The following persons being commissioned officers in the Regiment of Artillery of this State in the Service of the United States whereof John Lamb Esquire is colonel and entitled to promotion.

Resolved that by and with the advice and consent of the Council of Appointment Thomas Machin be and he is hereby appointed a Captain in the Said Regiment vice Jeremiah Wool resigned and that his commission bear date the 21<sup>st</sup> day of August 1780.”

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## Favorite Pensions

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State of New York  
Secretary's Office

I certify the preceding to be a true Extract from the minutes of the Council of Appointment of this State in this Office.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Office at the City of Albany the 6<sup>th</sup> day of April A. D. 1838. Arch<sup>d</sup> Campbell,  
Dep. Secretary

Charleston 22 February 1810  
Honored Sir

You was so kind as to asist me in the session of congress to obtain a small pension which amounted to quarter pay of a Captain Lieutenant of Artillery. I think your Excellence must remember that I did the duty of a Captain during the warand that in addition to all the hard service I underwent I inlisted a great number of men into the service. I am unable to transact business as heretofore. Therefore Request if consistent with your Honor & Duty you will assist me in getting my pension augmented so as to enable me to live in something like the style I have All (sic) ways suported my self.

I am honored sir your excellent humble servant, Thomas Machin  
His Excellence George Clinton

State of New York  
Montgomery County SS.

John Bartlett of the town of Canajoharie in the County of Montgomery & State aforesaid being duly sworn says that he was Fifty Eight Years old in October last—that he has been personally acquainted with Thomas Machin of Charlestown in said County & State from the time deponent was a lad of ten or twelve years old up to the time of the death of the said Thomas Machin which took place in April 1816 at Charles Town aforesaid—that this deponent

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## Favorite Pensions

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during all the time aforesaid lived within four miles of the said Machin that it was always understood in the neighborhood where he lived that the said Thomas had been an officer in the Revolutionary War, and that it was understood that he was wounded in the said war—that this deponent was also personally & intimately acquainted with Susan Machin the wife of the said Thomas that they lived together during all the time aforesaid as man & wife & that the said Susan Machin remained the widow of the said Thomas until her death which took place in December 1836—and this deponent further says that he was intimately acquainted with the family of the said Thomas Machin & Susan Machin now deceased and that Thomas Machin of Charlestown in the County and State aforesaid is the only child of the said Thomas Machin & Susan Machin now dec<sup>d</sup>—that is now living—and this deponent further says that he never knew any other Thomas Machin except the two above mentioned—and this deponent further says that he has understood from the said Thomas Machin & the said Susan Machin before their deaths that they were married before the close of the Revolutionary War--& further says not—(Signed John Bartlett

Subscribed & Sworn this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of April 1838 before me  
D. F. Sacia Judge of Montgomery County Courts

State of New York Montgomery County SS. I certify that I am personally acquainted with the above named John Bartlett & that he is reputable & entitled to full credit as a witness—Dated Canajoharie April 3<sup>d</sup> 1838. D. F. Sacia Judge of Montgomery County Courts.

State of New York  
Montgomery County SS.

Matilda Bartlett of the town of Canajoharie in the County aforesaid being duly sworn says that she was Forty nine years old in March last—that she was personally acquainted with Thomas Machin of the town of Charlestown in the County of Montgomery

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## Favorite Pensions

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& State of New York for several years before his death—that this deponent resided within about four miles of the said Thomas Machin now deceased and that he the said Thomas Machin died more than twenty years since at his residence in Charlestown aforesaid—That this deponent also personally knew the wife of the said Thomas Machin now deceased for many years, and that her name was Susan Machin—that she remained a widow after the death of her husband until the day of her death & that she died in the month of December 1836 and was buried on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 1837 & that this deponent was at the funeral of the said Susan Machin—and this deponent further says that Thomas Machin of Charlestown in said County & State is the only child now living of the said Thomas Machin & Susan Machin deceased was reputed in his life time to have been an officer in the Revolutionary War and she believed this it was reputed that he the decd Thomas Machin was a pensioner before his death—and this deponent further says that she never knew or heard of [?] other Thomas Machin except the two above named in this location of Country or elsewhere & further said that she is infirm and unable to attend court to make this affidavit--& further says not.—

(Signed) Matilda Bartlett

Subscribed & Sworn this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of April 1838 before me—  
D. F. Sacia Judge of Montgomery County Courts.

State of New York Montgomery County SS. I certify that I am personally acquainted with the above named Matilda Bartlett & that he is reputable & entitled to full credit as a witness—Dated Canajoharie April 3<sup>d</sup> 1838. D. F. Sacia Judge of Montgomery County Courts.

State of New York  
Montgomery County SS.

Joshua Colgrove of the town of Charlestown in County and State aforesaid being duly sworn says that he was fifty six

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## Favorite Pensions

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years old in August last. That this deponent has been personally acquainted with Thomas Machin now deceased for many years before his death and that deponent lived for several years before his death within three quarters of a mile of the said Thomas Machin—that it was always understood in the neighborhood where he lived that said Thomas Machin had been an officer in the Revolutionary War & that he was badly wounded in said service—and that it was reputed that said Machin was put on the pension list before his death—and that the said Thomas Machin died in the Month of April 1816--& that this deponent was at his funeral—And this deponent says that he also was personally acquainted with Susan Machin the wife of the said Thomas Machin ded<sup>d</sup> and that they lived together as man & wife until the death of the said Thomas & that the said Susan the wife of the said Thomas, remained a widow until her death which took place in December 1836—This deponent further says that he was intimately acquainted with the family of the said Thomas Machin & Susan Machin and that Thomas Machin of Charlestown in said County & State is the only child of the said Thomas Machin & Susan Machin now deceased, now living and that this deponent never knew any other Thomas Machin except the two above named in Charlestown or Elsewhere. (Signed) Joshua Colgrove.

Subscribed & Sworn this said 3<sup>rd</sup> day of April 1838 before me—D. F. Sacia Judge of Montgomery County Courts.

State of New York Montgomery County SS. I certify that I am personally acquainted with the above named Joshua Colgrove & that he is reputable & entitled to full credit as a witness—Dated Canajoharie April 3<sup>d</sup> 1838. D. F. Sacia Judge of Montgomery County Courts.

State of New York  
Montgomery County SS

Ruth Yost of the town of Johnstown in the County and State aforesaid being duly sworn says that she was Sixty four

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## Favorite Pensions

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years of age in the month of December last—That she has been personally acquainted with Thomas Machin & Susan Machin of the town of Charleston in the County and State aforesaid ever since the Revolutionary War—that during the Revolutionary War she this deponent resided at Huntington on Long Island in the State of New York—She further says that Susan Machin before her marriage to Thomas Machin now deceased was Susan Van Nostrand and that she the said Susan & her father James Van Nostrand resided during the Revolutionary War on the Island aforesaid. That the said Susan when married was at her Brother in Laws at Goshen in Orange County in said State—and this deponent further says that said Thomas Machin was Aunt to this deponent and deponent has a distinct recollection that after it was reputed that said Thomas Machin and the said Susan were married and whilst this deponent was a small girl the said Thomas said Susan came to the house of deponent on the Island aforesaid on a visit and this deponent has no doubt of the fact that when the said Thomas Machin & the said Susan his wife were at her fathers house as aforesaid as man & wife was before the close of the Revolutionary War—And this deponent further says that she has always understood that the said Thomas Machin was an officer in the Revolutionary War—That the said Thomas & Susan had but two children one a Girl by the name of Phebe & the other a son by the name of Thomas & that Phebe was the oldest of the two and that she the said Phebe is now dead, and that the said Thomas Machin the son of the said Thomas Machin deceased—That the said Thomas Machin & the said Susan Machin have always since the said Revolutionary War & since this deponent first saw them as man and wife lived together as man & wife up to the time of the death of the said Thomas Machin & that the said Susan remained the widow of the said Thomas with her death--& further says not. (Signed) Ruth Yost

## Favorite Pensions

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Subscribed & Sworn this 5<sup>th</sup> said of April 1838 before me  
D. F. Sacia Judge of Montgomery County Courts.

State of New York Montgomery County SS. I certify that I  
am personally acquainted with the above named Ruth Yost & that  
he is reputable & entitled to full credit as a witness—Dated  
Canajoharie April 5<sup>th</sup> 1838. D. F. Sacia Judge of Montgomery  
County Courts.

State of New York  
Montgomery County SS

Thomas Machin of the town of Charlestown in the County  
and State aforesaid being duly sworn says that he was fifty two  
years old on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of July last—that he is the sole surviving  
child of Thomas & Susan Machin now deceased and named in the  
annexed paper and letter. That this deponent never had but one  
sister who was named Phebe who was about one year and eight  
months older than this deponent & who is now dead—That after  
the most dilligent search this deponent has not been able to find  
any record of the marriage of his father & mother except what is  
contained in the annexed letters nor has this deponent after the  
most diligent search been able to find any living witness who was  
present at the marriage of this deponents father & mother  
aforesaid, nor does this deponent believe that there is any person  
now living who was present at their marriage—This deponent  
says that he said Father & Mother have repeatedly during their  
life time told this deponent that they were married by a clergymen  
by the name of Lockwood at the House of one Timothy Dunning  
at Goshen in the County of Orange & State of New York on the  
22<sup>nd</sup> day of August 1782—which this deponent believes to be  
true; and this deponent knows that ever since he had any  
recollections his said Father & Mother lived together as man &  
wife up to the day of the death of this deponents father and that  
the deponents father Thomas Machin died at Charlestown  
aforesaid on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of April 1816—and this deponent further

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## Favorite Pensions

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says that his mother Susan Machin & the wife of the said Thomas Machin dec<sup>d</sup> remained his widow up to the day of her death which took place at the place aforesaid on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of December 183[blot] And this deponent further says that there was an entry of the marriage of his Father & Mother aforesaid in an old family bible to them belonging in their life time made in the hand writing of deponents Father but that the same was about ten years since destroyed probably by this deponents children—and that it is not now to be produced but this deponent has a distinct recollection that it was there stated that they this deponents Father & Mother were married on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of August 1782—And this deponent further says that the annexed letter and papers were found by this deponent amongst the paper of deponents Father left by him at the time of his death and this deponent has no doubt but that there were written at the time they purport to be and that they are true & genuine papers—and this deponent says that no information can be obtained although he has made delegant search of the said Lockwood who married his this deponents Father & Mother--& that the Durning family when they were married as aforesaid are as deponent has been informed & believes all dead except on son of about the same age of deponent—and deponent further says that his Father Thomas Machin is the same Thomas Michin who was put on the Pension Roll in 1808—and when pension was raised in 1814 and that it also appears from paper & commission in possession of deponent & found amongst the paper of deponents father that deponents father served as Captain of Artillery & Engineer during the Revolutionary War—and further says not—(Signed) Thomas Machin

Sworn & Subscribed this 5<sup>th</sup> Day of April 1838 before me.  
D. F. Sacia Judge of Montgomery County Courts

State of New York Montgomery County SS. I certify that I am personally acquainted with the above named Thomas Machin & that he is reputable & entitled to full credit as a witness—Dated

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## Favorite Pensions

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Canajoharie April 5<sup>th</sup> 1838. D. F. Sacia Judge of Montgomery County Courts.

State of New York

Schohary County Carlisle May 15<sup>th</sup> 1839.

Sir

I now enclose you sundary affidavits in support of the application of Captain Matthias Brown of the Tryon County Militia, of this state for a pension for his revolutionary services. Application was made to you some years since by a Wm. Parkison for a pension for Captain Brown. For drew up Captain Browns declaration by the name of John M. Brown. Some of the affidavit ensiled fully explain the difference, and show that Matthias Brown is the same identical man with John M. Brown. & the affidavits are verified except the one of Thomas Thompson taken before Judge Hammond, the first Judge of Otsego County who tells me his hand writing is verified and is in your office.

I also enclose you sundary affidavits with certain documents from New Jersey, in support a pension for the widow Ninel Van Dorn widow of Christian Van Dorn a Militia soldier in the New Jersey Militia in the revolutionary war, those two cases I will thank you to investigate immediately and apprise me of your decision.

I deem it my duty to inform you that it is generally believed among us that the pension named drawn last year by Thomas Matchin for his fathers revolutionary service, has been obtained through fraud and perjury. She witnessed who aided him resides near me. If you will furnish me with copies of the affidavits on which that pension was granted, I will immediately inform you whether all is right or wrong. I was intimate with Captain Machin and his wife and their son Thomas resided near me. If the pension is rightfully obtained, then all will be right so far, but he has refused to pass over any part to the other heirs of Captain Machin or Mrs. Matchin. It is understood here that

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## Favorite Pensions

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Thomas Matchin received \$4000 to which his mother would have been entitled, as the widow of Captain Matchin, his mother was buried Three years ago last New Years day. I was at her funeral with some part of my family. Respectfully yours. Henry S. Yates.

Washington D. C. Dec. 9, '39

Dr. Sir.

Do me the favor of sending me answers to the interrogations of Wm. Cuming at your earliest convenience & with as much [?] as possible.

You will readily perceive the importance of them I know "Thom Machin" well he is a "Case."

Let me also ask the like attention to enclose Letter of Wm. T. Candal.

Respectfully Yours & c. P. J. Wagner

Johnstown April 30, 1840

Dear Sir,

Yours the 22<sup>d</sup> received. In relation to the case of Thomas Matchin, I remember that in 1838 while I was acting as Surrogate of Montgomery county the said Matchin called on me with several affidavits in relation to the pension you mention. He also made before me an affidavit reaffirming what was stated in the other affidavits presented and thereupon I gave him a certificate that the facts stated in the affidavits were satisfactorily proven. I cannot now recollect what was the substance of the affidavits and certificates. I have not now the papers belonging to said Surrogate's Office, but I think I so recollect that when about to file the affidavits that Matchin objected, saying that he must have them all to forward to Washington. I think I offered to certify to him copies of the same, but that he said none but the originals would answer to be forwarded, and that thereupon he took them as he said for the purpose of forwarding the same.

## Favorite Pensions

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What will your House? Do with Garland & Byrum—I think an expulsion or two would enable you to progress [?] greatly. The scene you [?] was [?] disgraceful. Your truly T. A. Stoughenburgh.  
Hon P. J. Wagner.

Canajoharie May 27, 1840

Dear Sir,

Since mailing an answer to yours concerning a letter from the Pension Department and enquiring as to the time of the late Widow Matchin's Decease, I have received a communication from Mr. David Chambers of Carlisle stating that she died on the 28<sup>th</sup> December 1835 and that Mrs. Germain the sister of T. Matchin died in March 1837.

