

## **Pension Application for Williams Avery, Every**

S.12020

Private, Captain Newell, Col. Willett

State of New York

County of Greene SS.

On the third day of [blank] 1832 before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in & for the county of Greene now sitting came Williams Avery a resident of the town of Durham in said county & state aged 68 years, 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<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States and served as herein stated under the following named officers. In the spring of 1782 thinks in the last of April, (1) I voluntarily enlisted as a private soldier for two years in the New York State troops. Started from home the fore part of July for Albany having permission till that time to stay at home in order to get money to go with, passed muster at Albany about middle of month was ordered to join company on the Mohawk, was detained a while at Fort Hunter & from there went on a scouting party.

Joined Capt. Newel's (2) company the forepart of August then stationed at the house of Gen. Herkimer's (3) near Little Falls and remained in said company until disbanded in Jan. 1784. The name of the captain was Simeon Newel. The first year Rial Bingham (4) was Lieutenant in Capt. Newel's Comp. he also commanded some 17 or 20 Stockbridge Indians (5) who were annexed to Capt. Newel's Company and called Rangers. The first year Capt. Newel's Comp. was put into Col. Marinus Willett's Regiment who commanded the nine months, men After the discharge of the nine months men we were formed into a Battalion called the New York State Battalion, (6) commanded I believe by Major Benscouten (7) of this I am not certain as he was not with us much of the time. Peter B. Tierse, Jonathan Parsey, (8) James Cannon, Simeon Newel, ----- Wright and -----Conner commanded companies in this battalion, after we were formed into a battalion Timothy Hutton (9) was Lieutenant and ---Cowles was ensign in Capt. Newel's Company. In the fall of the year 1782 Capt. Newel's and some other companies of said troops were stationed at Fort Plain where we lay during the winter. In the forepart of February 1783 the New York State Battalion was joined by a regiment of continentals (Rhode Island troops) (10) and were put under Col. Willett's command and were marched on Oswego on Lake Ontario in order to take that fortress from the British but did not succeed. On our return about five miles from Oswego, our company was fired upon by the British & Indians on the night after expecting an attack from them. I was placed on guard to watch on a high log, and not having room to walk my feet were so badly frozen that I have been decrepid by turns ever since. In the spring of 1783 Capt. Newel's Comp. was detached to repair the road from Fort Herkimer to Fort Stanwix. I believe we were on the road about one month. In the summer of 1783, Gen. Washington, Gov. Clinton (11) & suite arrived at Fort Plain and went to Fort Stanwix. I was detached as one of the guard and accompanied them to that place. We returned to Fort Plain—after which the battalion

was marched to Fort Stanwix and employed the rest of the season in building two block houses a store house clearing out Wood Creek and repairing the road—We were engaged in that business until the winter set in, we were then marched down to Schenectady and early in January 1784 the battalion was discharged. Previous to their discharge I was detached as one of a Sergeant's guard to quell an insurrection of Negroes in Albany, we were detained a short time after the battalion was discharged in Albany I believe about the middle of January. My discharge I believe was signed by Peter B. Tierse Capt. Commandant, and counter signed by Pliny Moore Adj. (12)

Immediately after discharged I sold my wages in Albany for clothing and money to get home and purchaser took my discharge—I do not know his name nor where to find him if alive, therefore suppose it totally lost. Served a little more than eighteen months—Received but one months wages, half money & half clothing during service in summer of 1783.

In the year 1782 there was part of Regiment or Continentals stationed on the Mohawk river commanded I was informed by Col. Reed, (13) Lieut. Thompson (14) of the artillery was also there, does not recollect what state he belonged to.

Is now 68 years of age the 6<sup>th</sup> day of April last was born in the year 1764 in Lebanon in the state of Connecticut when about 6 years old removed to Canaan Columbia Co. N.Y. where he resided till about 22 years of age (except when absent on service as aforesaid), when he removed to the present town of Durham in the county of Greene where he has since, and does now reside—was 18 years old when he enlisted—resided in the town of Canaan aforesaid when he enlisted—volunteered into the service as aforesaid—Has no record of his age—can state the names of no regular or militia officers except those above stated, who were with the troops. Received a discharge (15) disposed of as before stated—I can state the names of great numbers in my present neighbourhood who will testify as to my veracity & their belief of my services as a soldier of the revolution. I will mention Ichabod Olmsted, Eliphalet Ebenezer Brockett, Orrin J. Cory, Jehiel Seely, Michael Boomhower, Jeremiah White Esq, & many others. Can prove my services by Dr. Amos Hamlin and Jacob Smalling who served in the same company—Knows of no other person living by whom I can prove my services, except one James Easeland who served some few months in the corps with me, by whom I suppose I can [prove] my service long as he was with me.

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 or agency of any state. (Not signed even with his mark)

Sworn & subscribed the day & year aforesaid in open court before me. William V. B. Hermance, Clk.

End Notes—S.12020—William Avery

1. William is listed as enlisting on June 15, 1782 for 2 years. Further information given was as follows: Born in Connecticut and enlisted at Kinderhook. Age 187 years, size 6 feet, complexion—height, Hair—Brown, eyes—Hazel, Occupation—farmer. FROM: Colonel Marinus Willett's Regiment. Descriptive Book No. 4,

Doc. No. 11105, Special Collections and Manuscript Dept., New York State Library, Albany, N.Y.

2. Simeon Newell was appointed Captain in Colonel Marinus Willett's Regiment of New York State Levies on April 10, 1782. On July 24, 1782, he was appointed to recruit for the regiments raising of the defence of the State on Bounties of unappropriated land. Captain Newell was re-appointed on March 21, 1783 to serve 8 months commencing on April 1 in Willett's Regiment.
3. The home of Brigadier General Nicholas Herkimer who was killed at the Battle of Oriskany on August 6, 1777. The home is still standing and is a New York State Historic Site.
4. Rial (Ryal) Bingham was appointed lieutenant on April 10, 1782 and was assigned to serve in Captain Newell's Company.
5. There were Stockbridge Indians in Captain Newell's Company. Captain Newell had recruited men from Massachusetts and Connecticut to fill his company and many of them enlisted for two or more years of service.
6. The New York State battalion was discharged or disbanded on January 6, 1784. Colonel Willett retired on November 1, 1783.
7. Elias Van Benschoten was appointed major in Willett's Regiment on April 10, 1782, and again on January 1, 1783. He also retired on November 1, 1783. Captain Peter B. Tearse then commanded the battalion until it was disbanded.
8. Captains Jonathan Pearse, (Percy, Pearsey etc.), James Cannon, Job Wright and Edward Connor.
9. Lieutenants Timothy Hutton and Gideon Cowles.
10. First Rhode Island Continental Battalion under Lieutenant Commandant Colonel Jeremiah Olney.
11. Commander-In-Chief and General George Washington and Governor George Clinton.
12. Adjutant and Lieutenant Pliney Moor.
13. George Reid was the Lieutenant Colonel Commandant of the Second New Hampshire Continental Regiment.
14. Lieutenant Alexander Thompson of the Second Continental Regiment of Artillery.
15. Many of the soldiers sold their discharge for money and Lieutenant Pliney Moor was one of the man that bought them for a fraction of what they were worth. William according to Captain Newell's Payroll for 1783 was paid £26.60 and was owed £53.30. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 78, folder 173, National Archives, Washington, D. C.