

Pension Application for Jacob Bell

W.17292 (Widow: Elizabeth)
State of New York
Herkimer County SS.

On this eighteenth day of February in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty nine personally appeared before me Charles Gray, a Judge of the court of Common Pleas in and for said County the same being a court of record, Elizabeth Bell a resident of German Flatts in the county and State aforesaid aged Eighty two years in April next 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 Jacob Bell deceased who was a private in Captain Harter's (1) Company, Col. Bellinger's Regiment in the War of the Revolution, don't recollect the particular service he rendered in Captain Henry Harter's Company but refers to the testimony on file in the office of the Commissioners of Pension at Washington and which Evidence was obtained by her husband and the said Jacob Bell deceased in his life time—That she well recollects the Spring after their marriage he was Enlisted in the boat Service under Captain McGee or (2) McKean at that time commonly called McGee for nine months and that he was absent from home as said service the whole of the said term of nine months with the exception that during the term he came home on a furlough. That during said term of nine months as he afterwards told her he was in the boat service of the United States on the Hudson River from Albany north carrying provision for Gen'l Schuyler's (3) Army. That he was at Saratoga & Half Moon. That he also was in the boat service on the Mohawk River. She well recollects also that afterwards he Enlisted in a Company called the Ranger Company under Captain Bigbread (4) as he was commonly called but is now informed that his name was Bradbick and that he was absent from home in said last mentioned service a number of months—that he was frequently out in Service in Captain Harter's Company. She further declares that she was married to the said Jacob Bell on New Year's Day in the winter following surrender of Genl Burgoyne, recollects that her husband the said Jacob Bell was absent from home when the Oriskany battle took place and that in the same fall Burgoyne was taken. (5) The circumstances of her marriage with the said Jacob Bell she well recollects—That Cath—Harter who afterwards married Michael Myers and is now the widow of Michael Myers deceased and Catharine Hilts who afterwards married a Mr. Cristman and is now not living stood up with her as Bride's maids, and that Michael Myers who is also dead and Adam Weber who as she is informed is also dead, stood up with the said Jacob Bell and served as groomsmen. That she then resided in Herkimer and that they all went together to German flatts in one sleigh to the house of the Rev. Abraham Rosencrantz, who solemnized their marriage at his house and that they all returned together from the house of Rev. Abraham Rosecrantz after their marriage to Herkimer. That she has no record of her marriage and was always informed that the records of the Rev. Mr. Rosencrants which he had in the early part of the war were destroyed during the war—That her husband the aforesaid Jacob Bell died on the Eighth day of January one thousand eight hundred and thirty eight and that she has remained a widow ever since that period as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed—That her husband the said Jacob Bell in his life time applied for a pension under the act of June 7, 1832. That he made his declaration and obtained testimony under the act of June 7, 1832. That he made his declaration and obtained testimony and forwarded his claim to the Pension office five or six years ago but that he received no pension, and that she has lately been informed that her husband the said Jacob Bell was entitled to a pension to which declaration and proof she refers. (Signed with her mark) Elizabeth Bell

Sworn to this 18th day of February 1839 before me. Charles Gray a Judge of the Herkime County Courts and State.

State of New York
Herkimer County SS.

On this 22nd day of October in the year eight hundred and thirty five, personally appeared before me, John B. Dygert Esq. a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of said County, Jacob Bell, a resident of Herkimer in said county of Herkimer and State of New York age eighty six years on the first day of January 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 7th 1832, That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated, to wit, the first tour and campaign he was drafted and entered the service in the spring of the first year of the war and served two days under Captain Henry Harter (6), Lieutenant John Myers (7), the Ensign's name he cannot now recollect that on this occasion he went from Herkimer to Johnstown, the Col name was Frederick Bellinger all the militia in this regiment were drafted or called out and went on this occasion, that he was honourably discharged at the Expiration of his said two days service, but that he cannot state the particular day or month or perhaps the years when he was drafted or called out or entered or was discharged from the service.—

That the Second term and campaign was drafted and entered the service in the Summer of the first campaign of the war and served eight days under Captain Henry Harder, that on this occasion he went to Rome and helped work on the Fort there—that there was a general had command there then, but he cannot now recollect his name, it was not Genrl Herkimer, that he was honourably discharged at the expiration of his said eight days service, but that he cannot state the particular day or month when he was drafted and entered or was discharged from the service.