Mr. Chambers resides in the immediate vicinity where those persons lived and died and is undoubtedly correct. Besides I have had a personal interview with a Mr. William Chambers of the same place and he is confident that the statement of David Chambers is correct.

I am greatly obliged for the several papers and documents you have been kind enough to send me.

Judge Eacker is extremely low and can survive, as it is tho't but a very short time. Yours truly L. Wilcox. Hon. P. J. Wagner.

I have a cert. In this case payable to Thomas Machen only surviving child of Susan Machen, Dec<sup>d</sup> widow of Capt. Thomas Machen \$600 per annum to be paid up to Dec. 1, 1836, when she died.

Deliver the certificate to Mr. Machen present. Albany Agency.

Fort Plain August 4, 1840

Dear Sir,

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## Favorite Pensions

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I have seen Mr. Thomas Machin & he says to me if the original Papers, on file in your office upon which he drew the money, are delivered over to me for him, he will pay over the cash—that is to say, he will then trust definitively with me—What say you to this?

I can see no objection to this, and if consistent or proper, I wish you would send them to me, to deliver in case I receive the money.

I have written Mr. Benton that I was negotiating for this case with me immediately. Your humble & obedt servt. P. J. Wagner

Fort Plain, N.Y. August 6, '40

Dr. Sir.

The letter you just rec<sup>d</sup> from me was written in presence of Machin. He is not aware of 2 years limitation & hence wishes the Papers. Perhaps it may be well.

Be over time & that debt be recurred by Montg. Over real estate or Judgt—I suppose & am sure indeed he cannot pay before the 18<sup>th</sup>. Inst. – If you think it better to take security by Judge for Montg. Than to prosecute him for the money with me—if so, I will not be consistent & approbation of Benton, U.S.D. Atty—I would insist on paid money at least—of thought expedient give us full discretion. I knew I would bring him to his “Mil R”? & I will bring him to the “Mark” (with interest?) Truly yours, P. J. Wagner. Answer this directly & oblige him & me.

U. S. Attys Office

Utica N.Y. 16 Sept. 1841.

Sir,

In the case of Thomas Machin, I desire to be furnished with authentic evidence of the fact, that on the 5<sup>th</sup> May 1838, the sum of \$3,444.28 was paid him by the Pension Agency at Albany.



## Favorite Pensions

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Will you also furnish me the name of the Agency at Albany at that time.

I am Sir, Very respectfully, P. A. Spencer, U.S. Atty  
Hon. Charles B. Penrose, Sol<sup>n</sup> of the Treasury

Office of the Solicitor of the Treasury  
Sept 20<sup>th</sup> 1841.

Sir,

I enclose herewith a copy of a letter just received from the Attorney of the United States for the Northern District of New York, in relation to the case of the United States vs Thomas Machin, for money fraudulently obtained at the Pension Agency in Albany New York.

I shall be obliged by your furnishing this office at your earliest convenience with the evidence required by the Attorney and also with the name of the agency at Albany in May 1838.

Very Respectfully yours. B. F. Hensants Clk, Off. of Sol<sup>n</sup> of Treas'y

To James L. Edwards, Esqr, Comm of Pensions.

Albany 21, Jan 1842

J. L. Edwards, Esq.

Sir, We have finally succeeded in arresting Thomas Machin and holding him to bail at the suit of the United States in a suit to recover back the three thousand & three hundred of dollars obtained from the Gov't by a fraud on the pension laws. He called on me at this place yesterday and proposed to give a Judgment from the amount and interest provided he could have time [?] to pay it in five annual installments with annual interest—The price with int. now due must be over \$4000. The Judgt will use a loan on a farm of about four hundred acres in Montgomery County near the probability fix of seven thousand dollars in that a Land times, he says he owes about two thousand

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## Favorite Pensions

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dollars besides near [?] on the farm & he gives this among other reasons why it will be out of his power to pay the Govt & [?]

Will the Department inform me what I shall do in the matter?

I will remain in the city circuit the close of Next week & [?] I shall return to Utica. With High regard, I have the honor to be your obt servt. J. A. Spencer.

Carlisle Schoharie Co. November 11<sup>th</sup> 1847

James L. Edwards, Esqr

Sir

It is supposed that Thomas Machin obtained some arrears of Pension; amounting to over \$3000 as heir at Law of his mother who was widow of Thomas Machin a Captain in the war of the revolution.

The old Lady died in December 1835 but it appears that he procured some ignorant persons to make affidavit that she died a year after [?] to bring the claim within the act passed I believe in 1836—It is evident that subornation of perjury was committed and if he obtained the pension in this case upon such evidence a gross fraud was perpetuated upon government. I wish to procure from the proper department information & authentic called as to be evidence in a court of Justice.

Will you be pleased to forward to me by mail such information as may be in your possession at your earliest convenience. Very Respectfully, Geo. Bowne

October 13, 1911.

Hon. Eben. W. Martin

House of Representatives

My dear Mr. Martin:

In response to your personal request of the 12<sup>th</sup> instant, I have the honor to advise you that the papers in claim, Wid. File No. 17,081, Rev. War, show that Thomas Machin was appointed,

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## Favorite Pensions

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August 21, 1780, Captain of Colonel John Lamb's regiment, Continental Artillery, length and particulars of service not stated and he was pensioned for wound of breast.

It is further alleged that he married at Goshen, New York, August 22, 1782, Susanna Van Nostrand daughter of James Van Nostrand; died April 3, 1816, at Charlestown, New York, leaving widow Susanna, and Phebe 1 year and 3 month older than Thomas born July 17, 1764, who were their only children. Very respectfully, First Deputy Commissioner.

New York State SS.

Doctor Oliver Lothrop of the City of Albany and Doctor Jonathan Eights of the same place, appointed and authorized by Matthew B. Tallmadge Dist. Judge & c. to examine Capt. Thomas Machin, who is inscribed on the pension list of the United States and is claimant for an increase of pension, being duly sworn report, that on an examination of the said Capt<sup>n</sup> Thomas Machin on oath, as to the nature of his wound and in what degree it prevents him from obtaining his subsistence, by manual labour, and from an inspection of the wound in the breast of the said applicant, they are of opinion, that the debility thereby produced wholly prevents him from obtaining his subsistence by Manual Labour. Albany Oct 29<sup>th</sup> 1814. Oliver Lathrop; J. Eights.

Sworn before me this 29<sup>th</sup> day of October 1813.

Increase of Pension

United States

To Doctor Oliver Lothrop of City of Albany and Doctor Jonathan Eights of same place, in the New York said District.

Pursuant to an Act of Congress of the United States, passed the 25<sup>th</sup> of April, 1812, entitled "An Act of revive and continue in force an act to provide for persons who were disabled by known wounds received in the Revolutionary War, and for other purposed"—You are hereby appointed and authorised to

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## Favorite Pensions

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examine Capt. Thomas Machlin who is claimant for an increase of pension conformably to the 5<sup>th</sup> section of the act of the 10<sup>th</sup> of April, 1806, revived as aforesaid; and you are to report in writing and on oath or affirmation your opinion of the nature of his disability and in what degree it prevents him from obtaining a subsistence by manual labor; and in your proceedings in the premises you are to be regulated and governed by said act.

Given under my hand and seal at New York this 8<sup>th</sup> day of October in the year one thousand eight hundred and fourteen.  
Matthias B. Tallmadge, Dist Judge.

[Handwriting is very shaky]

Charleston the 3<sup>d</sup> November 1814.

Honored Sir,

I was placed on the pension list by an act of Congress in the year 1806 and During the Session of Congress in the year 1814 I made application for an Increase of pension but by means of my examining Doctors not making their report exact according to Law my application did not succeed. If I am well informed the proceedings of my application stand recorded in the office I wish that your honor would examine the records and if it is found, lawfull that I am entitled to an Increase of pension from my first application I make no Doubt that you will forward the business in such a manner that I shall receive it in due time.

I am honored sir your most humble servant Thomas Machin

### Memorandum

On examination of the roll of New York Invalid pensioners U.S. it appears that Capt. Machin was borne on it, at the rate of #10 per mo. To the 3<sup>d</sup> of March 1815 at which time his pension was increased to \$20 per month, to commence on the 29<sup>th</sup> of October, 1814. And therefore it is not in the power of the

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## Favorite Pensions

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secretary of War to grant the increase from 4<sup>th</sup> March 1808 the only money in this case will be to memorial consays?

To James Monroe President of the United States.

The petition of Susan Machin of the County of Schoharie in the State of New York respectfully requests.

That her husband Thomas Machin was a Captain in Col. Lamb's Regiment of Artillery during the Revolutionary War—that he served with [?] and [?] and died on the 3<sup>d</sup> April 1816 leaving your petitioner and his children in destitute circumstances.

That in consequence of wounds received during the war, a pension was granted to her late husband on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of March 1808 at the rate of ten dollars per month—that it was extended to grant him 20 dollars per month, at the War Office but in consequence of some [?] in the Surgeon's report the Committee of Pensions reduced him from to ten dollars—that on the 29<sup>th</sup> of October 1914 his [?] was [?] and from that period he was allowed twenty dollars per month until the termination of his life—That this provision [can't read a sentence] 4<sup>th</sup> March 1808 but owing to some unfortunate misapprehension it did not take palce.

[Can't read last paragraph.] (Signed) Susanna Machin

New York

Mrs. Susanna Machin, applies for arrearage of pension which she states was justly due her late husband Capt. Thomas Machin & late an Invalid Pensioner of the U.S. It appears that the said Tho<sup>s</sup> Machin, was placed on the Pension list of the U.S. by Law of 25<sup>th</sup> April 1808 at \$10 per mo. to commence on the 19<sup>th</sup> Mar. 1808 and was increased to \$20 per month to commence on the 29<sup>th</sup> October 1814 by law 3<sup>d</sup> March 1815.

It farther appears from notes made on a Journal kept in the Pension Office, in March 1812, that the date of the certificate of the examining surgeons (by inference from which it would appear that the party was totally disabled) was dated 19<sup>th</sup> March

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## Favorite Pensions

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1812 however this certificate not being considered sufficient the form a subsequent application was made as appears by the accompanying papers, on which the increase of \$20 per month was granted by Congress, to commence on the 29<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1814, the day on which the second examination was made by the surgeons.

The widow of the deceased pensioner now claims the arrearages which might be justly due to her husband if he was living at this time, which would appear to be at the rate of \$10 per month from the 19<sup>th</sup> March 1812, (the day on which the first examination took place, in consequence of his application for an increase of pension;) to the 29<sup>th</sup> October 1814, and not from March 1808 as the applicant supposes. War Department Pension Office, Nov<sup>r</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 1818.

New York Mrs. Susanna Machin an applicant for arrearage of increase of pension due her late husband Capt. Thomas Machin, as an Invalid Pensioner U.S. Continental Art.

The arrear which the party appears to claim is at the rate of \$10 per month from 19<sup>th</sup> March 1812 to the 29<sup>th</sup> of October 1814. Award of Congress. Nov. 30, 1818.

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### **Making More Sense of Machin**

By Kenneth Lifshitz

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Recently the pension of Thomas Machin was posted on Jim Morrison's pension website and it contains, in addition to the pension request itself, several important papers regarding Capt. Machin which previously were not in general circulation. For students of Thomas Machin's military career these documents represent a windfall of scholarship. They include the actual issuance of his commission in 1783 (which had been delayed since 1777), several personal correspondences from George Clinton, a letter from Lt. Robert Parker of Lamb's 2<sup>nd</sup> Artillery and a letter from Parker's brother in law Andrew Porter (later General) and detached to the 4<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Artillery. (Parker was later promoted to Captain and assigned to General Washington's

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## Favorite Pensions

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personal staff and Porter was instrumental in planning the siege of Yorktown. Both were members of the Sullivan expedition along with Thomas Machin.) The affection and esteem which both men regarded Machin is overwhelmingly evident in the letters. By contrast the letters from George Clinton seem cold and businesslike. (The fact that Machin had become very 'well to do' may have inspired some jealousy in Clinton which would explain the change in tone, one which Machin himself apparently never picked up on.) Some interesting further documentary evidence regarding Thomas Machin's original pension requests is added pursuant to which it seems Machin was examined in Albany by two doctors there, Jonathan Eights and Oliver Lathrop which represent now a further avenue for research. (1)

The two Porter letters, the first from Andrew and the second from 'E', datelined a year and a half apart are extremely interesting and they provide the bookends to the events leading to Machin's fall from favor. Up until his visit to Philadelphia 1781, Machin had been a rising star in the ranks. Aside from his work on the West Point Chain, he had distinguished himself during the Sullivan Expedition and he had commanded the artillery in the siege of Yorktown and even won a personal bet for his commander Henry Knox in a contest showing up by his accurate gunnery the newer French artillery by blowing up a particular house. It was Knox no doubt who had subsequently first introduced him to the prestigious Wharton family in Philadelphia which introduced Machin into the world of real estate in the winter of 1781.

Clearly Machin, cognizant of his newfound status and popularity and of the opportunities for social advancement that this offered him in Philadelphia society. He had confided this intent to get married to his friend, fellow captain of artillery and fellow surveyor Andrew Porter. Porter, now attached the 4<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Artillery and responsible for the layout of artillery at Yorktown had been detached along with Machin to George Clinton's army for the Sullivan expedition. He is widely given

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## Favorite Pensions

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credit for the idea of raising Lake Otsego to float General Clinton's army down to Tioga to join Sullivan. It is clear for other reasons that it was Machin who originated this idea though he let Porter take credit.

The first letter is from Andrew Porter and it is clearly intimates that Machin has enlisted him in his campaign now to find a suitable wife. Evidently he was successful but as the latter letter shows, the outcome of this was not what everyone had hoped. Clearly his failure to consummate this courtship and the events surrounding the breakup resulted in grave consequences for Machin's career. Indeed, this letter marks the beginning of Machin's downfall, which will result in his Courts Martial a year later. Porter's star on the other hand seemed to rise in the same proportion as Machin's was on the decline. By the time the second letter was written, Porter was a Colonel in the Artillery and Machin was doing recruiting duty in New Windsor.

The second letter is not from Andrew Porter (it is from E. Porter) and datelined 'the barracks' in Philadelphia. Clearly from this letter Machin has identified the object of his prior romantic attentions who Porter refers to here as 'P\_\_'. Machin has informed him of his marriage to Susannah in August of 1782, and the writer (Porter) is counseling him against just then renewing his affections to the mysterious 'P\_\_' which Machin apparently seems intent on doing despite his newlywed status. What is notable is that the letter is not from Andrew Porter, his former comrade, but his relative, though Andrew conveys his congratulations at the bottom, one must question if things were still 'hunky dory' would not his former fellow captain wanted to congratulate him on the event in a line of his own?

