

Pension Application for Peter P. Bellinger

R 731 and R 732
State of New York
Herkimer County SS

Christopher P. Bellinger of the town of Little Falls in said county & state being duly sworn before the court of common Pleas of the County of Herkimer doth depose & say that he is now sixty two years of age wanting a month and is the brother of Peter Bellinger residing in the town of Danube in said county, that said Peter was born in the year 1760 as deponent has always been informed by his parents & believes to be true, and deponent also believes that said Peter was a soldier in the revolutionary war and served in the militia, that deponent did not himself serve in said war but his father Colonel Peter Bellinger, and said Peter P. Bellinger were in the war—deponent further said that he has heard the statement of Peter Bellinger, of revolutionary service read which is hereunto attached, and believes the same to be correct and true, from the fact of having heard his statement often in times past which always compared with his written statement now deponent also knows that said Peter was appointed Quarter Master by the Colonel, but did not receive any written appointment to deponents knowledge and deponent further saith that during most of the revolutionary war his said brother was more or less engaged in the service & deponent resides now about four miles from his said brother & has known him & his standing in his neighbourhood ever since the war & he has always sustained a good character for truth & veracity. (Signed) C. P. Bellinger

Sworn to in October 9th 1832 in open court. Julius C. Nelson Clerk

State of New York
St. Lawrence County SS.

Peter P. Bellinger of Oswegatchie in the County of St. Lawrence, personally appeared before me & b being duly sworn deposed & saith that he formerly resided in Danube in the County of Herkimer, but that he removed to his present residence in February 1833 & that he is the same person.

This deponent further saith that in consequence of old age & consequent loss of memory he cannot state with precision the length of time he served as a soldier of the Revolution, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below & in the following grades For two months as a private soldier in the year 1777. For the succeeding four years, to wit, 1778 – 1779 – 1780 -- 1781 & 1782, he served all the time, as stated in his first declaration & the two last years he acted as a Quarter Master & the residue of the time as a private soldier. Deponent further says that this service was of the description stated in his first declaration & that when not off on duty he was in garrison & served all the time that was required to the public defence & was liable to leave the garrison at a moments warning. Deponent further says that he is certain that he was active on duty more than half of the time for the last five years But he cannot state deffinetely the amount of time in any one year, as the period of his service from the garrison were irregular, & the time when on fatigue and standing sentry at the garrison were also irregular, but the time was devoted to the public defence in such manner as required by his officers. For the above service Deponent claims a pension.
(Signed) Peter P. Bellinger.

Subscribed & sworn before me this 16th day of September 1833. R. H. Gillet, Commissioner of Deeds & to take affidavits.

Note: The following was written on ruled paper.

That deponent was born in the year 1760 in the now town of Little Falls as he has been informed by his parents & verily believes true—that there is not nor ever has been any record of his age to his knowledge & that the said deponent first entered into the service in the Revolutionary War. He resided in the now town of Little Falls in said County of Herkimer & since the Revolutionary War deponent has resided in the said Town of Little Falls & resided in said county of Herkimer wherein the deponent was inlisted & entered into the Continental Service in the Summer of the year 1776 as a militia man in a company commanded by Capt. Michael Edick (1) & Lieutenant Frederick Frank (2) which company was attached to a Regiment commanded by Col. Peter Bellinger—which Regiment mustered& Rendezvous at fort Herkimer located on the south side of the Mohawk River in the now town of German flats in the said County of Herkimer & at Fort Dayton on the north side of the river opposite Fort Herkimer—said Regiment was attached to the brigade Commanded by Gen'l Nicholas Herkimer (3) in the winter of the year 1777 the first of February as deponent believes he with others of the Company & Regiment to which he belonged volunteered to go to Ticonderoga, said Volunteers were commanded by Michael Edick deponent went with said Volunteers as far as Caghnawaga in the now County of Montgomery (which joins said County of Herkimer on the east) about forty miles from which place deponent was directed to return home by Gen'l Nicholas Herkimer who was with the volunteers, deponent was out about a fortnight as he believes. There was not much done by the militia from this time till in the spring when the Indians & Tories again infected the county & the militia & this

