

## **Pension Application for Henry Brewster**

State of New York

Orange County

This may Certify that Henry Brewster was Lieut. in a late Regiment of Militia raised within this State under my command. That he was on actual duty commanding a Company at Fort Montgomery on the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1777 when the said Fort was taken by assault. That it was his fortune to be in a Redoubt commanded by Lieut. Col. McClaughry, (1) who with his men defended it till they were many of them kill'd and wounded by the Enemy's Bayonets. That the said Lieut. Henry Brewster at that time received several wounds by Bayonets in different parts of his Body, and a violent bruise on the head from the butt of a firelock. That myself the Subscriber Lieut. Brewster and many others were carried Prisoners on board one of the enemys Ships called the Archer where the Subscriber saw him and supposed from the nature of his wounded that he could scarcely survive them. That one of his wound aforesaid was by the thrust of a Bayonet, which entered his right side near the small of his Back reaching the Same and disabling him to that degree that myself and other officers of his acquaintance were of opinion that if he survived it would render him unfit for farther Service or Labour as a farmer.

In consequence of his said wounds when he arrived at New York was taken to the Hospital and from thence on board of a prison Ship where he suffered almost unto death. I think that Lieut. Brewster must (from what knowledge I have of the matter be in a great measure incapacitated from gaining a livelihood by Industry. William Allison (Col.) (2)

Given Under My Hand at Goshen in Said County ye 2d Day of October 1786.  
From: New York in The Revolution Volume II, pg 32. 1898, Roberts & Mather 1901.

Orange County SS.

Henry Brewster being Duly sworn Deposeth and saith that he entered into the minnit service in September 1775 in Capt. Moffats Company in Colonel Nicholas Regiment and march'd to New Windsor and Continued there on Duty about one month then he on the 29 of February 1776 march'd to Fort Constitution in Capt. Moffats (3) Company Colonel Nichols Regiment (4) and continued on Duty untill the 15<sup>th</sup> May following; and on the 28<sup>th</sup> July 1776 he was appointed a Lieutenant in Capt. Moffats Company Colonel Nichols Regiment (5) of Orange County Levies and was Discharged on the first Day of January 1777, and sometime in the month of July in 1777 he Joined Capt Pearsons Company of Orange County Levies for 4 months in William Allisons (6) Regiment and that on the 6<sup>th</sup> Day of October 1777 he was badly wounded and taken Prisoner carried to New-York Confined in the British Hospital Prison Ship and Shugar House untill the 21<sup>st</sup> Day of January 1778 then put on Parole (7) on Long Island and Continued in Captivity three years and four months.

That he entered into the Levie service a Capt. in Colonel Wisenfels (8) Regiment from the 28<sup>th</sup> of July 1781 and on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November following he was Discharged.  
(Signed) Henry Brewster

March 31st 1818

Sworn the 31 March 1818 before me Natn H. White, first Judge of the Court of Com. Pleas of the County of Orange and of the State of N-Y.

End Notes—S.28366—Henry Brewster

1. James McClaughrey was the colonel of the Second Regiment of Ulster County Militia.
2. William Allison was the colonel of the Fourth Regiment of Orange County Militia.
3. Thomas Moffat was appointed the Captain of the Blooming Grove Minute Man Company in Colonel Isaac Nicholl's Regiment of Orange County Minute Men on September 19, 1775. The other company officers were Seth Marvin as the first lieutenant, James Little was the second lieutenant and Nathan Strong as the ensign. On March 7, 1776 William Bradley was appointed ensign in place of Nathan Strong.
4. Isaac Nicoll or Nicholl was appointed Colonel of the Orange County Minute Men Regiment on September 19, 1775. The following were the field officers of the regiment. Gilbert Cooper as the lieutenant colonel, and Hendrick VanderLinden VanBryck as the major. On February 29, 1776 Colonel Nicoll wrote to Brigadier General George Clinton from Fort Constitution, which supports Brewster's statement. They were there building and guarding the fort. When the regiment left in May of 1776, the Fourth New York Continental Regiment took their place as the garrison. On June 5, 1776, the Provincial Congress of New York made a resolution to dissolve all the minute men regiments in the Province of New York. New York did not become a state until July 4, 1776 with the Declaration of Independence.
5. On July 16<sup>th</sup>, 1776 a call for troops from Orange County was made and Colonel Nicoll was appointed to command these levies. Cooper and VanBryck were lieutenant Colonel and major as they had been in the minute men regiment. There appears to be no returns for this regiment until September 27, 1776. The returns are on a weekly basis with the numbers etc., for each company. By this time Moffat is the major in place of VanBryck and First Lieutenant Joshua Brown is promoted to captain. The returns list Henry as a lieutenant and "Absent on command to get cloths for Capt'n Brow's Company" as early as October 4, 1776. On some of the returns they specify "winter cloths". Henry was absent on this duty "on command" still in the middle of November. During this time the Battle of White Plains, New York was fought on October 28, 1776. The regiment was discharged on January 1, 1776. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 75, folder 132, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
6. On August 1, 1777, 500 men were to be raised from Orange and Ulster Counties and were to be under Colonel Allison at Fort Montgomery. From Colonel McClaughrey's Regiment 110 men with 2 captains and 4 lieutenants, 78 men from Colonel Jesse Woodhull's First Regiment of Orange County Militia

with 1 captain and 2 lieutenants, 78 men from Colonel Allison's Regiment with 1 captain and 2 lieutenants and 100 men from Colonel Jonathan Hasbrouck's Fourth Regiment of Ulster County Militia with 2 captains and 4 lieutenants. So far a list of officers for this draft have not been found but Major Moffat is mentioned. Henry might be referring to Captain Silas Pierson or Pearson from Colonel Woodhull's Regiment. FROM: Public Papers of George Clinton First Governor of New York, ed Hugh Hastings, Wynkoop Hallenback Crawford Co., Vol II pp 154-156, 1900.

7. Henry and several others were on parole waiting to be exchanged for a British Officers of equal rank held by American forces. One of the terms of being on parole was not to help or participate in activity against the British cause. While Henry was on Long Island several wives obtained passes to visit their husbands. "Mrs. Brewster" is listed on a pass for May 15, 1779. FROM: Public Papers of George Clinton First Governor of New York, ed. Hugh Hastings, Wynkoop Hallenback Crawford Col, 1900, vol. IV, pp 825-827.
8. Henry was appointed captain in Lieutenant Colonel Commandant Frederick Weisenfel's Regiment of New York State Levies in 1781. He is listed as Henry Brewster, Junr.