Clearly Machin's accomplishments signaled him as an officer of superior talents but the coldness in tone from his superiors dating from 1782 (noted above) is evident and the court martial no doubt was due to the fact that Machin's enemies no longer felt constrained by his status and accomplishments from

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## Favorite Pensions

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finding an avenue for attacking him.

What was the series of events in Philadelphia which led to such dire consequences? Who was the mysterious 'P\_\_'. We don't know at this point. We may never know. What is certain is that Machin was a passionate individual and not always one of the highest discretion. (Evidence the Woodward letters concerning their sexual exploits in New Windsor). From the winter of 1781 Machin is evidently just 'a willing tool' in the eyes of his superiors. Whatever moral lapse occurred it evidently colored their opinion of him thenceforth.

And As Paul Harvey would say, 'That is the rest of the story'.

Thomas Jr.

The major portion of the materials herein were apparently gathered in support of the 1838 widow pension request initiated by Thomas Machin Jr. The final portion of the posting outlines the history of Thomas Machin's original invalid pension subsequent to 1808 but contains no supporting affidavits (as his service had been well established by that time). This latter sequence of events has been abstracted and appended as a chronology at the end of this article and they do not directly relate to the widow pension initiated by his son.

The bulk of the affidavits contained herein therefore were those appended in support of Thomas Machin Jr's original pension request on behalf of his mother's estate filed in 1838. The incidental materials introduced and referenced above were evidently papers of his father's which he retained and which were introduced to serve as further evidence of his late father's service during the revolutionary war and they help us to further paint the portrait of that remarkable man. On the other hand, the widow's pension request initiated by his son and the letters relating to that pension tell a rather different and to some extent sordid story.

What instigated the widow invalid pension request was the

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## Favorite Pensions

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congressional revision to the pension act in July of 1836, which entitled the then living widows of injured revolutionary war veterans to half pay from the termination of service. Unfortunately, Thomas' mother Susan (Van Nostrand) Machin had passed away in December of 1835 which rendered her and her estate ineligible to receive the benefits of the act which would have been substantial. Had Susan survived until July 1836 she, or her estate would have been eligible for a substantial payment amounting to about \$4,000 as a lump sum (about \$90,000 inflation adjusted in today's money).

Undeterred by the fact that his mother was technically ineligible, Thomas Jr. filed a pension request on behalf of her estate in April of 1838 (as purported sole heir to her estate) which contained several affidavits both regarding her death and his status of sole heir, both of which facts became very publicly suspect and rightly so. Three of the affidavits offered, those of John and Mathilda Bartlett of Canajoharie (2) and a Joshua Colgrove (3) asserted that his mother had died in December of 1836 which would have made her eligible to benefit from the act. Machin's own affidavit asserted she had died in December of 183\_ with the last year date blotted out.

In May of 1838 the pension was paid out to the sole heir of Susan Machin, Thomas Machin Jr. in Albany. Over a year later, Henry Yates, the clerk of the court of common pleas in Montgomery County, submits additional pension requests under cover of a letter questioning Machin's veracity to Peter J. Wagner, newly elected Whig member of congress from Montgomery and Herkimer Counties the following month. (4) (It was the custom for these late requests to be submitted directly to congress.) It is clear that someone has complained to Yates that Machin has committed fraud in obtaining the pension monies and Yates writes to Wagner pointing out that he had personal knowledge that Machin lied in his request. Wagner's reply to Yates in December of 1839 is illuminating. He says he knows Machin Jr.

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## Favorite Pensions

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and that “Thom Machin” well he is a ‘Case’.” It is possible that Yates had waited until a year later to complain, awaiting the outcome of the election and knowing the antipathy Wagner held for Machin.

Wagner, on the 22nd of April 1840, diligently writes to the clerk of the surrogate’s court in Montgomery County requesting the original documents on file there and receives a reply saying that when Machin had certified the original affidavits, he had demanded they be returned to him as he ‘had to bring them to Washington’. Over the ensuing spring and summer Wagner researches the facts and confirms that the pension was paid out by the agency in Albany in May of 1838 was in the amount of \$3444.28 and further establishes the actual date of Susan Machin’s demise as being in 1835, rendering the request now a case of fraud.

In August, Wagner summons Machin to his house in Fort Plain and angrily demands repayment of the monies. Machin, knowing full well it is impossible for Wagner to comply, has the temerity to say he will repay the monies but only if Wagner returns the original affidavits to him and intimidates him into writing a letter to this effect to the commissioner of pensions that Wagner knows is unacceptable and impossible to comply with (since Machin already has the originals in his possession).

Obviously, the attempt to play Wagner for a fool and to coerce his cooperation would not stand for long and the text of these two letters is reproduced here:

“Fort Plain August 4, 1840

Dear Sir,

I have seen Mr. Thomas Machin & he says to me if the original Papers, on file in your office upon which he drew the money, are delivered over to me for him, he will pay over the cash—that is to say, he will then trust definitively with me—What say you to this?

I can see no objection to this, and if consistent or proper,

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## Favorite Pensions

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I wish you would send them to me, to deliver in case I receive the money.

I have written Mr. Benton that I was negotiating for this case with me immediately. Your humble & obedt servt. P. J. Wagner”

“Fort Plain, N.Y. August 6, ‘40

Dr. Sir.

*The letter you just recd from me was written in presence of Machin. He is not aware of 2 years limitation & hence wishes the Papers.* (5) Perhaps it may be well.

Be over time & that debt be recurred by Montg. Over real estate or Judgt—I suppose & b am sure indeed he cannot pay before the 18th. Inst. – If you think it better to take security by Judge for Montg. Than to prosecute him for the money with me— if so, I will not be consistent & approbation of Benton, U.S.D. Atty—I would insist on paid money at least—of thought expedient give us full discretion. I knew I would bring him to his “Mil R”? & I will bring him to the “Mark” (with interest?) Truly yours, P. J. Wagner. Answer this directly & oblige him & me. (6)

In June of that year, Nathaniel Benton had been replaced by Joshua A. Spencer as U.S. District Attorney for the Northern District of New York. In August it is Spencer who takes up the case and writes to the treasury trying to document who authorized the payment to Machin. They are obviously preparing a fraud case against him. The case is referred by Spencer to James L. Edwards, the Commissioner of Pensions who now apparently calls for Machin to be arrested. Sure enough, in January of 1842 they arrest Machin which apparently was not easy. On January 21<sup>st</sup> Spencer writes to Edwards, “ Sir, We have finally succeeded in arresting Thomas Machin and holding him to bail at the suit of the United States in a suit to recover back the three thousand & three hundred of dollars obtained from the Gov’t by a fraud on the pension laws.” Machin has apparently

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spent the money and now tries to settle the case by offering his farm as collateral for repayment but claims encumbrances on the land which prevent him paying back at present.

Whatever the arrangements for repayment that were eventually made they clearly did not satisfy Machin's enemies and a case for suborning perjury was brought against him in 1847. (7) It is however evident that Machin managed to repair his reputation. Following his father's example, he did this by setting about forming new powerful friendships. Moving to Albany he enlists the help of William H. Seward who had been elected Senator in 1849. In December of 1854 William Seward introduces two resolutions, one asking that additional bounty lands be granted to the veterans of the War of 1812 and secondly a resolution on behalf of Thomas Machin that the congress underwrite the expenses 'for a convention of soldiers of that war', to be held in the city of Washington, on the 8th of January, 1855. He also asks that they make the congressional ballroom available for this purpose. With only three weeks before the event, the request on behalf of Machin was rendered moot by referral to committee."

### **Thomas Machin Sr. Invalid Pension**

The circumstances surrounding Machin's wound are confusing, contradictory and troubling. Traditional accounts have him being severely wounded in the chest on October 6<sup>th</sup> 1777 at the fall of Fort Montgomery and then repairing to recuperate at Governor Clinton's house in nearby Little Britain. The latter assumption is without question untrue, and this is born out both by ancillary correspondence by George Clinton's brother-in-law and Machin's own accounts both of which place him elsewhere. The fact that Machin rode some forty-five miles to a house east of Poughkeepsie following the battle seems to mitigate against a serious wound as does other evidence which I shall recount.

Hugh Hughes, the Deputy Quartermaster General had

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following the report of the British presence at Tarrytown arranged for the wife of the governor, Mrs. Clinton, and her entourage to vacate east from the Governor's residence in Poughkeepsie fearing of an attack inland on Poughkeepsie by the British, (obviously anticipating the success of the British in passing the forts). Thomas Machin, along with Christopher Tappan, Clinton's brother-in-law and Mrs. Clinton wound up at the house of John Barnes' some eight miles east of Poughkeepsie following the fall of the forts to the British. Hughes personally took care of arranging for the carriages and the transportation of the ladies and he personally reassured Clinton the following day that he would vacate them further east to Connecticut if circumstances warranted, which they did not (the British did not venture inland). His concern for their safety is evident in his correspondence.

The presence of Mrs. Clinton there is easily explained by the concern for her safety but Machin's presence there is not so easily explained. Hughes was, with Putnam and Glover at the council of war at the Continental Village on the east side of the Hudson at the time of the fall of the forts. The case I presented in "DPV" <sup>(8)</sup> is that it is highly likely that Hughes met Machin there, after Machin arrived on the eastern shore sometime that day (if my theory is correct, riding Lt. Col. W. S. Livingston's borrowed horse). This would have been sometime around six o'clock and after he had stopped at Constitution Island to argue with Captain Gershom Mott about getting the artillery there evacuated and encouraging them to hoist the frigate Constitution above the boom to save her, both of which Mott was disinclined to do.

Hughes must have arranged for Machin to go to the Barnes house also either because Machin was severely wounded and in need of care, or, as further protection for the Governor's wife and their party from Tory reprisals, which latter scenario would seem to make sense only if he was he was not wounded badly. Christopher Tappan's letter the day following and common

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## Favorite Pensions

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sense seems to confirm the latter scenario; that he was relying on Machin to afford protection for their little group. The fact that Machin resumed his ordinary arduous activities of surveying only a month and half later further supports this thesis.

The fact that the War Department doctor who originally examined Machin in 1812 caused the rejection of his invalid pension is also troubling. Machin arranged for a second physical examination in Albany in 1814 under friendlier circumstances. This occurred at the order of Matthias B. Tallmadge. Tallmadge was George Clinton's son-in-law and obviously friendly to Machin. Tallmadge himself however became the subject of a three-year congressional investigation into misconduct (which may have been partisan). Of the two doctors examining Machin in 1814, Jonathan Eights was the more prominent. He was, along with the well-known T. R. Beck a founding member of the SPUA (Society to Promote the Useful Arts), a learned association, and along with Machin was a fellow mason. The results of this second examination resulted in the granting of the invalid status and the increase of pension benefits.

The question of how Machin received his wound and the severity of it are destined to remain somewhat clouded due to contradictory conclusions reached by doctors later on and the contradictory testimony of the contemporary historical record (and possibly due to intentional alteration of events concerning the fall of Fort Montgomery battle as described elsewhere (in DPV).

### End Notes by Kenneth Lifshitz

1. Eights was a well known colleague of the famous T.R. Beck, member of Beck's. SPUA and a fellow mason.
2. John Bartlett is listed as a pensioner from the War of 1812 from Pine Plains, New York. Pension #2,016.
3. Notes: Joshua Colgrove was a private in John Brown's regiment of Massachusetts levies. Brown was killed at the

## Favorite Pensions

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Battle of Stone Arabia. Machin was married to a Nancy Brown who may have been related, but as of this writing this relationship is not established. She may have been related instead to John M. Brown whose pension was submitted at the same time as Machin's.

4. Interestingly, Judge Sacia who witnessed the affidavits had been the rival for Wagner's congressional seat.
5. Italics mine.
6. It is not clear if these two letters are addressed to Spencer U.S. Attorney or to Edwards, the Commissioner. It seems impossible that Wagner would be unaware that Benton had already been replaced as U.S. Attorney as the letter seems to imply.
7. The outcome of this case is not known at this writing but should be available in the judicial records of Schoharie or Montgomery County.
8. "Donderburg's Pumpkin Vine", Kenneth Lifshitz, 2004.

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### **John Winn, Tryon County Rangers**

The following article is on Captain John Winn's Company of Tryon County Rangers which was raised on August 1, 1776 and discharged on March 27, 1777.

On July 23, 1776 the Provincial Congress voted to raise several companies of rangers for the protection of different counties in the Province of New York. The following excerpts pertain to the three companies raised in Tryon County. The three companies were under the command of Captain John Winn, Christian Getman and Hannes Marcus Demuth.

"That in like manner & for the same service two hundred and one men be raised in the County of Tryon to be divided into three companies each to consist of one Captain, two Lieuts, three Sergeants, three Corporals, and fifty-eight Privates"



## Favorite Pensions

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"That the Officers and Privates furnish themselves each with a good Musket of firelock, Powder Horn, Bullet Pouch & Tomahawk, Blanket & Knapsack."

Captain Winn's Company finally mustered on August 28, 1776 and they were troubled from that time with several of the men fighting with each other, drunkenness, expending ammunition without orders, disobedience of orders, men not mustering because they had not received their pay or bounty nor did they want to march out of the county.

In spite of these problems the company made scouts to Lake Otsego, Susquehanna River, Unadilla, West Canada Creek, Philadelphia Bush, Canajoharie, Cherry Valley, and in October they were on their way to Fort George.

On October 31st they reached the inn of Stephen Vealue near Lake George. While the men were resting the trouble again started when Jacob Weaver from the German Flatts began to shoot his musket without orders and refused to stop when Captain Winn ordered him to stop firing.

Weaver now began to threaten Captain Winn with bodily harm and during a scuffle Captain Winn hit Weaver in the stomach with the muzzle of his musket. Weaver was attended to by Dr. Budd and he said the injury was slight.

Unfortunately Dr. Budd was wrong and Jacob Weaver died November 2nd.

On the company's return to Tryon County, Captain Winn was relieved of command of his company and he was arrested and placed in the Johnstown jail. Captain Winn was later taken to the Albany Jail by order of Colonel John Nicholson and he was still there on January 15, 1777.

I've found parts of the courtmartial testimony and Captain Winn's testimony but there is a lot more missing including the verdict. Captain Winn however, never acted in a military capacity in the Tryon County Militia after this incident.