deponent was almost constantly engaged going on Scouting parties to different parts of the town & county, the first of July a detachment of Militia Commanded by Gen. Nicholas Herkimer went on an expedition; down the Unadilla River & was gone between two & three weeks as this deponent believes he was not in this expedition but remained at home ready for service, at this time the alarm was spread through the county that the enemy commanded by Barry St. Leger (4) was advancing by way of Oswego to invest Fort Stanwix that after the expedition returned from Unadilla--the militia of the whole county was called out & the Regiment to which deponent belonged commanded by Col. Peter Bellinger rendezvoused at Fort Herkimer on the fourth or fifth of August as deponent believes the regiment removed from Fort Herkimer across the Mohawk River to Fort Dayton on their way to relieve the garrison at Fort Stanwix which was invested by St. Leger as it was reported--At for Dayton Gen'l Nicholas Herkimer who commanded the Continental forces, ordered this deponent to return to Fort Herkimer & from there to go to Little Falls about Six miles east of Fort Herkimer & make ready to do duty there till the news of the defeat of the Continental forces at Oriskany - when this deponent went about three miles west of Fort Herkimer where he met Gen'l Herkimer who was wounded & deponent returned with him to the now town of Danube where Gen'l Herkimer's family resided--from this time till St. Leger raised--the Siege of Fort Stanwix which was on the 22d day of August as deponent believes--the militia held themselves in readiness to accompany Gen'l Arnold (5) who was expected to arrive every day from the east for the relief of Fort Stanwix. Arnold did arrive about the 20th of August as deponent believes at German flats or Fort Herkimer. From that place Gen'l Arnold sent forward Hanjost Schuyler (6) a refugee to the camp of St. Leger as deponent afterwards heard & had given him his liberty on condition that he would announce Arnolds approach & make an exaggerated statement of his forces--Arnold retained his brother as an hostage--this deponent being informed & believes true--that when Schuyler arrived at St. Legers Camp he was questioned as to the number of troops approaching--he said they were as numerous as the leaves on the trees--the Confusion became very great & St. Leger abandoned his Camp and retreated--the relief soon arrived at Fort Herkimer & the militia did not accompany Gen'l Arnold to Fort Stanwix.

This deponent further saith, that during the fall of the year as he believes, he & a number of other militia men under the command of Lieutenant Frederick Frank, were ordered out & were engaged for some time in the making roads from fort Herkimer to fort Stanwix--that during the winter of the year 1777 or 1778 (7) & which deponent cannot now state he & others of the militia of German flats in the vicinity of fort Herkimer were engaged in carrying provision from the mills at Little Falls about six miles east of Fort Herkimer to the support of the garrison at Fort Stanwix, but cannot state the year they were delivering provisions. The deponent went several times & once or twice one day at Fort Stanwix to draw wood for the garrison--deponent further saith that he helped guard Fort Herkimer from early in the spring in the year 1778 till late in the fall--& that during the summer the Indians & Tories made an incursion into & destroyed the Settlements at German Flats (8)--they attacked the fort early in the morning & was not beaten off till near night--late in the fall deponent & a number of militia were removed to fall hill about six miles from fort Herkimer & took possession of a stone house & garrisoned it during the winter & in the Spring the year 1779 (9) returned to Fort Herkimer & soon after was removed across the river to fort Dayton which deponent assisted to garrison & defend till the close of the war.--In the fall of the year, 1780, Sir John Johnson as deponent is informed & believes true, with a party of Indians & Tories burnt Schoharie (10) in the now County of Schoharie & then proceeded to Caghnawaga [Caughnawaga, now Fonda] in the now County of Montgomery & burnt the town. From Caghnawaga Johnson passed up the north side of the Mohawk River--Gen. Van Renssalaer (11) collected the Militia from Claverick & Schenectady & pursued Johnson, a battle was fought near fort Plain in the now County of Montgomery the battle (12) continuous till night when Gen. Van Rensselaer ordered his men to fall back & encamp in the evening. The enemy then retreated & passed up the Mohawk River--A of which the deponent was one of the Militia from Fort Herkimer commanded by Capt. Frederick Frank who had been stationed at Herkimer were ordered to pursue the enemy & did two or three days & then returned to Fort Dayton. Several times during the winter & summer of the year 1781--deponent with other militia from Fort Dayton had to traverse The neighborhood & town in pursuit of the Indians & Tories who were constantly prowling about--In the fall of this year the enemy as deponent is informed & believes twice made an attack upon Johnstown in the now county of Montgomery under the command of Major Ross & Walter Butler.(13) Col. Willett went from Fort Plain to attack them a battle was fought & Willett was obliged to retreat but afterwards rallied & the enemy were drove from the ground and retreated up the north side of the Mohawk River--Col. Willett sent an express to Col. Peter Bellinger Commanding at Fort Dayton to collect the militia & meet him with all his forces. Col. Bellinger joined Col. Willett according to his request about a mile north of Fort Dayton near night--deponent was with Col. Bellinger in the company commanded by Capt. Frederick Frank. The following morning - the whole force pursued the enemy & overtook them at West Canada Creek about 35 miles north of Fort Dayton & Walter Butler (14) one of the commanders of the enemy was killed. The forces commanded by Col. Peter Bellinger returned to Fort Dayton--In January or February Following Col. Willett undertook an expedition from Fort Plain in the now County of Montgomery to Oswego in the western part of the State of New York & passed up the Mohawk river on the ice--on

