

Pension Application for Albert L. Vedder

S.11840

State of New York

County of Montgomery SS.

On this Nineteenth day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand Eight Hundred and thirty two personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for said County now sitting, Albert L. Vedder, a resident of the town of Root in said County, aged seventy two years and upwards, 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 7th. 1832.

He was born in the then township, now City of Schenectady in said state on the 28th day of October 1759. His age is recorded in the Register of Baptisms in possession of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church in the City of Schenectady.

When called into the service of the United States in the revolutionary war, he was living in said township, since the Revolutionary War he had lived in the town of Princetown in the County of Schenectady in said State and he now resides in said town of Root.

He entered said service in the month of October in the year 1775—was then enrolled in the company of Militia in his beat, being the company of Captain Abraham Oothout (1) in the Regiment whereof Abraham Wemple (2) was Colonel. His other company and field officers whom he recollects were John Roseboom first Lieutenant, Nicholas Barhydt second Lieutenant--Cornelius Z. Van Santvoort Ensign--Abraham Swits Major. (3)

He served in this company till the spring of the year 1776, when he enlisted for the term of Five months, and served out said term of four months in the company of artificers commanded by Captain Jacob Vrooman. (4) During his service in this company he was employed in erecting military works of defense & building gun boats & storehouses &c for the use of the American Army at Ticonderoga landing at Fort George, Skeenesborough and Saratoga.

In the spring of the year 1777 he again entered the company of said Captain Oothout, and served therein till the end of the war, except during one expedition when he was under the command of Captain John Mynderse. (5) He was with the troops under Generals Schuyler & Gates (6) from the summer of the year 1777, during the retreat of General Schuyler from Fort Edward until the surrender of Burgoyne. (7) The term of his service in this campaign was about five months.

In the fall of the year 1778 he was drafted to go with a detachment of militia from said company to Fort Paris in Stone Arabia. He remained on duty at this fort for a longer period than he was drafted for, to wit, for the term of two months. In the year 1779, he was on duty at Schoharie, and went from thence to Cobleskill (8) immediately after its destruction by the enemy. In the spring of the year 1780, he was on duty at Fort Hunter at the time Caughnawaga, (9) and other settlements on the Mohawk River were devastated by the enemy.

In the summer of the year 1779, he was with the troops that rendezvoused at Fort Plank at the time Canajoharie (10) was burned by the Indians and their Tory associates, he was ordered over to Fort plank and remained there a short time. He has also performed sentinel duty at Schenectady, and on other occasions besides those before named at Fort Edward, Fort Hunter, Fort Plank, Fort Paris & the Upper Fort at Schoharie. The exposed State of the Country was such, that the enemy made incursions in every quarter, and stockade forts and block houses were erected at different posts and passes along the frontier. He took his turn of service in guarding these, but in those days of constant alarm and anxiety, & not anticipating that at some future day a specification of the particular periods of his services might be required, he did not charge his memory therewith; and it is now entirely out of his power to give such specification. He can only declare that during the said war, he faithfully served his country for a period in the whole exceeding two years & six months.

The following are the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where he served and whom he knew, and the continental & militia regiments or companies which he recollects viz—Col. Christopher C. Yates, (11) Adjutant John Lansing, (12) General Gansevoort (13) & Companies under his command, Colonel Goosen Van Schaick, Colonel Dayton. (14)

He has no documentary evidence but can produce the testimony of witnesses who can testify to his services, (15) or a part thereof, and whose depositions are hereunto annexed.

He never received any discharge from the service (in writing). The following are the names of persons residing in his neighbourhood who can testify as to his character for veracity & their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution: viz—Henry J. Yates & John Bartlett, Junr.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. (Signed) Albert L. Vedder.

Subscribed & sworn this day & year first aforesaid. Geo. D. Ferguson, Clerk.

End Noes—S.11340—Albert L. Vedder

1. Captain Oothout and the other officers that Albert mentions for this company are accurate and were commissioned on June 28, 1778.
2. Abraham Wemple was appointed Colonel of the Second Regiment of Albany County Militia also known as the Schenectady District Regiment on October 20, 1775.
3. First Major Abraham Swits was appointed on October 20, 1775 in Colonel Wemple's Regiment.
4. So far a payroll or muster roll has not been found for this company.
5. John Mynderse or Mynderson was captain of the second company in Colonel Wemple's Regiment.
6. Major Generals Philip Schuyler and Horatio Gates of the Continental Army.
7. Lieutenant General John Burgoyne commanded about 7,000 men comprised of British Regulars, German Mercenaries, Loyalists and Indians. He surrendered the remnants of his invading army on October 17, 1777 to Major General Gates.
8. Albert is wrong about the year that Cobleskill was destroyed. It happened on May 30, 1778.
9. Caughnawaga and nearby settlements were burned by forces under Sir John Johnson on May 22, 1780.
10. Albert has the wrong year again. The Canajoharie District or what is now the Village of Fort Plain and the Town of Minden, Montgomery County was destroyed by Captain Joseph Brant and Cornplanter on August 2, 1780.
11. Lieutenant-Colonel Christopher C. Yates of Schenectady served as Deputy Quartermaster General of the Quartermaster Department. He is often confused with Major Christopher P. Yates of the Palatine District who also served in this department.
12. John E. Lansing was commissioned Adjutant in place of Jacobus VanderPool on November 5, 1778 in Colonel Killian VanRensselaer's Fourth Regiment of Albany County Militia.
13. Peter Gansevoort was the Colonel of the Third New York Continental Regiment from November 21, 1776 until January 1, 1781. On January 1, 1781 the Continental Army having more officers than needed for the amount of enlisted men, the regiments were consolidated or downsized. The First New York under Colonel Goose VanSchaick (Gansevoort's brother-in-law) was consolidated with the Third New York. As VanSchaick was the senior in rank remained the Colonel of the First New York and Gansevoort returned home as a retired continental officer. On March 26, 1781, Gansevoort was appointed brigadier general in place of Abraham TenBroeck who was ill of the First Brigade of Albany County Militia.
14. Elias Dayton was Colonel of the Third New Jersey Continental Regiment.
15. On Captain Oothout's Receipt Roll lists Albert A. Vedder as having three certificates totaling to the amount of £ 1. . 68. . _____. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 77, folder 170, National Archives, Washington, D.C.