## Favorite Pensions

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First Lieutenant Lawrence Gross commanded the company during Captain Winn's imprisonment, and part of the company in February of 1777 with other men from Tryon County Militia marched to Fort Ticonderoga to build fortifications and a floating bridge across Lake Champlain.

Muster Roll of Captn John Winn's Company of Rangers Raised in the County of Tryon and State of New York now in the Service of the said State of New York Captain John Winn appointed 1st August 1776

### Lieutenants

Lourens Gross appointed 1st August 1776

Peter Schremling appointed 1st August 1776

### Sergeants

John McCollum apptd 10th Augst 1776

Elias House apptd 12th Augst 1776

James Guenall apptd 19 Augst 1776

### Corporals

Conradt Styne apptd 8 Augst 1776

Gottlieb Snyder apptd 8 Septr 1776

Wm Stensell apptd 20 Septr 1776

### Privates

Time of Enlistment

August 2	Jacob Lieway
3	Johanjost Kremer
4	Joannes Reebsamem
4	Conradt Fritsher
4	Jacob Weaver
4	Peter Adamy
4	Frederick Seger
5	Joseph Freeman, exchanged him for John McDonald
5	Johannes Kesslaer

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5	John Cogdon, exchanged him for Adam Price
6	Johannes Countryman
7	Nicholas Christman
7	Adam Franck, exchanged him for Peter Lampford Senr
7	Adam Bellinger
7	Joseph Jackson
8	Peter Hellegas
8	Jacob Timmerman, exchanged him for William Nellis
8	John Dingman
8	Samuel Stevens
8	William Atkins, exchanged him for John House
8	Gershom Vander Warke
8	James Vander Warke
9	John Anthony
9	William Roorey
9	Christian Shillip
10	Frederick Lepper
10	Thomas Llump
11	Godfried Helmer
12	Barent Hornung
12	Richard Young
12	Josiah Scotten
12	Johannes Snyder
12	Samuel Kennedy
12	Hanjost House
13	Richard Johnson
16	Christian Nellis

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## Favorite Pensions

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16	Nicholas Stensell
16	George Bush
16	John Pickerd
16	Peter Lampford Junr
17	John Mabee
17	George House
17	Felix Mackly
17	Josiah Heath
19	Abraham Kronckhite
19	Ezekiel Leathers
23	Daniel Ogden
23	Francis Reebsamem
23	William Bush
24	James Kauch
25	James Bratt
25	Geo Van Slyck exchanged him for James Hamilton
28	Lewis Andrews
Sept 3	William Kook
18	Jacob Roder in place of Henry Embody
22	Thomas Hayes

NB The alterations made was by Consent of the persons Exchanged who being unable to undergo the fatigues of the Service they were Ordered upon, procured those persons in their places; the Alterations in the Corporals, was made by the parties themselves with my Advice and Consent, those Persons formerly appointed being unable to Acct not properly understanding their duty.

The Within Muster Roll I do certifie to be True and Exact State of my Company, and that the whole Company Since the day

## Favorite Pensions

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of Mustering have been constant Duty and a Good part of them were upon Different Commands before they Mustered.

Lake Otsego 25th September 1776

John Winn Captain

NB. The alterations made was by consent of the persons exchanged who being unable to undergo the fatigues of the service they were ordered upon, procured those persons in their places; the alterations in the corporals was made by the parties themselves with my advice and consent, those persons formerly appointed being unable to acct, not properly understanding their duty.

The within Muster Roll I do certifie to be the true and exact slate of my company and that the whole company since the day of mustering have been on constant duty and a good part of them were upon different commands before they were mustered.

Lake Otsego 25th September 1776. John Winn, Captain  
Proceedings of the Provincial Congress, Committee of Safety and Convention of New York Relating to Military Matters

Thursday Morning, March 27th 1777.

Resolved that the companies of Rangers commanded by Captains Elias Hasbrouc, Jacob Rutsen DeWitt, Alexander Baldwin, Jacob A. Bradt, Marcus Demotte, Christian Kitman, John Winn, Joshua Conckey, Isaac Moss and Liet. Gideon Squire be and they are hereby discharged.

Page 148.

Page 117. July 23, 1776

That in like manner and for the same service two hundred and one men be raised in the County of Tryon to be divided into three companies each to consist of one captain, two lieutenants, three sergeants, three corporals and fifty-eight privates.

That the officers and privates furnish themselves each with a good musket of firelock, powder horn, bullet pouch and tomahawk, blanket and knapsack.

Page 724, Nov. 29, 1776

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## Favorite Pensions

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On reading the letter of Isaac Paris, Esq'r Chairman of the Committee of Tryon County, dated the 13th inst. informing of the commitment of Capt. John Winn to Tryon county jail, on a charge of having killed one of his men by a push of the muzzle of his gun into his belly.

Resolved, that the Committee of Tryon County have acted prudently and as became guardians of the lives and liberties of their fellow citizens, in committing John Winn to confinement for trial.

Resolved, that the said Captain John Winn be continued in confinement until he shall be tried in a regular Court of Justice.

Page 936, The subsistence roll of Capt. John Winn's Company for the month of February amounting to £131 10s 2d

The payroll of the said company for the month of February, £203 13 s 2d.

The Subsistence roll of the said company for March £123 0s 11d.

The pay roll of the said company for the same month, £197, 13s 4 ¼d.

Tryon County Committee Chamber Nov'r 13, 1776

Page 214

Gentlemen,

It is lamentable that we have occasion to inform you that Capt'n John Winn stands charged with killing one of his men by a push with the muzzle of his gun into his belly. Having examined several witnesses it seems to appear that he is guilty, in consequence whereof we have thought proper to commit him to Johnstown jail to the case of the Commanding officer of that post. We therefore pray, that you in our wisdom, may as soon as possible, give such directions in the premises as you think proper.

We are gentlemen, with esteem and respect, your obedient humble servants,

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## Favorite Pensions

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By order of the Committee. Isaac Paris, Chariman  
To the Honourable Convention of the State of New York  
Page 118  
May 21, 1777.

Resolved, that Lt. Lawrence Gross of Capt Winn's Ranging company shall be entitled to receive the pay of a captain, as long as he has commanded the said company as Capt. since the confinement and suspension of said Capt. John Winn.

Activities in 1777

Jan 15, 1777 at Albany

Company mustered Augt 28

Lake Otsego, Stone Arabia, Philadelphia Bush and Fort George, Canajoharie.

Oct 28, for Fort Geroge

Oct 31, Crossed Hudson River on a raft.

Jacob Weaver injured.

Some of the pension applications from the men in this company.

Casler, John S.12681

Bush, George S.12355 obtained Wm. Sixberry as a sub, Unadilla and Susquehanna Rivers, West Canada Creek

Lepper, Frederick W.20447

Casler, Jacob R.1786

Zimmerman, Jacob W.20002 Mentions wearing a yellow cockade for hat.

Lambert, Peter S.22868

Young, Richard S.11923

Pickard, Adolph S.18162 substitute for Votter, John for two weeks

Vanderwerken, Gershom S.10037

Pickerd, John R.822

Journals of the Provincial Congress, Provincial Convention, Committee of safety and Council of Safety of the State of New York 1775-1777, Albany, 1842, Vol. I, page 638.

## Favorite Pensions

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Petition for John Winn, (Petitions 33:670)

To the Humble the Representatives of the State of New York.

The Humble Petition of John Winn, Lately commanding a Company of Rangers in the Service of the State of New York, Humnbly sheweth that having already had the honour of presenting a memorial of my unfortunate circumstances of his excellency Maj'r Gen'l Schuyler who hath referred your petitioner to your Honours, and having had the Honour of presenting to your Honours a Memorial of his unhappy situation your Petitioner Humbly prays that your Honours will take his unhappy misfortunes into consideration and give such order therein as your Superior Wisdom shall direct, in Order that your Petitioner may again be Restored to the Liberty of serving his Country, and your Petitioner as in duty Bound shall ever pray.

Esophus [Kingston] 22d February 1777. John Winn

Petition for John Winn, (Petitions 33:666; Miscel. Pap. 38:461.)

Calendar of Historical Manuscripts Relating to the War of the Revolution,

Weed, Parsons & Company Vol 1, 1868. page 595.

Albany, 15th January, 1777.

Gentlemen: I am thro' unfortunate necessity obliged to make application to your Honourable by presenting the Inclosed Memorial (which hope you will be good Enough to take into Consideration) in which have set down some instances of the behaviour of Jacob Weaver, A Ranger by me Enlisted in my Company in your Service, beg leave to inform your Honours that for Fear of Tiring your patience have omitted to mention several Crimes by him Committed, while under my Command, and also beg leave to assure your Honours that there is not a single sylable in my Memorial mentioned but I am ready to prove fully and clearly when thereunto required or when it shall please your Honourable House to Give order for a Court of Enquiry or a Court Martial to Enquire into my Conduct, which not only beg for, but



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hope your Honours will not be offended at my making demand of a Court of Enquiry to examine into the Affair and of a General Court Martial for my Tryal if any is necessary to clear up my character to an Impartial World. As I have been treated in an unheard of manner by the Committee of Tryon County who have never put me under arrest agreeable to the Continental Rules of Warr under which I am appointed an officer, but instead thereof ordered me to be Close Confined in the Common Prison in Johnstown, which cannot help thinking is a willfull mistake in them and bad usage to me, unhappy and unfortunate as I am, whether I have done wrong or not, in at all times as farr as lay in my power kept my Company Active on their duty agreeable to my orders received from the former Committee of Tryon, County, and when not only they but their relations tho't that they were to be excused from duty on acc't of their Money's not immediately coming to hand. I advanced them my own money for their Maintenance and kept them on duty when the other two; Companies were at home. I say if this is to be accounted a Crime, I have done it, but hope it will be otherwise looked on. If any of the Rangers in my Company accused me with missusage or had I wantonly or willfully missused any of them then should think my Circumstances if possible more unhappy than they are. Had I ever disobeyed any Commands of the Committee or any other person or persons having power or authority to Command me, should never dare to lift lip my voice to ask for that proper support I hope to obtain from your Honours. I ever was and will be obedient in all things to my superiors; ever have wished for an opportunity to shew with what Readiness I would lay down my life in my Country's service, and hope that your Honourable House will never be the Encour-agers of Mutiny or Licentiousness in your Soldiery more especially in so precarious and necessary Service as that of Rangers which requires not only the most strict subordination but also Silence, Interpidity and Courage. I humbly hope your Honours will take this my most unhappy case into

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## Favorite Pensions

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your consideration and give such orders therein as to your Honours in your superior wisdom shall seem good, and that I may have Liberty of joining my Company, and no longerly inactive, but that I may have the honour to lead my Company where both myself and them may be of some further service to the Country by at least attempting to destroy some part of the Enemy's Fleet now lying Frozen up at the North end of Lake Champlain, or else joining the Army in endeavouring to regain possession of the City of New York in the doing of which I am will to venture all Hazards and hope your Honours will see me worthy to be Allowed and beg leave to subscribe myself with the utmost inspect and fidelity, Honoured Gentlemen, Your most obedient and Most Devoted Humble Servant. JOHN WINN

To the Honourable President and Members of thy Convention of Representatives of the State of New York.

The Memorial of Captn John Winn Lately Commanding A Company of Rangers in Deffence of American Liberty, Humbly Sheweth, Your Memorialist was on the 1st of August last appointed to Enlist and Command a company of Rangers, which he did in the County of Tryon, and on the 4<sup>b</sup> of same Month Enlisted one Jacob Weaver a Soldier in sd Company.

The 28<sup>th</sup> Augst your memorialist in geting sd Company Mustered ordered sdWeaver to pass the Muster Master which he disobeyed, but as he was present was by the Muster Master excused.

The 29<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>"</sup> was ordered by the Committee to March with the Company to the South-west End of Lake Otsego. The 30<sup>lh</sup> of Augst sent a Soldier to Jacob Weaver's House, order him to Join the Company Which order tho' punctually delivered was by him disobeyed.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Septemr Recd intelligence by Express from John Frey Esq'r Chairman of the Committee, that he expected Stone Arabia wou'd be Attacked by the Enemy Immediately and ordering me therewith all Speed with my Company, that night Marched

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## Favorite Pensions

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with my Company all Night thro' the Woods & the next morning readied the Mohawk River. As Jacob Weaver had disobeyed my orders & not Joined the Company sent A Soldier the second time to order him to join the Company. Ho came in the Afternoon without Arms, said his Gim was sent to be repaired. I advanced him money to pay the Repairs, ordered him to Return to me immediately when he got his Gium. This he also disobeyed. Instead of doing this he stayed some days Drunk at the House of W" Seeber, Esqr as I am since informed. The 7 Septemr Ordered Lieut. Gross to March out with 20 Men to Lake, Otsego, and to carry Weaver with him. Lieutenant Gross after some days got him, but not without Trouble, and Ordered him on a Scooting partv thro' the Woods to the German Flat tntax Return Immediately. When they Arrived at the German Flatts Jacob Weaver directly in disobedience of Lieut Gross's orders as well as Contrary and in disobedience of the Officer who Commanded the Party stayed three days drunk at the House of Capt. George Herkimer.

After your Memorialist having Ranged the Woods N° East of Stone Arabia with Two partys of Rangers & found no appearance of an Invasion or Enemy, was ordered to March with my Company again to Lake Otsego. When I came there found Jacob Weaver was Left Lieut Gross Contrary to orders. Sent for him. he stayed untill the 4th of October, when he again Runn away; while your Memorialist was ordered to attend the Committee. On my return ordered a Soldier to goe to his House, & order him to Return to the Company. This he also disobeyed. Some days after sent another Soldier to order him to Return to his Duty. This he also disobeyed as well as Returning me Threatening and abusive Answers. The 18th of October Recd intelligence that Gen Schuyler was apprehensive Ticonderoga and North Frontiers of Tryon County would be attackted by the Enemy. Tho't it my indispenible duty to bring my Company to where they might most Readyly be nsefull in defence of the

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## Favorite Pensions

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Country and discovering the Enemy, Hired a Horse And Sent One of the Rangers to order Jacob Weaver to Join the Company not having returned since the 4th This he also disobeyed.

The 20th of October your Memorialist was ordered by the Committee, of Tryon County to March with his Company to Philadelphia Bush, and from thence Range the Woods as farr as Fort George, which order your Memorialist received with great pleasure, thinking it might be a means of gaining an Oppertnuity to Convince the World it was his greatest pride and happyness of defending with his life the inestimable Rights of this country. The same day at the House of Gose Van Allstyne at Conajoharry, a number of the Privates Mutinized, refused to March any further or do any sort of Military duty until paid of their full Arrears of pay, nor Bounty.