his return this deponent went with a detachment from fort Dayton with provisions to the relieve of Col. Willett & was out three or four days as deponent believes & then returned to Fort Dayton—

The mills seven miles east of Fort Dayton at Little falls were burnt during the war by the enemy in what year deponent does not now recollect—a company from Fort Dayton of which this deponent was once went in pursuit—a number of the inhabitants in the mills at Littlefalls east of fort Dayton were taken prisoner & some killed by the enemy—deponent was out at this time two or three days—the enemy about the same time as deponent believes made their appearance in Shells Bush about four miles from Fort Dayton & took several prisoners—deponent with a company from the fort pursued them one or two days—during this time deponent was assisting to assisting to guard Fort Dayton. The year deponent cannot now state in harvest time about September time and Tories as he believes attacked the fort about noon & were not driving away till near night. That he was appointed & did the duty of a quarter master in the war but did not receive any written appointment, having only appointed by the Colonel, Peter Bellinger, when the previous quartermaster resigned but he cannot now recollect the year of his appointment, but he believes it was in the year 1780.

That he was born in the now town of Danube in Herkimer in the house of General Nicholas Herkimer in the year 1760—

That he never received any record of his age, & does not know that any was kept by his parents—

That he resided at Little Falls when called out to the service & [?] he has lived in that town & the town of Danube & now resides in the said town of Danube.

That he entered the service as a militia man by age & served as such.

That the General of the regiment to which he belonged was Nicholas Herkimer the Colonel was Peter Bellinger is the Major was Denis Clapsaddle & when Eysler, Colonel Klock's regiment of the Militia, Colonel Ebenezer Cox regiment & Colonel Klide's regiment & belonged to the Brigade commanded by Gen. Herkimer—

That he never received a discharge from the service.

That he is acquainted with Gen. Christopher B. Bellinger of Little Falls and Peter B. Bellinger of fox? [?]and neighborhood and who can testify to his character for truth and veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution—but he has made search and is unable to obtain a witness who can testify in detail to his services in the revolutionary war and that no clergyman resides in his neighbourhood to whom he is know, & who he can procure to certify to his character for veracity.

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) Peter P. Bellinger

Sworn & Subscribed the day & year aforesaid in open court. F. E. Spinner Dept-Clerk
Letter in Pension File written in response to an inquiry, dated November 30, 1926.

I have to advise you from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim R. 731 & R. 732, it appears the Peter P. Bellinger was born in 1760 in the house of his uncle, General Nicholas Herkimer, in what was afterwards Danube, New York.

While residing in Little Falls, New York, he served from the summer of 1776 at various times during the War as private and Quartermaster in Captains Michael Ittig's, Frederick Frank's, Henry Harder's Companies, Colonel Peter Bellinger (soldier's father) New York Regiment, and was at the battles of Fort Plain and West Canada Creek, and in several skirmishes.

Some time after the War he was appointed Captain of New York Militia.

He applied for pension, October 9, 1832, while residing at Danube, New York, but the claim was not allowed, as it was not proved that he served six months.

He married September 12, 1784, Christina, her maiden name is not stated. Soldier died August 8, 1851, his wife having died several years prior.

Their son, Peter P. Bellinger, was a resident of Black Lake, New York, and aged sixty-five years in 1853. No further data on file relative to children.

Respectfully, Winfield Scott, Commissioner.

