

Pension Application for William Sly

R.9668

State of New York
Orange County SS.

On this third day of September in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty two personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the County of Orange aforesaid now sitting at the heading in the village of Newburgh (It being a Court of Record) William Sly a resident of the Town of New Windsor in the county and State aforesaid aged seventy two 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 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

In April 1777 he entered the company of Capt. William Telford in which James Faulkner and Alexander Beaty were Lieutenants and Robert Buchannen orderly Sergeant, James McLaughry was Colonel of the Regiment and Jacob Newkerk and Moses Phillips were Majors.

In April one thousand seven hundred and seventy seven shortly after deponent was enrolled in said company of Militia there was an alarm at Fort Montgomery situated in the Highlands on the West side of the Hudson River the whole company were ordered down. They marched from New Windsor by land crossed the mountains to West Point left the Point to the left and proceeded to Fort Montgomery. Deponent cannot recollect of seeing any troops at West Point at that time. General George and General James Clinton with whom deponent was well acquainted were at Fort Montgomery when we arrived there a party of Colonel Dubois and a part of Colonel McLaughry's Regiment was there. Deponent well recollects that there was a company of artillery at that Fort but who was the company thereof deponent cannot now distinctly recollect. Captain John Billkness Company of [yearsman?] was also there. We were employed there on fatigue and staid one week and were there discharged and returned home by virtue to New Windsor. About the 15th of the same month there was another alarm at the same place. The whole company went down as far as New Windsor and were then ordered to scour the mountains for a band of Tories and one Captain Rose. We went with and took most of them Rose himself was taken and afterwards hung at Kingston in Ulster County we were three days out in this service at this time.

In the month of June in the same year I was one of a detachment of said company sent to Fort Clinton Col. McLaughry, Colonel Pauling and the Clintons were there, we marched over the mountains to West Point & from there to the fort aforesaid we staid there one month & were employed on fatigue. We were then marched to and returned by water about the 28th day of September 1777. A detachment under Captain Vail of the same regiment were ordered down again on an alarm to the place aforesaid. We went by water from New Windsor aforesaid and remained there until the day of the battle which took place on the sixth day of October in the year aforesaid a little previous to the battle we were ordered to the opposite side of the river & stationed near a place called Anthony's Nose as a guard Captain Lee of Colonel Lewis Dubois Regiment commanded our party. The two Clintons commanded the troops at Forts Clinton & Montgomery. Colonel McLaughry's Regiment was at Fort Clinton under his immediate command a part of Dubois Regiment with Moody's Company of Artillery defended Fort Montgomery—a detachment of British Troops under the command of Sir Henry Clinton in person having passed thro a defile in the Mountains approached Fort Clinton on the South side of Popolopen Kill directly opposite to Fort Montgomery thro a settlement on the bank of the river which extended from the river to the Bear Mountain on the west at the foot of which a small pond stretches about a quarter of a mile in length. This settlement is commonly called Doodle Town another detachment under the immediate command of Colonel Campbell approached Fort Montgomery by way of Queensborough furnace keeping the road which leads from said furnace along the bank of Popolopen Kill in and Eastern direction to the river. The detachment to which deponent then belonged was stationed at Antoney's Nose on the East side of the Hudson River on an elevation over looking the Forts Montgomery and Clinton and commanding a full view of the respective movements of the contending parties. The detachment of Sir Henry Clinton arrived at Fort Clinton about one o'clock in the afternoon and having summoned it to surrender commenced the attack with great firmness which was resisted with great obstinacy until near dark when the last Redoubt on that side of the Popolopen Kill having made a most brave and determined resistance surrendered. Colonel Campbell was killed and Colonel McLaughry severely wounded and taken prisoners the men under his command were taken prisoners and confined in New York after the battle of Fort Montgomery our detachment returned by land to Dutchess County crossed the river at New Windsor and returned home on the next Thursday thereafter we found that part of our regiment which had escaped from Fort Montgomery and returned to New Windsor under the command of Major Newkirk upon whom the command devolved in consequence of the absence of Colonel McLaughry in New York as aforesaid. The remains of Dubois Regiment and Mood's Company of artillery were at New Windsor. At this time Webb's Regiment of Continental troops was at the square about four miles west from the river. We remained at New Windsor six weeks & while there Taylor the British spy was taken at the square and hung at Hurley near Kingston.