Your Memorialist offered them all the money in his possession yet expended in the Maintainance of them; the Greater Number then Returned to their duty; your memorialist then received another order from another party of the Committee ordering me to March my Company directly back again to the house of Wm. Seeber, Esq'r which did. When arrived there they ordered me to send a party of Men to bring Jacob Weaver to join the company which I did; after some debate among them they ordered me to Obey the first order, I had Recd from Caughnawaga, that night again Marched as farr as Van Allstyne's Jacob Weaver in the Night took Opportunity to endeavour to Raise a second Mutiny, advising the men not to March any further at the same time Swearing if your Memorialist should Attempt to compell him or any other man in the Company to March out of the County he wo'ld murder me, as your Memorialist borrowed Ninety dollars from Brigadier General Herkiemer which together with my own Money not yet expended in Maintainance of the Company, tho't Sufficent for their present Necessitys in the Morning of the 22d Septem'r at Gosse Van Allstyne's got the Company in Rank in order to March. Upon my

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## Favorite Pensions

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ordering them to March Jacob Weaver disobeyed, jumped out of the Ranks, swore he would do no sort of Military duty, unless immediately paid his full pay, abusing the other Soldiers, for Cowards and Rogues for not following his Example, I took his Gun away ordered him to be Marched in the Rear of the Company a prisoner, when we came to the Ferry kept by Martin Van Allstyne, sd Weaver asked for his Gunn which was ordered to be returned to him, give him some Money and a dram, after he got his Gunn, he told me never to Attempt to take his Gunn from him again or make him a prisoner, for if I did, he swore he would shoot me thro' the Heart, to which I answered him I should never neglect my duty thro' fear of any threats from him or any other persons, — upon the Road in marching thro' Johnstown the whole Company was detained by him about Two Hours, tho' your Memorialist sent two persons to order him two Sundry times under Arms, he disobeyed and would not appear untill I myself went personally to bring him out of A Tavern between Johnstown and Philadelphia Bush, he had the Effrontarry. to tell your Memorialist that it was not worth while for the Americans to attempt to fight for their Libertys, saying the Country was Sold for a price by those persons who were at the Head of Affairs, for which I reprimanded him Sharply and cautioned him not to make use of such Language in future — Upon arrival of the Company In Philadelphia Bush, while Shoes, Provisions, &c. were getting ready for the Company, Jacob Weaver wasted all his Ammunition. In the Morning of the 28th of October when Reddy to March on a Scout to Fort George was obliged to take from the Soldiers left behind, from each Soldier a little powder and Ball to make up a sufficiency for sd Weaver before I Marched, give a very Strict Charge to the Party then going with me to be silent, watchful and by no means any of them to Attempt to fire a Gunn without my Espicial orders or Liberty, yet nevertheless sd Weaver, disobeyed, was noisey and unrully in the Woods fired off his Gunn Twice while I was standing close to him Commanding him not to fire.

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## Favorite Pensions

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The 31st of October in Crossing Hudsons River on a Raft at the house of Mr. Jessop the Elder, when the Raft was broke by the Negligence of sd Weaver, Your Memorialist was wet Breasthigh saying sd Weaver's Arms as well as my own dry. That Night sd Weaver complained of being unwell. I then caused him to ly on a feather Bed close by the fire which Mr Jessop had provided for me. Bro't up stairs an arrnfull of Indian Corn Stalks and there lay on them with my Lieutenants. The next Morning Offered to leave him there along with Wm Roorey another Soldier who Complained of being also a little unwell, he Refused to stay behind saying he was well enough to go to Fort George, taking up his Gunn said ho wou'd fire her off. I commanded him not to fire. He disobeyed my Orders, Fifed of his Gunn while I was standing close by him Ordering him not to fire. A number more of the Rangers were going to follow his example. I with difficulty restrained them.

Ordered them to March in a Quiet, Silent & Watchfull Manner for Fort George. When we Arrived at the Five Mile Runn, after allowing the Soldiers time to take a refreshment I ordered them to turn out and form in Rank in order to March to Fort George, The Soldiers all Immediately obeyed except sd Jacob Weaver who disobeyed. When all the Rest were Ready to March & had waited some time sent a Sergeant to order him again out, who returned and told me he could not get him out. I went myself to the House, when I ordered him out he told me he would first Eat Dinner. I patiently waited until he had done, ordered him out. After some time found he disobeyed in not coming, that a number more of the Soldiers were again gone out of the Rank into the House. Ordered the Sergeants to goe again to the House and order them all out into their Rank; who returned & told me they would not com out, but disobeyed both my orders and theirs. I again went myself to the House ordered them all to goe out and goe to their Respective places in the Ranks, they all Obeyed except Sd Jacob Wearer, who swore he wou'd first cut his

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## Favorite Pensions

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Box full of Tobacco. I then asked him if he would go with me to Fort George or stay there until my return, he answered I will go to Fort George but you must first give me a dram. This I did. While I was paying for the Liquor I heard a Gunn fired, went out but could not Learn who Fired — Observed Sd Weaver making Ready to fire off his Gunn, see and heard one of the Sergeants order him not to fire off his Gunn but fall into his Rank in order to March. I called to him Twice myself ordering him not to Fire. He looked at me yet Disobeyed my orders and Fired off his Gunn. I then again ordered him to goe to his place in the Rank, He again disobeyed, said he would not go into the Rank, that he stood well Enough. I reprimanded him for firing away his Ammunition as well as disobeying my orders and ordered him to go immediately to his proper place in the Ranks. He not only disobeyed my orders but give me abusive language, and to Justine himself say's when I shot I intended. to have Shott the Head out of yon Barrel and it does not Signifie your taking so much Command over me I stand well Enough and will not fall into any other ;Rank than I now am, tho' will prove he stood at or near the distance of Ten or Twelve paces in the Rear of the Ground on which the Rank was formed. I again ordered him to fall into his Ranke; he again disobeyed giving me the former Ansr I will not &c. I see he looked angry at me, thought him preparing to advance to Strike me, on which I pushed at him with my Gunn, not intending to do him the Least Bodily injury but to oblige him to obey my orders and fall into his place in tho Ranks. He as soon pushed at me, knocked off a piece of Skin and Flesh of my Hand, Caught hold on my Gunn, broke the Ramrod and Endeavoured to disarm me, I disengaged myself and my Arms from him and left him.

He complained of being Hurted went into the House, while I proceeded on my March to Fort George, the next Morning was informed he was unable to March. Got Doctor Budd to goe to see if he was in need of a doctor's Assistance. When the Doctor had examined him he told me Sd Weaver was not in the Least danger

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## Favorite Pensions

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or ill by reason of any hurt received from me, that as soon as the fumes of Liquor were expelled from him he wou'd be perfectly well and that Sd Weaver could not dy if [die] he was to try for it—I nevertheless left a Soldier belonging to the Company to attend him with a Six dollar Bill and half a Guinea to pay for their maintenance until Sd Wearer should be able to Return home,—

I now call Almighty God to Witness, that my Intention or my Heart never meant nor was never stained with Malice or the least willful intention of doing the man the Least Bodily injury. Think that if I am blamed with Killing him, the Charge is unjustly laid against; me, as will bring good proof that all the while he lay in Philadelphia Bush he complained of being unwell and unable to-do any sort of duty, tho' too Stubborn to inform me of it—in the morning before we Marched from Philadelphia Bush on the Scout to Fort George he-exchanged his Beef for Butter with the Woman of the House where he Lodged and Complained to her that he was unwell and unable to do his duty, and when advised by the Woman to inform me of his being not well & unfit for duty, told her no he would not give me the Satisfaction or Honour to ask my Liberty to stay behind if he shou'd dy on the Road.

Thus happened this unhappy affair, I not having the Least intention of injuring any Person, but doing what I tho't my unavoidable duty, that of keeping Silence and Good order among the Men under my command, if I was to be afraid to order them to do their duty, what was for their own Credit and good, and had no Authority to Restrain them from Mutinizing, Shooting away their ammuniton and making a noise when perhaps the Enemy might be within Hearing of the Report of our arms and Noise, what figure should we have made or in what manner defended ourselves should we happen ton be attacked by the Enemy when our Ammunition was all Expended Shooting at Marks in direct disobedience to the orders of the Officer Commanding the Part. If my Authority permitted me to restrain the Rangers under my Command from wasting their Ammunition, Noise, Quarreling,

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## Favorite Pensions

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and Drunkenness well, if not, if I had no authority to keep order while upon Actual duty in the Woods, I was rendered at once incapable of serving my Country properly as an Officer in so precarious and Hazardous A Station as that of an Officer in the Rangers —and the Rangers more properly to be called Rioters if instead of the most Strict good order, Military Discipline, Activity, Courage & Watchfulness, Hollowing, Shooting, Noise, Drunkenness, Quarrels and disturbance in disobedience to the Command of their Officers were to be their Exercise which ever was Jacob Weaver's favourite Occupation.

Shortly after my Arrival in Tryon County I was Confined by the order of the Committee of that County in the Common Guard-house, among a parcel of Torrys in the Goal at Johnstown upwards of Forty days, tho' I repeatedly petitioned them to give or get an order for my tryal by A Court Martial agreeable to the Continental Rules of Warr, this they yet have not done, and would have yet remained in the same deplorable state of Confinement, had not Col John Nicholson upon being ordered to Leave Johnstown Ordered me to goe with the Regiment to Albany since which time. I have Petitioned The Honourable Major Gen Schuyler for to take my case into Consideration and give such orders therein as his Superiour Wisdom should direct, and shall not Leave this place without his Orders or Liberty or Orders from your Honourable House.

If Soldiers or Rangers will get drunk, disobey the Commands of their Officers when on. Actual Duty and Wantonly waste their Ammunition, in the Woods when they should be Silent, obedient to their Officers & watchfull as Hawks, What will be the Consequences but the Endangering the Lives of such Soldiers who do behave well, and of Ruining the Country which they are enlisted to deffend. Such hath been the Behaviour of Jacob Weaver, a Man whose whole Life hath been one Continual Scene of Drunkenness, Quarreling, and Disturbance and disobedience to the Laws of God and Man.

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## Favorite Pensions

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Your Memorialist will prove that on the March between Canajoharry and Fort George it was the avowed Intention and Intent of Sd Jacob Weaver to attempt to murder me, only for causing him to do his duty.

Your Memorialist tho' rendered unhappy and distressed, as much as is possible for a man to be at the unhappy Event of this unfortunate affair, humbly hopes that there is & Ought to be a proper Subordination kept up in all your Arrays, and that this unhappy affair will be Looked upon by your Honourable House and the World as an unfortunate Accident happening in the way of an Officer in the way of his Indispensible Duty — Endeavouring to cause Mutinous Soldiers to do their duty in the Manlier they ought,

Your Memorialist begs leave to inform your Honours that he maintained his Company of Rangers on his own private Money from the time of their going on duty untill the 14th of Novem'r last. That he never disobeyed or left unexecuted the Orders of the Committee, or any Superior Officer. That lie hath served His Country with Integrity and Courage, as well while Clerk of the Committee of Tryon County as since his -being appointed an Officer which the Members of the Late Committee--will Testifie at any time when called on. Time he hopes your Honours will be the Supporters of Order and good discipline and Consider that Guard houses or places of Confinement are seldom found. in the Woods and that- it may lie in the power of an ill behaved, Mutinous unrulley man in the Woods to Make such a noise & Alarm as will cause the whole party to be either Taken, or killed by the Enemy, who may perchance be better disciplined.

You Memorialist begs leave to inform your Honours that since my Confinement, am informed the Licentiousness of the Rangers hath been so great that they have Wasted or Embezelled almost all the Ammunition sent up for their use by Major General Schuyler. That they gold their Fists under Lieutenant Gros's Nose threaten to beat and abuse him and refuse to obey his

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## Favorite Pensions

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Commands—that they are Suffered by this Committee (lately Elected) to remain idle and all orders & Military Government disregarded by them Stealing the wealth of the Publick without any intention of Serving the Countrys Cause from an brave, Patriotick or Generous Principles.

Your Memorialist humbly prays your Honours will believe him to be what he Really is and Ever will be, a true and faithfull Servant of the American Cause, and prays your Honours will be pleased to take his unhappy Circumstances into Consideration and give the most Speedy Orders Either for his Tryal by a Court Martial, or Release him from his Confinement as your Honours in your Superiour Wisdom shall think best—and hopes he will be no longer kept in Confinement, but that he may have an opportunity of being of further Service to his Country & your Memorialist will ever pray. JOHN WINN.

Albany 10th January 1777.

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### **Sarah Osborn's Story**

by AJ Berry

When in Washington DC at the National Archives and Records Administration, I copied the pension application for Sarah Osborn. It's transcribed in a different format than the others, it was one of the early ones I did and it's paraphrased in many places. There are contradictions in the story.



W.4558 (Widow of: William Reed, Aaron Osborn, and John Benjamin. All of her husbands served in the Revolutionary War.)

B.L.Wt 30,622-160-55.

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## Favorite Pensions

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Women participated actively in a variety of ways during the War for Independence; some traveled with the Patriot army. For some it was a way of protecting their families while the men fought, for others it was a way to keep their lives somewhat comfortable. It was a great asset to have a woman along who could cook, wash and generally be useful while her man was occupied with the business of war. There are stories about women picking up the gun if her husband was wounded or killed and continuing the battle for him.

<- Sarah Osborn at 109 years.

Sarah Osborn was a servant in a blacksmith's household in Albany, New York, when she met and married Aaron Osborn, a blacksmith and Revolutionary War soldier, in 1780.

When he re-enlisted as a commissary sergeant without informing her, Sarah agreed to accompany him to war. They went first to West Point, and Sarah later traveled with the Continental Army for the campaign in the southern colonies, working as a washerwoman and cook.

Her experiences include a meeting with General Washington and memories of the surrender of British forces at Yorktown.

Sarah applied for a pension by filing a deposition in 1837, at the age of eighty-one, as part of a claim under the first pension act for Revolutionary War veterans and their widows.

This is the story of a true survivor, a lady who knew what she had to do to survive and then went about to do it. She changed what she could, coped with what she could and didn't complain in the meantime.

Sarah Osborn was an acute observer. In 1837, at eighty-one, her memory was remarkable; most of the details that could be verified are accurate with historical accounts of the incidents.

Here are some of the stories which can be verified in her account.

## Favorite Pensions

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Capt. James Gregg had been scalped on June 25, 1777 at Fort Stanwix; the two bargemen's story of Arnold's invitation to join him in treason agrees with the most credible narrative; a man named Burke was court-martialed and his execution delayed because of popular support, the British did drive Negroes out of Yorktown when food became scarce, and many were killed between the hostile armies.