End Notes—R731 and R732—Peter P. Bellinger

1. Michael Ittig (Edick, Ittick, etc.) served as a Captain in Colonel Peter Bellinger's Fourth Regiment of Tryon County Militia from 1776-1778.
2. Frederick Frank served as Second Lieutenant in Captain Ittig's Company in 1776 and 1777. On Captain Ittig's Pay and Muster roll for February 28 to November 30, 1778, Frank is listed as first lieutenant for the company. On the same roll Peter is listed as serving four days in June as a private. His pay was £0. . 7. . 1 ¼. Also in "A Return of the militia under Capt. Ittig in Col. Peter Bellingers Bat", Peter is listed for serving four days during "Gen. Harkemans Battle Augt ye 6, 1777". The men that actually were in the battle and not killed were listed as serving eight days. Both rolls were FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 72, folder 78, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

3. Nicholas Herkimer was appointed Brigadier General on September 5, 1776, of the Tryon County Militia Brigade.
4. Brigadier General Barry St. Leger with a mixed force of British Regulars, Indians, Loyalists, and German besieged Fort Schuyler (Fort Stanwix) on August 3, 1777. The Battle of Oriskany was fought on August 6, 1777.
5. Major General Benedict Arnold of the Continental Army.
6. Hon Yost Schuyler's brother who was held hostage, was Nicholas.
7. It appears from the following extract that Peter was a lieutenant in Bellinger's Regiment in February of 1778. *"Tryon County Committee Chamber. Feb. 5, 1778. On Examination of Lt. Peter P. Bellinger. Resolved that he be committed to Goal (Jail) to be Kept in close confinement till further orders. Resolved that Mr. Peter Sits take into Custody Mr. Peter P. Bellinger and to deliver him to the Goaler (Jailer) of Johnstown to be kept there in Close confinement. "* FROM: Manuscript in Revolutionary Autographs, Vol. 2, P. 106. So far what he was arrested for is not known. There would have been a Court Martial at some point since he was serving as a private in June of 1778.
8. Captain William Caldwell and Joseph Brant attacked and destroyed the German Flatts on September 17, 1778.
9. According to an "Abstract of Pay due to col. Peter Bellinger and his Regiment of Tryon County Militia in the Service of the United States (burned) Day of June 1779 to the Month of December 1780 on different Detachments and Excursions." Peter served as Quartermaster with the rank of lieutenant as follows: October (79) 4 days, November (79) 4 days and in 1780, March 3 days, April 2 days, July 4 days, September 5 days, October 5 days for a total of 27 days. His wages per day 3/5 3/5 total of £4. . 13. . 7 1/5 10d. Ration Subsistence per Day total of £ 1. . 2 . . 6. Tyron County Militia, Box 14, No. 9, Doc No. 002205, Special Collections and Manuscripts, New York State Library, Albany, NY.
10. Sir John Johnson with British forces raided and burned the Schoharie Valley on October 17, 1780. Eventually Sir John made his way to the Stone Arabia settlement. After destroying the American forces there under Colonel John Brown, Johnson's men destroyed the settlement.
11. Brigadier General Robert VanRensselaer of the Second Brigade of the Albany County Militia.
12. Van Rensselaer actually caught up with Johnson's forces near present day St. Johnsville in the afternoon of the 19th. This battle is known as the Battle of Klocksfield.
13. Major John Ross and Captain Walter Butler with British forces burned several settlements on October 24, 1781. On the 25th they crossed the Mohawk River and marched for the Village of Johnstown. In the afternoon of October 25th, Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant Marinus Willett with American troops found Major Ross' men near Johnson Hall and a battle was fought until it was too dark to tell friend from foe.
14. Captain Butler was killed at West Canada Creek on October 30, 1781.
15. The Oswego Expedition was in February of 1783.
16. Ellice's Mill was destroyed on June 21, 1782.
17. Majors Augustinus Hess and John Eisenlord of Bellinger's Regiment. Both were killed at the Battle of Oriskany.
18. Jacob Klock, Colonel of the Second Regiment of Tryon County Militia.
19. Ebenezer Cox was the Colonel of the First Regiment of Tryon County Militia. Colonel Cox was killed at the Battle of Oriskany.
20. Samuel Clyde was commissioned Lieutenant-Colonel of the First Regiment of Tryon County Militia on June 25, 1778.