In the month of November in the year 1777 a detachment of our company under the command of Captain Telford and Lieutenant Beaty were ordered to assist in fortifying Nicolls Point. I was there with said detachment. We worked six weeks on the fortifications under Captain Machin & were then discharged having performed our tour of duty. In the month of March 1778 I was one of a detachment under the command of Captain Fetter of our Regiment which was ordered to West Point to fortify. We went by water and were employed in erecting Fort Clinton we were at this place one fortnight and returned home by land. Colonel Warner commanded the Militia at West Point, Colonel Humphrey's was there at this time. In the month of October 1778 attachment of our company

under the command of Captain McBride of our Regiment were ordered to [?] on the Indian frontier one Cantine was Colonel of the regiment stationed there at that time. We remained at [?] one fortnight and then returned. Captain Vail there at the same time with a company of Militia.

In the same month and year last aforesaid there was an alarm at Peenpack on the Indian frontier near the confluence of the Neversink and Delaware Rivers, our Regiment was ordered out under the command of Major Phillips before named. George Denniston was adjutant Captain Telford commanded our company. We remained there three days until the alarm subsided.

In the month of June in the year 1779 the whole of our regiment was ordered to the forrest of dean two or three miles west of Fort Montgomery on an alarm. The British threatened an attack. We went down by water (Colonel Newkirk commanded the Regiment) and landed at West Point from whence we marched by night having Fort Montgomery on the left. The object of this movement was to prevent the enemy from falling on West Point in the rear & taking it by surprise. We had orders not to speak on the march in order that if we should meet the enemy we might fall on them by surprise. We remained there ten days until the threaten alarm was over and were discharged. We returned by land thro the clove where we fell in with General Hands Division of Continental troops. Encamped who had lately arrived from the south in the State of New Jersey. There was a guard of Continental troops at the forrest of dean whilst we were encamped there.

In the month of April 1780 we went to Mamakating on the Indian Frontier under the command of Lieutenant Alexander Deaty to guard the frontier settlements and relieve some other detachment. We remained there two weeks and returned in the month of June 1780. The whole of our Regiment under the command of the said Colonels, Newkirk and Phillips were ordered to West Point on a general alarm. Our company was commanded by Captain Telford and the other officers before named belonging to said company. We went by water & were employed on fatigue whilst there in fortifying to repel and attack. We remained there ten days & returned to new Windsor by water. [Hosecks?] was chief engineer at that place. General James Clinton was there and General Patterson with his brigade of Continental troops. July first 1780 I went to help in the State of New Jersey with straglers from Burgoynes army which had before been sent southward—Lieutenant Beaty was the officer of the guard. We were gone one week.

In the month of October 1780 our regiment was ordered to the Indian frontier under the command of Major Phillips, Newkirk commanded the regiment after Colonel McLaughry had been taken prisoner as aforesaid. We were stationed at Peenpack aforesaid one week expecting at attack from the British and Indians some of the nine months men were there at this time. And deponent so saith that in addition to his person served before related that before the battle of Fort Montgomery before mentioned he was one of a class of four man whose names were John Sly, William Sly, Robert Cross & Robert Burnett, all of the Town of New Windsor, County & State aforesaid.. That said class hired a man as substitute for them by the name of James Perry who was to serve for them three months. He entered to serve according to his agreement & was killed at the Battle of Fort Montgomery and deponent also saith that from the year 1778 to the year 1781 he was one of a class of eight persons consisting of his father Samuel, his brother John Sly, Edward Miller, John Finley, John Buchannan, Thomas McKee, Robert Cross, Daniel Greenwalt, Joseph McLamphen & Thomas Elliot were hired by them for nine months each. That said substitutes entered the service and served out their times respectively and were all (as well as the Individuals who belonged to said Class since dead as deponent has been informed and believes with the exception of this deponent.

And in answer to the Interrogatories specially put to this deponent by the said court he on his oath saith that he was born in the Town of New Windsor aforesaid in the year 1760. That he has no record of his age. That he lived in the Town of New Windsor aforesaid when he entered the service and has lived there ever since. Deponent belonged to the company of Captain William Telford of Colonel James McLaughry's Regiment in which Moses Phillips & Jacob Newkirk were Majors—James Faulkner & Alexander Beaty were Lieutenants & Robert Buchannan was orderly sergeant and was ordered into serve with the rest of the company. That the names of the Regular officers who were with the troops where he served have been before particularly mentioned in this affidavit and also the continental and Militia Regiments he recollect and the general circumstances of his service—that he never received a written discharge from the service it having not been the practice in the militia to give written discharges. That he is known to William Beaty, Joseph Beaty, James Boyd and John McMichael all of the Town of New Windsor aforesaid who served in the same company with deponent at the same time in the Revolutionary War.

And he is also known to Robert K. Burnett Esquire and Joseph Morrel Esquire of said Town who were officers of the Revolution on the Continental Establishment and who can testify to deponents character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. (Signed) William Sly

Sworn to and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid. Asa Dunning, clerk