Sarah's accounts of proudly riding on horseback through Philadelphia, of exchanging quips with George Washington in the trenches, and of meeting Governor Thomas Nelson in what is now called "the Nelson House" in Yorktown are very interesting. Her narrative of the surrender at Yorktown, where General O'Hara surrendered his sword, is as fine an eyewitness account as is available.

She was a remarkable person in many ways. Although her husband was an irresponsible character, very selfish and a bigamist on top of it, she accepted it, went on with her life and remarried.

In 1854 she was pictured as the subject of an article in the American Phrenological Journal (20, no. 5 (November 1854:101-2). She claimed to be 109 years of age, although her deposition indicated she was 98. In the article she also spoke of an earlier husband, one even before Osborn, who was not mentioned in the pension application. However, she was still spry, and her recollections of the Revolution in no way contradict her earlier statements.

Here is her story in her own simple words from the pension application.

Deponent says she had married said (Aaron) Osborn. He informed her that he was returned during the war, and that he desired deponent to go with him.

Deponent declined until she was informed by Captain Gregg that her husband should be put on the commissary guard,

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## Favorite Pensions

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and that she should have the means of conveyance either in a wagon or on horseback.

Deponent had only three other women for company during this time, the wives of Lieutenant Forman and Sergeant Lamberson and a colored lady named Lenna. They had little chance for talk and gossip. She also had to contend with Captain Gregg's mental condition. She testified he had turns of "...being shattered in his mind", during which he would ask Sarah, "Did you ever see where I was scalped?", bowing his head and showing the circle of flesh and hair missing from the top of his scalp.

Deponent said she had to listen to the story time after time of when Capt. Gregg was scalped. She could recite it word for word. He and two friends were pigeon hunting away from the fort when they were jumped by Indians. (One man, Corporal Anson Ball accompanied the Captain) His companions were killed. Gregg escaped death because a tomahawk strike to his head glanced off a button on his hat, (side of his head) but he was knocked unconscious. When he came to, he crawled next to one of his dead friends. His little dog, Cricket found them and barked in alarm. Cricket ran to the river and three miles from the fort found two off-duty soldiers fishing. Cricket led them to Capt. Gregg and the two fishermen carried Gregg back to the fort.

In the same winter season she rode in sleighs accompanying her husband and the forces under command of Captain Gregg on the east side of the Hudson river to Fishkill, then crossed the river and went down to West Point. There deponent remained till the river opened in the spring thaw, when they returned to Albany. Captain Gregg's company was along, and she thinks Captain Parsons, Lieutenant Forman, and Colonel Van Schaick, but is not positive.

Deponent, accompanied by her said husband, Osborn, and the same forces, returned during the same season to West Point. Deponent recollects no other females in company but the wife of Lieutenant Forman and of Sergeant Lamberson.

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## Favorite Pensions

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Deponent further says that she and her husband remained at West Point till the departure of the army for the South, a term of perhaps one year and a half, but she cannot be positive as to the length of time. While at West Point, deponent lived at Lieutenant Foot's, who kept a boarding house. Deponent was employed in washing and sewing for the soldiers. Her said husband was employed in work about the camp.

She remembered the day word came that a British officer had been captured as a spy. To her recollection, Major Andre was brought to the opposite side of the river where he was kept until executed.

She also remembered when the barge man, who had helped Benedict Arnold to escape, returned to the Point. Sarah saw two men, one named Manteca, the other named Clark. They claimed Arnold told them to "...hang up your dinners! I have to be in Stony Point in the hour."

When Arnold arrived at Stony Point, he hoisted his white pocket handkerchief on his sword and said, "Row on, boys!", and they soon arrived in Haverstraw Bay. There they found a British ship anchored. Arnold jumped on board and invited the men to follow. They were given their choice to go or stay. Some stayed but most returned to the Point.

When the army were about to leave West Point and go south, they crossed over the river to Robinson's Farms and remained there for a length of time to induce the belief, as deponent understood, that they were going to take up quarters there. Whereas they recrossed the river in the nighttime into the Jerseys and traveled all night in a direct course for Philadelphia. Deponent was part of the time on horseback and part of the time in a wagon. Deponent's said husband was still serving as one of the commissary's guard.

They continued their march to Philadelphia, deponent on horseback through the streets, and arrived at a place towards the

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## Favorite Pensions

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Schuylkill where the British had burnt some houses, where they encamped for the afternoon and night.

Being out of bread, deponent was employed in baking the afternoon and evening. Deponent recollects no females but Sergeant Lumberton's and Lieutenant Forman's wives and a colored woman by the name of Letta.

The Quaker ladies who came round the camp urged deponent to stay, but her said husband said, no, he could not leave her behind.

Accordingly, next day they continued their march from day to day till they arrived at Baltimore, where deponent and her said husband and the forces under command of General Clinton, Captain Gregg, and several other officers, all of whom she does not recollect, embarked on board a vessel and sailed down the Chesapeake. They continued to sail until they had got up the St. James River as far as the tide would carry them, about twelve miles from the mouth, and then landed, and the tide being spent, they had a fine time catching sea lobsters, which they ate.

They marched immediately for a place called Williamsburg, as she thinks, deponent was alternately on horseback and on foot. When they arrived, they remained two days till the army all came in by land and then marched for Yorktown, or Little York as it was then called. The York troops were posted at the right, the Connecticut troops next, and the French to the left. In about one day or less than a day, they reached the place of encampment about one mile from Yorktown. Deponent was on foot and the other females above named and her said husband still on the commissary's guard.

Deponent took her stand just back of the American tents, say about a mile from the town, and busied herself washing, mending, and cooking for the soldiers, in which the other females assisted her. Some men washed their own clothing. She heard the roar of the artillery for a number of days, and the last night the Americans threw up entrenchments, it was a misty, foggy

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## Favorite Pensions

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night, rather wet but not rainy. Every soldier threw up entrenchments for himself, as she understood it, and she afterwards saw and went into the entrenchments. Deponent's said husband was there throwing up entrenchments, and deponent cooked and carried in beef, and bread, and coffee (in a gallon pot) to the soldiers in the entrenchment.

On one occasion when deponent was thus employed carrying in provisions, she met General Washington, who asked her if she "was not afraid of the cannon balls?"

She replied, "No, the bullets would not cheat the gallows," that "It would not do for the men to fight and starve too."

They dug entrenchments nearer and nearer to Yorktown every night or two till the last. While they were digging, the enemy fired very heavily till about nine o'clock the next morning, when they stopped.

The drums from the enemy beat excessively. Deponent was a little way off in Colonel Van Schaick's or the officers' marquee and a number of officers were present, among whom was Captain Gregg, who on account of infirmities, did not go out much to do duty.

The drums continued beating, and all at once the officers hurrahed and swung their hats, and deponent asked them, "What is the matter now?"

One of them replied, "Are not you soldier enough to know what it means?"

Deponent replied, "No."

They then replied, "The British have surrendered."

Deponent, having provisions ready, carried the same down to the entrenchments that morning, and four of the soldiers whom she was in the habit of cooking for, ate their breakfasts.

Deponent stood on one side of the road and the American officers upon the other side when the British officers came out of the town and rode up to the American officers and delivered up their swords. The deponent thinks the swords were returned

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## Favorite Pensions

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again. The British officers rode right on before the army, who marched out beating and playing a melancholy tune, their drums covered with black handkerchiefs and their fifes with black ribbons tied around them, into an old field and there grounded their arms and then returned into town again to await their destiny.

Deponent recollects seeing a great many American officers, some on horseback and some on foot, but cannot call them all by name. Washington, Lafayette, and Clinton were among the number. The British General at the head of the army was a large, portly man, full face, and the tears rolled down his cheeks as he passed along. She does not recollect his name, but it was not Cornwallis. She saw the latter afterwards and noticed his being a man of diminutive appearance and having crossed eyes.

After two or three days, deponent and her husband, Captain Gregg, and others who were sick or complaining, embarked on board a vessel from Yorktown. It was not the same one they came down in, and set sail up the Chesapeake Bay and continued to the Head of Elk, where they landed.

The main body of the army remained behind but came on soon afterwards. Deponent and her husband proceeded with the commissary's teams from the Head of Elk, leaving Philadelphia to the right, and continued day after day till they arrived at Pompton Plains in New Jersey. Deponent does not recollect the county.

The main body of the army under General Clinton's command joined them, and they set down for their winter quarters. Deponent and her husband lived a part of the time in a tent made of logs but covered with cloth, and a part of the time at a Mr. Manuel's house near Pompton Meeting House. She busied herself during the winter in cooking and sewing as usual. Her said husband was on duty among the rest of the army and held the station of corporal from the time he left West Point.

In the opening of spring, they marched to West Point and remained there during the summer, her said husband still with

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## Favorite Pensions

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her. In the fall they came up a little back of New-burgh to a place called New Windsor and put up huts on Ellis's lands and again sat down for winter quarters, her said husband still along and on duty.

The York troops and Connecticut troops were there. In the following spring or autumn they were all discharged. Deponent and her said husband remained in New Windsor in a log house built by the army until the spring following. Some of the soldiers boarded at their house and worked round among the farmers, as did her said husband also.

Deponent and her said husband spent certainly more than three years in the service, for she recollects a part of one winter at West Point and the whole of another winter there, another winter at Pompton Plains, and another at New Windsor. And her husband was the whole time under the command of Captain Gregg as an enlisted soldier holding the station of corporal to the best of her knowledge.

In the winter before the army was disbanded at New Windsor, on the twentieth of February, deponent had a child by the name of Phebe Osborn, of whom the said Aaron Osborn was the father. A year and five months afterwards, on the ninth day of August at the same place, she had another child by the name of Aaron Osborn, Jr., of whom the said husband was the father.

Sarah reported her daughter Phebe later married William Rockwell and moved to Dryden, New York. She was widowed and now lives in Enfield. (At the time of the deposition, 1837) Aaron Osborn, Jr. lived in Blooming Grove, New York. Sarah reports, "...he had fits and was crazy. He became a charge of the town and died there at the age of about thirty years."

About three months after the birth of her last child, Aaron Osborn, Jr., she last saw her said husband, who then left her at New Windsor and never returned. He had been absent at intervals before this, and at one time deponent understood he was married

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## Favorite Pensions

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again to a girl by the name of Polly Sloat above Newburgh about fifteen or sixteen miles.

Deponent got a horse and rode up to inquire into the truth of the story. She arrived at the girl's fathers and there found her said husband, and Polly Sloat, and Polly's parents. Deponent was kindly treated by the inmates of the house but ascertained for a truth that her husband was married to said girl.

After remaining overnight, deponent determined to return home and abandon her said husband forever, as she found he had conducted in such a way as to leave no hope of reclaiming him. About two weeks afterwards, her said husband came to see deponent in New Windsor and offered to take deponent and her children to the northward, but deponent declined going, under a firm belief that he would conduct himself no better, and her said husband the same night absconded with two others, crossed the river at Newburgh, and she never saw him afterwards. This was about a year and a half after his discharge.

Some time later, she heard that Osborn, who was up on the Mohawk River, had married again. After hearing this, Sarah married John Benjamin of Blooming Grove, New York.

In 1817, Sarah received word that Osborn had died. Having seen his discharge from the army, she knew Osborn drew a bounty of lands in the lake country beyond Ithaca. Osborn had told her he sold his discharge and land to a merchant in Newburgh. Her son-in-law, William Rockwell, went to see the land and said it was a "handsome piece of property". She regrets she never did anything about it.

Some forty years ago, Sarah was told Osborn's second "wife", Polly Sloat had died. She reportedly died dead drunk, with liquor running out of her mouth after she was dead. Sarah had no knowledge of what happened to Osborn's supposed third "wife".

After Osborn left her, Sarah moved from New Windsor to Blooming Grove, New York. After thirty-five years, she and John

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## Favorite Pensions

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Benjamin then moved to Pleasant Mount, Pennsylvania where she lived the rest of her life.

After deponent was left by Osborn, she moved from New Windsor to Blooming Grove, Orange County, New York, about fifty years ago, where she had been born and brought up and having married Mr. (John) Benjamin . . . she continued to reside there perhaps thirty-five years, when she and her husband Benjamin removed to Pleasant Mount, Wayne County, Pennsylvania, and there she has resided to this day.

Her said husband, John Benjamin, died there ten years ago last April, from which time she has continued to be and is now a widow.

Reply to a letter of inquiry included in the pension file.

I have to advise you, that from the records of this Bureau it appears that Aaron Osborn, or Osburn of Goshen, New York, enlisted, date not stated and served as a Drummer in Captain James Gregg's Company Colonel Gansevoort's New York Regiment, he was transferred to and served as a Corporal in Colonel Goose VanSchaick's New York Regiment. He was at the battles of Peekskill, Fort Stanwix, those during General Sullivan's Campaign and at Paramus and also at the Siege of Yorktown. He was discharged in June 1783, having served six years and six months.

He was allowed pension on his application executed May 18, 1818, while living in Amsterdam, Montgomery Co., New York, aged seventy-four years and he died June 27, 1819.

On November 22, 1837, Sarah Benjamin of Pleasant Mount, Wayne County, Pennsylvania, applied for pension on account of the services of said Aaron Osborn and her claim was allowed.

She stated that she was born at Bloominggrove, Orange County, New York, and that she was eighty-one years old on November [?]7, 1837, that she married Aaron Osborn in January

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1780, at Albany, New York and that her name before said marriage was Sarah Read, (but did not state whether she was Miss, or Mrs. Read.)

After her marriage she accompanied Aaron Osborn during his services in the army and the winter before the army was disbanded, on February 22, at New Windsor, New York, was born their daughter Phebe (who married William Rockwell, or Roquel) and then a year and five months later, on August 9, at the same place, was born their son Aaron, who died about 1830. About three months after the birth of said Aaron, her husband left her and never returned. About twenty years before 1837, she heard that he died up the Mohawk.

She stated that she married in April 1787, John Benjamin of Bloomingrove, New York, who died in April 1827. It is not stated whether they had children.

She also stated that John Benjamin was out in the militia for more than two years during the Revolution, but gave no details of his services, nor does it appear that pension was ever claimed on account of his services, or on account of the services of a William Read, who died of wounds received while serving in the Revolution.

Still another interesting letter was in the file.

Monmouth Ill, March 1, 1897.

To the Commissioner of Pensions, Washington D.C.