That the third term and campaign he Enlisted and entered into the navy service for nine months in the spring of the second year of the war under Captain William McKie that he cannot now recollect the name of Either of the other company officers or masters name was Lewis as he believes, that his business during this term or campaign was conveying in boats and other craft provisions and ammunition of war for the Army from Albany to Half Moon, Fort Edward, Stillwater and other places as directed, that after he had served a month as near as he can recollect he got a furlough and came home to attend to his own affairs and staid nearly a month and then returned to his duty again and Serve out his time that it was during this term and campaign and he believes after Harvest that General Burgoynes Army was taken, that his recollection is that General Schuyler was turned out and that General Gates (8) took the command of the American Army before Burgoynes Army was taken, that he was honourably discharged at the expiration of his said term of service at Albany, but that he cannot state the particular day or month or perhaps the year when he Enlisted and Entered or was discharged from the service—that for this last mentioned service he received his pay in Continental Bills and lost it or nearly all of it.

That the fourth term and campaign he volunteered and entered the service after he got home from his last mentioned term of service and he believes near the first of January under Captain Henry Harder, and was stationed at Fort Dayton and done the general duties of the comp. there, and as standing centry, scouting, watching the encampments of the Enemy, going out on guard during the after part of the winter season and for as much as five months, at the expiration of which said expiration term of service he was honourably discharged at Fort Dayton but that he cannot state the particular day or month or perhaps the year that he volunteered and entered the service or was discharged from the service, that his recollection is that it was cold weather when he returned home from Albany, and that he entered this last mentioned service within a few days after he got home, and that the service was gone when he was discharged and the weather mild.

That the fifth term and campaign he enlisted and entered the service in the spring of the year [?] last mentioned service and served as [?] five months and he believes longer in a campaign with the Mohawk Rangers commanded by Captain Bigbread, Lieutenants Adam Helmer, the Ensigns name he does not now recollect the orderly Sergeants name was Joseph Moyers (9), that his business serving this term & campaign was standing centry scouting, watching the movements of the enemy and the general duties of the camp that on this occasion he was engaged in frequent skirmishes with the Tories and Indians, that his principal station during this term and campaign was at Fort Dayton, Col. Peter Bellinger had command at the Fort then—that he was honourably discharged at the Expiration of his said term of Enlistment & service but that he cannot now state the particular day month or year when he enlisted & entered or was discharged from the service.

That the sixth term and campaign he volunteered and entered the service in the forepart of the winter succeeding the service last aforesaid and served as long as four months under Captain Peter Bellinger(10) a nephew of the Col., that his business during this term and campaign was standing centry and the general duties of the camp and that he was stationed at Fort Dayton that he was honourably discharged at the expiration of the term for which he volunteered to serve but that he cannot now state the particular day, month or year when he volunteered & entered or was discharged from the service, that his recollection is much impaired by age & infirmities and does not now furnish him with any further important particulars in respect to his said services that he has been cautious not to overestimate the amount or importance of his said services that he has served more than he has stated above but that not being able to state the same particularly he declines stating them generally, that he was married to his present wife before the Revolutionary War and that he knows of no other person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services.

1st Where and in what year were you born?

I was born in the town of Herkimer in now German flatts in the State of New York; and on the 1st January 1747.

2d Have you any record of your age, and if so where is it?

I have no record of my age & state it from traditional recollections.

3d Where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the revolutionary war and where do you now live?

I have lived in the town of Herkimer from my birth to this time—but the town has been divided so that a part of the time I lived out of what is now Herkimer.

4th How were you called into Service, were you drafted, did you volunteer or were you a substitute and if a substitute for whom?

I was called into service 1st by a draft secondly, thirdly, fourthly, fifthly & sixthly and on all other occasions I volunteered or enlisted—I never was a substitute for any person—

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served and Continental and Militia Regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your services.

In addition to what I have stated & have in my declaration, I recollect Captain Damouth (11) who commanded a company of Mohawk Rangers, General Herkimer (12) at Fort Rensselaer, Captain Samuel Gray (13), I can't recollect the names of any other officer nor the circumstances of my services were as & have states above in my declaration.

