

Pension Application for Henry Stever

S.11481

State of New York

County of Otsego SS.

On this fourth day of December AD 1832 personally appeared before Seth Chase, Esquire a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the said County of Otsego at his office in the Town of Worcester in said County, Henry Stever a resident of the Town of Worcester in the County of Otsego and State of New York aged eighty two years in the month of November last—who being first duly sworn according to Law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

That in the year 1775 he enlisted or volunteered as a private soldier in the New York Militia as a Minute Man for the period of three years, at a place called New Concord in the County of Columbia and State of New York.

And he the said Henry Stever further states that about the first of October in that year he was called into actual service as said Minute Man in a Company of Militia commanded by Capt. Philip Frisbey and Lieutenant Ebenezer Cady both residing in the Town of New Concord aforesaid, and marched from that place in said Copany [Company] to Albany and from thence to Fort Edward, at which place the said company was stationed, and belonged to a Regiment under the command of Col. Whiting and Lieutenant Col. Asa Waterman in General TenBrook's Brigade—and that he this deponent remained in actual service in said company and regiment above mentioned, stationed at Fort Edward from about the first of October 1775 until the first of December next following and being at least two months from the time he marched in said company from New Concord as above stated to the time of being discharged on the first of December as above stated. And the said Henry Stever further states that he did not receive a written discharge from the service at the expiration of said two months service above stated.

And the said Henry Stever further states and declares in manner and form aforesaid that some time about the first day of September in the year 1776 he again went into actual service and soldier in a company of Militia commanded by Capt. Ebenezer Cady and Lieutenant Josiah Warner both of New Concord in the County of Columbia aforesaid, which company belonged to a Regiment of Militia commanded by Col. Asa Waterman and that he the said Henry Stever marched with said company under the command of Capt. Cady from New Concord to Albany and from thence to Fort Edward and which said Regiment belonged to Gen'l TenBrook's Brigade at that time stationed at Fort Edward.

That he this deponent remained in service at this time in the said Company Regiment and Brigade stationed at Fort Edward for about six weeks according to his best recollection and that he then marched from Fort Edward in TenBrook's Brigade to Niscayuna, Schenectady and from thence up the Mohawk River as far as Johnstown in the County of Montgomery at which place this deponent was stationed in said Regiment and Brigade and remained in actual service at Johnstown aforesaid for more than six weeks, and he the said Henry Stever further states that he was in actual service as a soldier at this time in said company of militia commanded by Capt. Cady for at least three months—and was discharged from said service at Johnstown aforesaid—and also that he has no recollection and is quite certain that he did not receive a written discharge from said service at this time, and the said Henry Stever further states that he well recollects that Gen'l TenBrook's Brigade was composed of several Regiments of Militia which marched together under the command of Gen'l TenBrook from Fort Edward to Johnstown at the time above stated -- and that Col. VanAlstine of Kinderhook in the County of Columbia command one of said Regiments at that time.

And the said Henry Stever further declares in manner aforesaid that he was again called into the service the first of Jun e1777 in a company of Militia commanded by Capt. Ebenezer Cady and Lieutenant Warner above named in a Regiment commanded by Col. Whiting, and marched with said company as a private from New Concord the place of his residence to Albany and from thence to Fort

Edward, at which place Gen'l Schuyler and from thence to Fort Edward, at which place Gen'l schuyler then had the command of the American Army after remaining at Fort Edward for a short time the army under the command of Gen'l Schuyler retreated from that place to Moses Creek and from thence to Snooks Kill, from thence to Saratoga and from thence to Stillwater—That the said army remained at each of the above named places for sometime, but the precise time he this deponent cannot now recollect or pretend to state.

And the said Henry Stever also states that about the first of September and after he had arrived at Stillwater and while the American Army was there stationed, he obtained from his officers a furlow for a few days and went home to New Concord and again returned as soon as the middle of September and joined the army at Stillwater, as such soldier as aforesaid in said company of Militia commanded by Capt. Cady to which he belonged, and the said Henry Stever also saith that during the time he was in the service at this time Gen'l Gates superseded Gen'l Schuyler and took the command of the American Army at this place—and that he the said Henry Stever remained and continued in actual service as such soldier as aforesaid until after the Battle at Bemis's heights distance about two miles from Stillwater and that he was engaged and actually fought in that battle and the said Henry Stever further states that about the first of October he was ordered by Col. Waterman the commandant of the Regiment to which he belonged to take several of the horses which belonged to the Army to New Concord for the purpose of feeding and recruiting their condition, where he remained in charge of said horses for a short time, how long he cannot now precisely state but until after the taking of the British Army under the command of Gen'l Burgoyne—That he started to return with the horses and on his return met the troops belonging to Col. Waterman's Regiment at Half Moon on their way home to Columbia County—and that he then returned home to New Concord the place of his residence—and that he did not receive any written discharge from the service at this time to his knowledge and belief.

And the said Henry Stever further declares in manner aforesaid that he again went into the service the first of October in the year 1780 or 1781 and in which of those two years, he does not now recollect and therefore cannot state.