Do the records of your office show that Mrs. Sarah Benjamin of Mount Pleasant, Wayne Co., Pennsylvania, ever received a pension? Her maiden name was Sarah Matthews. Her first husband, William Reed, a Revolutionary soldier, her second husband, Aaron Osborne, was also a soldier of the Revolution. Both of these men were from Goshen, Orange Co, New York, which was also her native place. She was married a third time to John Benjamin. We understand here, that she was pensioned, and that this pension was because of her own personal service during the war. We have much evidence that such was the case,

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but desire that if it is possible, the records of the pension department confirm the testimony. She died in 1861, aged 116 years.

### End Notes & Additions

Aaron Osborn enlisted Feb. 3, 1777 as a drummer in Captain James Gregg's Company of the Third New York Continental Regiment. He was a private in December of 1777, and promoted to corporal November 26, 1780.

Battle of Peekskill was March 22, 1777.

Siege of Fort Schuyler August 2, 1777-August 22, 1777.

Battle of NewTown August 29, 1779.

Paramus N.J. There were two battles. March 22 & April 16, 1780.

Siege of Yorktown was Sept. 28 to Oc. 19, 1781.

Captain James Gregg was shot through the body, tomahawked and scalped June 25, 1777.

Corporal Samuel Mattison was killed June 25, 1777.

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### **Pension Application for Henry Myers or Hanhendrick Mayer**

W.17195 (Widow: Anna) Henry married Anna Oosterhout 15 May 1770. Henry died January 19, 1830.

Surviving Children.

Jacob Myers

Rachel Rice,

Solomon Myers

Henry Myers

Elizabeth DeWitt

Delia Millard

Hannah Boss

Mayer, Hanhendrick. His name appears on a list of applicants for invalid pension returned by the District Court for the District of New York, submitted to the House of Representatives by the Secretary of War on December 31, 1794, and printed in the American State Papers, Class 9, page 144.

Rank: Lieutenant

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## Favorite Pensions

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Regt: Capt Henry Dieffendorph's Militia

Disability: Taken sick while on guard and continued ill for some years.

When and where disabled: 1776, Stone Arabia.

Residence: Connajoharrie

Remarks: Militia

Evidence totally incomplete. The claimant not having been wounded, his case is not comprehended by the laws.

State of New York

Oswego County SS.

On this 26<sup>th</sup> day of March 1840 personally appeared before me Elias Brewster a Judge of the County Courts of the County of Oswego being a court of record Anna Myers a resident of the Town of Mexico in said County of Oswego & state aforesaid, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed July 4, 1836.

Says she is [?] near as she can recollect about 93 years old. That she has no record of her age & therefore cannot state the precise time when she was born.

That her maiden name was Anna Oosterhout. That she was born at Canajoharrie in the present county of of Montgomery in the State of New York. That during the French war & when she was about 3 years old as near as she now recollects, she was taken prisoner by the French & Indians & carried to Canada—that she well recollects the transaction—that the house in which her father & his family resided was attacked & surrounded by the Indians & that her father & mother four sisters & one brother were killed by them & she was taken prisoner & a brother by the name of John then about 15 years of age.

That she understood & believes that the reason why she & her brother were not killed was that one of the Indians belonging the the [sic] party had lost children of about the same age & he

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## Favorite Pensions

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wanted them to adopt. That one other brother escaped whose name was Frederick. That at the time he was sick with the hooping cough & that when the Indians saw him cough they were frightened & let him alone. That the Indians took her & her brother to their camp but where or which way or how far they travelled he cannot state but suppose & believes they went the Canada by she recollects they called the place Canada that she was with the Indians about three years when she learned to speak the Indian language & when she returned to the Mohawk she had almost entirely forgotten her native language the Dutch.

That afterwards she was sent to Albany where she was met by an uncle of hers who had come there the [sic, to] see if any of his brothers children were alive that she was taken by her uncle to his residence at Canajoharry—that she then went to live with her Grandmother was Katharine Hess with whom she resided until she was about fifteen years old.

That she was married to Henry Moyer or Myers about the 15<sup>th</sup> day of May 1770. That she was married at the house of her father in law in Canajoharry where she had been residing for several weeks previous. That she was married by the Rev. Mr. Ehle a clergyman of the low Dutch Church. That David Hess was present at the time of said marriage as she well recollects he being a fiddler & played for the company to dance the evening of the marriage.

That she believes the said David is now living & she knows of no other person who was present at said marriage—that she knows of no record of said marriage—that a record was made of said marriage in the family bible but the same was destroyed afterwards as will appear from what appears afterwards.

That she has had by the said Henry Moyer twelve children the oldest of whom is about 68 years & the youngest about 38 years. That there are 8 only of her said children now living.

That the said Henry Moyer was several years older than this deponent & died on the 19<sup>th</sup> Jan. 1830. That soon after the

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## Favorite Pensions

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revolutionary war commenced the valley of the Mohawk became the scene of many important operations & bloody transactions—that he was frequently called out for the purpose of defending the frontier from the incursions of the Tories & Indians & was engaged at the fort near by the whole time.

That for about a year before the battle of Oriskany the said Henry held the office of Ensign or Lieutenant in the militia [militia] in a company commanded by Capt. Diefendorf. That as soon as it was announced in the spring & summer of 1777 that Col. St. Leger was raising an army of Tories & Indians at Oswego for the purpose of invading the valley of the Mohawk the whole country was in a state of excitement.

Gen. Herkimer issued a proclamation for every able bodied man to turn out leaving the old men & those who were not able to bear arms to guard the forts & other places where the women & children were assembled.

That the company commanded by the said Diefendorf turned out under Gen. Herkimer & proceeded with him towards Oriskany. That the said Henry was at that time an Ensign or Lieutenant in the company of said Diefendorf & went with the said Diefendorf as far as German Flats whose town then called, about 8 miles below Utica. That the said Henry was then taken lame in consequence of having cut his foot which had previously healed up but in consequence of travelling it had broken out & his foot had swelled to such a degree that it had cracked open when he returned.

That said Diefendorf was killed in the battle of Oriskany & was a brother in law having married his sister that it was said at the time that said Diefendorf was killed by an Indian who was in a tree.

That during the summer of 1777 -- The said Henry was absent most of the time in the service. That after the Tories & Indians had left Fort Schuyler in Aug or Sept the said Henry returned to his home that after the return of said Henry as

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## Favorite Pensions

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aforesaid he was engaged for the greater part of that time & until the 17<sup>th</sup> day of April following in assisting about the erection of a Fort in the present Town of Minden in the County of Montgomery & state of New York about six miles east of Little Falls which was called Fort Willet.

That said fort was nearly completed on said 17<sup>th</sup> of April. That it was intended for the people living near said Fort to remove therein on the next Monday. That on Sunday which was on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of April aforesaid about sunrise in the morning & while some of the children of this deponent were sent a few rods from the house to feed some calves this deponent discovered the horses then ordered by the said Henry ran past the door of the house greatly frightened & at the same time she heard her children scream. That she went to the door to see what was the matter & there saw several Indians who had taken the two children who had been sent out as aforesaid. That one of the Indians was near the door where she went out & he yelled & whooped & seized her by the arm. That the Indians took her & her four children about fifty rods from the house & stopped. That soon after they stopped they were met by another party of Indians who had been up to a neighbors by the name of Christian Durt who had taken the said Durt his wife & one child & the said Henry Moyer.

That a few minutes before she had been taken by the Indians as aforesaid her husband Henry Moyer had left the house & gone to the said Durt to see about moving into the fort they had been building as aforesaid & while there was taken prisoner with the said Durt & his family. That she was discharged by the Indians soon after the parties met as aforesaid with a suckling child then about two years old. That her husband the said Henry & three of her children were then taken away by the Indians & where they went she does not know except from information—that after she was discharged as aforesaid she returned to her

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## Favorite Pensions

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house which she found rifled of such articles as the Indians could carry & set on fire, the house.

That the said Indians had put brands of fire between one or two beds which were on fire when she returned. That she succeeded in getting their beds out of the house & extinguished the fire and prevented the building from being entirely consumed.

That about two hours after the Indians left two of her children returned who were daughters leaving the said Henry her husband and one of her children a boy named Henry then about three years old prisoners with the Indians that whether daughters returned they informed this deponent that the Indians discharged them & that their father also wanted the Indians to discharge the boy Henry but they refused to do so & told the said Henry her husband that if he attempted to run and they would kill his boy. That the wife of said Durt was also discharged by the said Indians & her husband & b child a boy about seven years old were carried off by the Indians.

That alarm was soon made & she the same day went to a house called Fort House where the people had assembled & where she remained about a week when she went into Fort Willet where she remained for two or three years until it was understood that it would be safe for the people to go on to their farms.

That the said Henry her husband returned in the fall of 1779 having been absent more than a year & a half. That when he returned the said Henry informed this deponent which she believes then that the Indians took him to Niagara where he was forced to run the gauntlet. That while there he was struck by an Indian with a Tomahawk over the left eye which produced a scar of considerable size & which remained there until his death.

That he also at the same place received a cut on the left side of the head which left a scar about three inches long. That from Niagara they went to Oswego. That while there he was set to chopping wood in company with a man by the name of Stimet near the lake shore. That while a party of the British were

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## Favorite Pensions

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endeavoring to get a boat a shore for the purpose of receiving the wood, the same was capsized when he & the said Stimet escaped & went up the Oswego river which was then a wilderness.

That they wen tto Three River Point about 25 miles south of Oswego where they discovered that they were pursued. The party pursuing encamped over night & then he & the said Stimet crossed the river from the west to the east side & escaped. That they were five weeks in the woods & finally were found by a party of friendly Indians about six miles from Schoharry in the present county of the same name.

That he remained there several days until he got [recruited?] & had recovered his strength & then returned to Fort Willet where this deponent was. That this deponents son remained a prisoner with the Indians until peace was declared when he returned home.

That during Harvest the year before the said Henry was taken prisoner the people in the neighbourhood where she resided [?] in a house called Fort Walradt. That the fort was burned by the Torys & Indians after the people had escaped.

That this fort was situated about 2 miles from the Mohawk River & an alarm had been made that the enemy were in the neighbourhood when the people left Fort Walradt & went to the river for greater safety. That all the furniture Clothing & all the household [?] of the said Henry was then destroyed & also the bible in which her marriage with the said Henry was recorded.

And this deponent further says that she is now the widow of the said Henry Myers never having been married to any other person.

That she & the said Henry resided together in the Town of Minden aforesaid until about forty two years since when they removed to the Town of Sullivan in the County of Madison in said state where they resided until about ten years ago when they removed to the Town of Hastings in said County of Oswego where they resided until the death of the said Henry as before stated.

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## Favorite Pensions

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And this deponent further says that she has no record or evidence of the services of her said husband in the war of the Revolution & she does not believe that any exists. (Signed with her mark) Anna Myer

Sworn to & subscribed before me the day & year above written. Elias Brewster, Judge of Oswego County Courts.

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### **Pension Application for Henry Cool**

S.44794

Montgomery County

State of New York

On the seventh day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighteen, personally came before me Daniel Bedford, Esquire one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the County of Montgomery and state aforesaid, Henry Cool who being duly sworn deposeth and saith, that he served in the Continental service in the Army of the United States against the common enemy in the Revolutionary War as a private soldier in the manner following that is to say, he enlisted in the Town of Stillwater in the now County of Saratoga and State of New York as a private soldier under Captain Job Wright in Colonel Van Schaick's Regiment & Line of New York some time in March 1776 for ten months which term of ten months he served in the service aforesaid against the common enemy and was honorably discharged by written discharged which is now lost at Albany with the Company sometime in January 1777. (1)

The deponent further deposeth and saith that he is an inhabitant of the Town of Oppenheim County of Montgomery in the State of New York and is a resident of the United States. He further deposeth and saith that according to the best of his knowledge and belief he was sixty two years old the tenth day of September 1817 and owing to his age and infirmities of body and misfortune in life is now in reduced circumstances, that he is in need of assistance from his country for support.

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## Favorite Pensions

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(Signed with his mark) Henry Cool

Subscribed & sworn to this seventh day of April 1818 before Me Daniel Bedford one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the County of Montgomery & State of New York.

January the 30<sup>th</sup> 1826.

State of New York

Montgomery County

Isaiah Nestle of the Town of Oppenheim (2) in said county being duly sworn says that he has been told by Henry Cool that he the said Henry draws a pension from the government of the United States for an amount of service rendered to the United States.

That he his deponent believes that the said Henry still draws a pension and that he this deponent in the year eighteen hundred and sixteen this deponent thinks he had a conversation with the said Henry (who also lives in the said Town of Oppenheim) who then informed this deponent that he the said Henry had served in the service of the United States in the State of New York as a soldier enlisted for about nine months, & also in said conversation informed this deponent that at the finish of said nine months he then said Henry had been situate to enlist again in the army of the United States but then stated that he the said Henry would not do so but that he the said Henry (3) went to Canada so that he had served the British faithfully during the Revolutionary War and had left the service of the United States and that he the said Henry while in a British Service came into the United States with a party of British men or soldiers.

& this deponent thinks the said Henry also told him that he the said Henry had painted himself up & this deponent has had a conversation with his neighbor as well as those of Henry Cool who informed this deponent that the said Henry had made the same confession to them as to this deponent. That said

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## Favorite Pensions

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Henry further informed this deponent that he had been as aforesaid in the service of the British during the Revolutionary War for about five years and during which time he had served the British to the end of the war.

And also said that he had land in Canada for his services to the British and obtained from the British Government & the reason of this deponent in making this affidavit is that he conceives it his duty as a citizen of the United States & that the said Henry is not entitled to a pension from the government of the United States & further he says not.

(Signed) Isaiah Nestle

This letter is in the pension application folder.

I advise you that from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim, S.44794, it appears that Henry Cool was born September 10, 1755, place not stated.

He enlisted in Stillwater, Saratoga County, New York about March 10, 1776 and served ten months as a private in Captain Job Wright's Company, Colonel Goose Van Schaick's New York Regiment.

He was allowed pension on his application executed April 7, 1818 while a resident of Oppenheim, Montgomery County, New York.

Early in 1825, information was received by the bureau that after the expiration of this soldier's services in the American Army as stated above, he went to Canada, enlisted and served about five years, or to the close of the Revolution in the British Army, therefore his pension was suspended and the records show the date of last payment of pension on March 4, 1826.

In 1821, his wife, Margaret was aged fifty-nine years, and a daughter Polly aged sixteen years. There are no further family data.

This is the history of the only soldier surnamed Cool, under any spelling of the name, who served in the New York

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## Favorite Pensions

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Troops that is found on the Revolutionary War records of this bureau.