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from that service and if so by whom was it given, and what has become of it.

I never received any other than a verbal discharge, this I usually received in arms from the Captain or some other officer than in command.

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution.

Reverend John P. Spinner pastor of the Dutch Reformed Church in Herkimer and Col. Frederick P. Bellinger, late sheriff of Herkimer County and a member of the assembly of the State of New York—and now Supervisor of Herkimer reside near neighbours to me and have known me for a long time and are well acquainted with my character for veracity and are qualified to testify in respect to their belief of my services as a soldier of the Revolution.

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 the agency of any state. (Signed with his mark) Jacob Bell

Sworn to and Subscribed the day & year aforesaid before me John B. Dygert, Judge Herkimer Co. Courts.
Reply dated February 11, 1935, to a letter of inquiry.

Reference is made to your letter requesting the Revolutionary War record of Jacob Bell of Herkimer, New York.

The date which follow were obtained from papers on file in the pension claim W.17292, based upon the Revolutionary War service of Jacob Bell.

He was born January 1, 1747, at Herkimer, New York. The names of his parents were not given.

While a resident of that place he enlisted and served as a private with the New York Troops as follows: in the spring of 1776, two days under Captain Henry Harder and Colonel Frederick Bellinger; in the summer of 1776, eight days under Captain Henry Harder; from the spring of 1777, nine months under Captain William McKie and was engaged in the boat service, conveying provisions and munitions of war from Albany to various places; from about the first of January 1778, five months under Captain Henry Harder; from the winter of 1778-9, five months in a company of Mohawk rangers under Captain Bigbread and was principally stationed at Fort Dayton which was commanded by colonel Peter Bellinger from the following winter he served four months under Captain Peter Bellinger, the nephew of Colonel Peter Bellinger.

Jacob Ball died January 8, 1838, at German Flats, New York, having lived at Herkimer until two or three years before his death.

The soldier married at German Flats January 31, 1776, Elizabeth Weber and both were residents of Herkimer at that time.

End Notes—W.17292—Jacob Bell

1. Captain Henry Harter (or Herter, Harder, etc.) of Colonel Peter Bellinger's Fourth Regiment of Tryon County Militia. On "A Roll of Capt. Harter's Company Fort Dayton, June 1st 1779" Jacob is listed as serving the following days per month: June 6, July 9, August 14, September 1, October 6, and November 6. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 72, Folder 78, National Archives, Washington, DC.
2. Captain William McGee's Company of Bateamen were active on the Hudson River in 1777.
3. Major General Philip Schuyler of the Continental Army.
4. Jacob enlisted on July 1, 1778 in Captain John Breadbake's (or Bradpick, Bedbig, Bigbread, etc) Company of Rangers attached to Colonel Morris Graham's Regiment. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls, 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 74, Folder 106, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
5. The Battle of Oriskany was fought on August 6, 1777 and Lieutenant General John Burgoyne with his British, German, Loyalist, and Indian allies, advanced down the Hudson River Valley towards Albany until he surrendered his troops on October 17, 1777.
6. The officers that served under Captain Harter were as follows: John Demuth as the First Lieutenant, Peter James Weaver as the Second Lieutenant, and John T. Bellinger as Ensign.
7. John Meyers as an ensign in Captain Frederick Getman's Company in Colonel Bellinger's Regiment.
8. Major General Horatio Gates replaced General Schuyler in August of 1777.

9. Lieutenant Adam Helmer and and Sergeant Joseph Helmer served in Captain Breadbake's Company of Rangers.
10. A Peter Bellinger was appointed Captain of the Fifth Company in Colonel Bellinger's Regiment on August 26, 1775, but by 1776 Michael Ittig or Edick, etc., was Captain of the company.
11. Captain Hans Marcus Demuth commanded a Company of Tryon county Rangers from August 1, 1776 to march 27, 1777. He also commanded a company of Levies in 1780 in Colonel Lewis DuBois' Regiment.
12. Nicholas Herkimer was appointed on September 5, 1776 as Brigadier General of the Tryon County Militia Brigade.
13. Samuel Gray served as an officer in Colonel Jacob Klock's Second Regiment of Tryon County Militia. Gray also was a Captain of a Company of Bateamen in 1779 and 1780 on the Mohawk River.