That he then held an Ensign's commission in a company of militia commanded by Capt. Abraham VanBuren of Kinderhook in the county of Columbia, and Henry Hoose of the same place, Lieutenant in Col. VanAlstine's Regiment, that he the said Henry Stever at the time the troops marched from Kinderhook about the first of October had the command of said company, Capt. VanBuren at the time being sick and unable to go into the service, and Lieutenant Hoose having a short time before moved from the place—this deponent took the command of the company and marched from Kinderhook in Col. VanAlstine's Regiment to Albany, from thence to Niscayuna and to Schenectady at which place Col. VanAlstine's Regiment joined Gen'l Robert VanRensselaer's Brigade—The troops under Gen'l VanRensselaer then marched from Schenectady to Cagnawago [Caughnawaga] up the Mohawk in pursuit of Sir John Johnson from Cognawaga marched to Johnstown in the County of Montgomery was engaged in a battle with the Indians, Tories & British under command of Sir John Johnston at a place called Fort Plank about three miles from Fort Plain in which engagement Sir John Johnson's horse was shot dead under him while leaping a fence—but Johnson escaped under cover of the night. This deponent saw the horse lying on or across the fence prostrated and dead the morning after the engagement.

And the said Henry Stever further declares that he remained in actual service from about the first October as above stated until the middle of December thereafter during which time he had the command of Capt. VanBuren's company and was stationed for the principal part of the time at Johnstown in the County of Montgomery and State of New York in Gen Robt VanRensselaer's Brigade and in Col. VanAlstine's Regiment of Militia.

And also that the troops under the command of Genl VanRensselaer were marched from Johnstown about the middle of December back to Albany at which place they were discharged from the service.

And that the said Henry Stever did not receive any written discharge to his knowledge or belief.

And the said Henry Stever further declares in manner aforesaid that he has not any documentary evidence in his possession or power to prove the services rendered by him as above detailed in the War of the Revolution – and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his services further than the testimony of Samuel Waterman of Maryland in the County of [?] which is hereunto annexed and the said Henry Stever further declares that he was born in the year 1750 in Livingston's manner in the County of Columbia New York and that he now has a record of his age which has been procured from an ancient family Bible and which is in possession of his wife in the Town of Worcester, Otsego County & State of New York and that he the said Henry Stever resided at the time. He was called into service in New Concord and Kinderhook in the County of Columbia aforesaid and volunteered as a Minute Man to stand ready as such for three years, and that he volunteered at each time he entered the service as is above stated and set forth—That since the War of the Revolution he has resided in the County of Schoharie and the County of Otsego in the State of New York and for about twelve years now last past has resided in the Town of Worcester in the County of Otsego—aforesaid where he now resides. And the said Henry Stever further declares that he did receive a commission as an Ensign in Capt. VanBuren's Company of Militia and served as such, as is above stated, and that said commission was signed by Governor George Clinton. And that said Commission has been lost or destroyed for many years past. And the said Henry Stever further declares that he is wholly unable to appear in court at the court house in Cooperstown in the County of Otsego by reason of bodily infirmity, that he resides about eighteen miles distance from said court house and cannot undergo the fatigue and hardship of travelling or being carried that distance.

And he the said Henry Stever hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state or of the United States—and that he is known to Samuel Waterman, Seth Dickenson & Schuyler Crippen—of my present neighbourhood and who have for many years part known and been well acquainted with my character—and also that there is no clergyman residing in the part of the Town of Worcester or in the neighbourhood where I have resided for many years and where I now reside, and that my bodily infirmities have disenabled me for many years past to travel. Of my immediate neighbourhood and for a great portion of the time I have been unable to leave the House of my son with whom I have resided. (Signed) Henry Stever.

Sworn to & subscribed this 4th day of December 1832 before me. Seth Chase a Judge of Otsego County.

Letter in file dated July 1, 1938, written in response to a request for information.

Reference is made to your letter in which you request information in regard to Henry Stever, soldier of the Revolutionary War, from Worcester, New York.

The data which follow were obtained from papers on file in pension claim, S.11481, based on the military service of Henry Stever in the War of the Revolution.

Henry Stever was born in the month November 1750 in Livingston Manor, Columbia County, New York. The names of his parents were not given.

Henry Stever, lived during the Revolutionary War in New Concord, and Kinderhook, New York. He enlisted October 1, 1775, served two months as a private in Captain Whiting's New York regiment, stationed at Fort Edward. He enlisted September 1, 1776, served two months as a private in Captain Philip Frisbie's company, Colonel Whiting's New York regiment, stationed at Fort Edward. He enlisted September 1, 1776, served three months in Captain Ebenezer Cady's company, Colonel Asa Waterman's

regiment. He enlisted June 1, 1777, served in Captain Ebenezer Cady's company, Colonel Whiting's regiment, was in the battle of Bemis Heights, and continued in the service until after the surrender of Burgoyne. He was commissioned ensign, served in the fall of 1780 or 1781, in Captain Abraham VanBuren's company, Colonel VanAlstine's regiment; on account of the sickness of Captain Abraham VanBuren, he (Henry Stever) commanded the company, was in a battle with Indians, Tories and British under Sir John Johnson, on the Mohawk River at Fort Plank, length of this service about three months.

Henry Stever lived after the revolution in Schoharie and Otsego Counties, New York. He was allowed pension on his application executed December 4, 1832, at which time he was living in Worcester, Otsego County, New York, where he had lived about twelve years.

Reference was made in 1832 to the wife and son of Henry Stever, as then living in Worcester, New York; their names were not given, and it was stated that he had a family during the Revolution.

The papers on file in this claim contain no further discernible data relative to family.