### End Notes—Henry Cool (Cole)

1. Henry is listed as Henrick Cole as a private in Captain Job Wright's Company in Colonel Goose VanSchaick's New York Continental Regiment. He enlisted on March 2, 1776 and he was discharged on December 17, 1776. On the Muster Roll he is listed as "On Furlough Sick Stillwater". FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 77, Folder 163, National Archives, Washington D.C.
2. The Town of Oppenheim in 1826 included the present day Town and the Village of St. Johnsville. In 1838 Fulton County was formed from Montgomery County. Lower Oppenheim became St. Johnsville and remained in Montgomery County. Upper Oppenheim became the Town of Oppenheim, Fulton County.
3. There is a Henry Cole listed in Jessup's Corps in Canada but I am not certain at this time if it is the same man. Two men that served with Henry in VanSchaick's Regiment confirmed his 1776 service. They were Second Lieutenant Holtam Dunham and Private Simeon Rockwell. Dunham and Rockwell after this enlistment returned to their homes and served in the 13<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Albany County Militia under Colonel John McCrea. There is no record of Henry serving in this regiment which also took in Stillwater. A Henry Cool is listed as serving as a private in Captain Elijah Bostwick's Company in Colonel Morris Graham's Regiment of New York State Levies in 1780. It may not be the same man but there is not listing of a Henry Cool/Cole for any other service in New York State. One other note: Holtam Dunham was appointed a Captain in Colonel Marinus Willett's Regiment of New York State Levies in 1781. He was cashiered for associating (treasonable practices and desertion to the enemy is what

## Favorite Pensions

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he was found guilty of as a result of a Court Martial) with the enemy.

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### **Pension Application for Joseph Delong**

W.27517 (Widow: Nancy. Alleged widow Mary also applied for pension and was rejected.)

Continental (New York)

State of New York

Herkimer County SS.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> day of July 1819 personally came before me, John Herkimer one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in & for said County Benjamin Delong who being by me first sworn according to law, doth depose & say that he is personally acquainted with Joseph Delong, and knows that he served in the Revolutionary Army, that he first enlisted for the term of nine months and served his term of enlistment, that before he enlisted for nine months the said Joseph was bound apprentice to a man by the name of Groesbeck & being dissatisfied with his situation, was the cause of his enlistment, & further says that after the term of his first enlistment he again enlisted for the term of three years which term of time he also faithfully served & received his discharge at West Point in New York state, which discharge this deponent frequently saw & read, and this deponent further saith, that he doth not recollect the name of the Captain under whom the said Joseph served, but that it was in a Regiment Commanded by Colonel Lamb. (1)

(Signed) Benjamin Delong. Sworn before me, John Herkimer

State of New York

Montgomery County SS.

Peter Wormut (2) of the town of Johnstown in said County being duly sworn says that he was personally acquainted with Joseph Delong in the year of our Lord 1782 and in the summer of

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## Favorite Pensions

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that year, that the said Joseph did serve in the revolutionary war as a private in Colonel Lambs Regiment, that the said Joseph served in a company commanded by Captain Johnson (3) the Christian name of the Captain this deponent cannot now state and that the said Joseph served in said regiment from the spring & about the month of June in the year of our Lord 1782 until the month of July in the year of our lord 1783. That the said Joseph was a private in said Regiment when this deponent first became acquainted with the said Joseph and continued his acquaintance & service with the said Joseph for nearly two years, and during all this time was in the service of the United States in the army of the revolution. (Signed with his mark) Peter Wormut

I Aaron Haring, a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Montgomery County in the State of New York do certify that on this day the above Peter Wormut appeared before me and was by me duly sworn to the truth of the above affidavit, and that the said Peter is personally known to me & that he is a credible witness. Aaron Haring. March 13<sup>th</sup> 1819.

### Schedule

State of New York

Ontario County SS.

On this twentieth day of August 1822 personally appeared in open court, the same being a court of record, for the County of Ontario and State of New York and possessing all the attributes required by law; Joseph Delong aged sixty years, resident in the Town of Phelps of said County and State, who being first duly sworn according to Law, doth on his oath declare that he served in the revolutionary war as follows:--

That he enlisted in Capt. Swarthout's (4) company of Artillery in Col. Lamb's regiment, at Scaticoke in the State of New York, for the term of nine months—that he was marched from thence to West Point, where he served to the end of the period of his enlistment, when he was discharged, and reenlisted for three

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## Favorite Pensions

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years,--was ordered to Springfield, and remained under command of Capt. Bryant (5) until the end of his enlistment, he was then ordered back to West Point and discharged;--the number of his pension certificate is 15,103--, that he has a wife named Sally (6) aged fifty four years, and an adopted boy named John Dodge aged eleven years—that he has no other means of support but daily labour and is unable to support himself and family—

And I do solemnly swear that I was a resident citizen of the United States, on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March; 1818; and that I have not, since that time, by gift, sale, or in any manner, disposed of my property, or any part thereof, with intent thereby to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress, entitled “An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States during the revolutionary war”, passed on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March, 1818; and that I have not, nor has any person in trust for me, any property or securities, contracts or debts, due to me; nor have I any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed, and by me subscribed. Vis.

One cow worth ---\$15

1 pig---2.

1 table & 2 chairs---2

plates, teapot, cups & saucers, spoons, knives & forks &c. ---2.50

1 broken tea kettle and 2 small kettles---2.50

1 iron pot---2.00

1 smoothing iron---.50

\$26.50

(Signed with his mark) Joseph Delong.

Sworn to and declared, on the twentieth day of August 1822 before me, Moses Atwater, a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in said County.

State of New York

Jefferson County

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## Favorite Pensions

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On this 17<sup>th</sup> day of February 1839 personally appeared before the Hon. Calvin McKnight first Judge Jefferson County Courts—Nancy Delong of Rutland in said County who first being duly sworn according to law doth on her oath say that she is about seventy three years old and on her oath makes the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July 7, 1838 entitled an act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows. That she is the widow of Joseph Delong who was in the army of the Revolution and served three years under one enlistment and drew a pension under the act of 1818 as this declarant believes and was on the roll of the New York Agency. She further declares that she was married to the said Joseph Delong at Newton about sixteen miles from Albany in the State of New York on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of June seventeen hundred and eighty five by a Baptist Clergyman by the name of \_\_\_ Stark. That her name before marriage was Nancy White; that she does not know of any record of her marriage in existence; that it was recorded in the Bible which is lost or destroyed--: That her husband the aforesaid Joseph Delong died about three years ago last June, say June 1835 that he died at Ashford Cattaraugus County and this deponent lived at the time in Clayton, Jefferson County; that she has no doubts that her husband died June one thousand eight hundred and thirty five and has derived her knowledge from the fact she has been so informed and has not seen him or heard of his being alive since that time; that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service but the marriage took place previous to the first of January seventeen hundred and ninety four viz; at the time above stated. (Signed with her mark) Nancy Delong

Sworn to & subscribed on the day and year above written before. C McKnight, first Judge of Jeff. County Courts.

I certify that the above named Nancy Delong cannot by reason of the infirmities of age attend court.

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## Favorite Pensions

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I Richard R. Delong depose and say that I am the son of Joseph Delong and Nancy Delong that the said Joseph Delong died in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty five in the month of June as this deponent was informed and believes, that the aforesaid Nancy Delong who has this day made her declaration for a pension was the lawful wife of Joseph Delong & is his widow that she has not intermarried since the death of her husband the aforesaid Joseph Delong but still remains his widow.  
(Signed) Richard R. Delong

Sworn to & Subscribed on this 19<sup>th</sup> day of February 1839 before C. McKnight first Judge of Jeff. County Courts.

State of New York  
Herkimer County SS.

On this 20<sup>th</sup> day of June 1839 personally appeared before the subscriber a Judge of the County Court in and for the County aforesaid James Delong of said County aged sixty nine years who first being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath say that he is a brother of Joseph Delong who was a Revolutionary soldier and a pensioner of the United States on the roll of the said Joseph Delong married Nancy White of Newton about 16 miles from Albany on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of June seventeen hundred and eighty five; that this deponent was present and saw them married and remembers distinctly the time and the attending circumstances; that the marriage ceremony was performed by a Baptist Clergyman by the name of \_\_\_Stark; that from information he believes to be true the said Joseph Delong died in Ashford Cattaraugus County sometime in June 1835 & further saith not.  
(Signed) James Delong

Sworn & subscribed on the day & year first above written before. Chas. Gray a Judge of Herkimer County Courts & Counsellor in Jefferson Court.

State of New York

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## Favorite Pensions

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Erie County SS.

Carlton Spooner being by me duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath say, that he was personally acquainted with Joseph DeLong who was a Revolutionary pensioner of the United States, that the said Joseph DeLong died in the Town of Concord in the said County of Erie, on the twenty fourth day of February 1835 leaving Mary DeLong a widow, who now resides in the County of Jefferson as the deponent has been informed and believes. The deponent attended the funeral of the said Joseph DeLong. (Signed) Carlton Spooner

Sworn and subscribed this 26<sup>th</sup> day of December 1839 before me and I certify the deponent to be a credible witness.  
Wells Brooks Justice

Buffalo Feby 8, 1855

S.P. Waldo Esq. Comm of Pensions

Sir, I have just rec'd your report upon the claim of Mary DeLong widow of Joseph DeLong for a pension of the 2th Inst.—I knew Joseph DeLong well and drew his pension for him a number of years. If married in 1775 his wife Nancy must have been very young it being 80 years since that event. Please give me the residence of Mrs. Nancy DeLong who has been pensioned, also the residence of Joseph DeLong when he was placed upon the pension roll. With this information I can ascertain if he who died in this county was the husband of Nancy & if not divorced then it is all right. He was a drinking man and when in his cups wreckless and that may be the cause of a separation.  
Respectfully yours, Samuel Lake

State of New York

Erie County SS.

On this 29<sup>th</sup> day of January in the year 1855, personally appeared before the Surrogates Court held in the City of Buffalo in and for the county and State aforesaid, before me Charles D.

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## Favorite Pensions

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Norton Esq. Surrogate of the said County, Mary DeLong a resident of Collins in said County aged Sixty nine years, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the provision made by the act of Congress, passed on the 3d February 1853, granting pensions to widows of persons who served during the Revolutionary War. That she is the widow of Joseph DeLong, who was a Revolutionary Soldier and a Revolutionary pensioner at the time of his death, but the period of service of the time she cannot state that he received a pension of ninety six dollars a year until his death and that the pension at his death was obtained and the proof of the death was made at the time and is probably on record in the Department. She further declares that she was married to the said Joseph DeLong on or about the 17<sup>th</sup> day of October in the year 1830 according to her best recollection by Peter Sampson Esq. a Justice of the Peace in the town of Ashford in the County of Cattaraugus in the State of New York, that she has no certificate of her marriage or record thereof and that there is no record to her knowledge that her said husband died on or about the 24<sup>th</sup> day of February in the year 1835 in the town of Concord in the said County of Erie, that she was not married to him prior to the second of January eighteen hundred but at the time above mentioned, viz on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of October in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty.

She further declares that she is now a widow. (Signed)  
Mary DeLong

Sworn and Subscribed on the day and year above written  
before m. Ch. D. Norton Surogate.

State of New York  
Erie County SS.

Lucy Cheney being duly sworn according to law, on her oath says she is nearly thirty one years of age and resides in Collins in said County that Mary DeLong who has signed and

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## Favorite Pensions

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sworn to the foregoing declaration is the identical person therein described, that the deponent is a Daughter of the said Mary and Ebenezer Spooner her former husband, that her father died while the deponent was a small child but that she remembers his death. That her mother married Joseph DeLong in the town of Ashford Cattaraugus County, in the fall of the year 1830, according to her best recollection, she the deponent was present and well remembers the marriage, and that they were married by Peter Sampson Esq., a Justice of the Peace of said town, that they lived together as husband and wife and the deponent resided with them in their family until the death of said Joseph DeLong, and that he died in Concord in said County of Erie on or about the 24<sup>th</sup> day of February in the year 1835. The deponent well remembers that the death occurred on that date from the fact that her own birth day was on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of the month—The deponent further says that the said Mary DeLong is still a widow, that she now resides in Collins, but has formerly resided in Concord in this county—

The Deponent is not interested in making this affidavit or in the pension applied for by the said Mary Delong (Signed) Lucy Cheney

Sworn and subscribe this 29<sup>th</sup> day of January before me, and I certify that I believe the deponent a credible and disinterested witness. Ch. D. Norton Surrogate [?]

Another daughter, Lausana Ruth Gordon also made out a deposition and gave the same information.

End Notes—W.27517—Joseph Delong

1. Joseph appears on a “Roll & Muster of a Detachment of Levies belonging to the Second Regiment of Artillery.” It was dated for July of 1782. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 120, folder 50, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

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The regiment was commanded by Colonel John Lamb. The levies were assigned to different companies as matrosses which is the same as a private. On October 15, 1782, Joseph enlisted for 3 years and was assigned to Captain Andrew Moody's Second Company of the Second Continental Regiment of Artillery under Colonel Lamb. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 119, folder 45, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

2. Peter Wormut or Wormuth, Wormwood, etc., enlisted on March 1, 1783, by Captain Lieutenant Peter Nestell or Nestle, etc., into the Second Continental Regiment of Artillery for 3 years.
3. In June of 1783 a Corps of Artillery was formed and eventually when the different Continental Regiments were disbanded those enlisted men who had still time to serve were probably transferred to the Corps of Artillery. Captain William Johnson of the Third Continental Regiment of Artillery was transferred to the Corps of Artillery on June 17, 1783.
4. Captain-Lieutenant Cornelius Swartwout of Captain Moody's Company. He was taken prisoner on October 6, 1777 at Fort Montgomery, New York. He was held a prisoner until December 17, 1780 when he was exchanged. He returned to the regiment and was assigned to another company.
5. Possibly John Bryant who had served as a first lieutenant in Colonel Henry Knox's Continental Regiment of Artillery. His arm had been accidentally shot off on July 12, 1776. He later served as a Commissary of Issue at least to 1781. He may have served in another capacity later in the war and after it.
6. Joseph may have had at least three wives: Sally, Nancy, and Mary. According to his 1822 declaration he was married to Sally. Nancy and Mary applied for a widow's

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pension which Nancy received and Mary's was rejected. In Joseph's 1819 declaration he claimed to have a wife and four children. One son, Richard R. signed an affidavit as a child of Joseph and Nancy in 1839. James Delong a brother of Joseph signed an affidavit that he was a brother of Joseph and was present at Joseph and Nancy's wedding.