

Pension Application for John Steenburgh or Steenbergh

R.10102 (Widow: Anna Margaret)

State of New York

On this third day of September AD 1842, personally appeared in open court before the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Saratoga now sitting at Ballston Spa Anna Margaret Steenbergh, who resides in the Town of Milton in the County of Saratoga and State of New York aforesaid aged Seventy Five years; who being duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath, make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the Act of Congress passed July 7, 1838, entitled "An Act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows."

That she is the widow of John Steenbergh who was a private in the Revolutionary Army in the Militia of the State of New York. That according to the best of her knowledge information or belief her husband the said John Steenbergh resided in Half Moon in the then County of Albany and State of New York when he entered into the service of the United States and served as a private—in the company commanded by Captain John Vandenberg, Lieut TenBroeck & Ensign Waldo in the Regiment of Militia of the State of New York commanded by Jacobus VanSchoonhoven Colonel, that he served as a private under the aforesaid officers for five or six tours, commencing in June 1777 and ending in the year 1781 or 1782.

And she further states that her husband the said John Steenbergh was at the time of his death, an applicant for a pension under the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832, by a reference to his declaration under the aforesaid act, now on file in the War Department will show the particular circumstances of his revolutionary services.

She further declares that she was married to the said John Steenbergh on or about the 22nd day of February in the year seventeen hundred and eighty five at Lansingburgh in the then County of Albany, now Rensselaer and State of New York by the Reverend W. Lupton Pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Lansingburgh aforesaid.

That previous to her said marriage, he name was Anna Margaret Demett and that she resided in Halfmoon in the county of Albany in the State of New York, and that her husband the said John Steenbergh, died, at the Town of Milton in the County of Saratoga and State of New York in the year 1834, on the 26th day of January and she further states that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the first day of January, seventeen hundred and ninety four; viz; at the time above stated.

And she further states that she has not since intermarried but continues to be the widow of the aforesaid John Steenburgh deceased, as will more fully appear by the proof hereto annexed. (Signed with her mark) Anna M. Steenburgh

Subscribed and sworn to on the day and year first within written before the court in open court.
Archibald Smith, Clerk

State of New York

County of Saratoga SS.

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned, a Justice of the Peace in & for the County of Saratoga John Steenburgh who being duly sworn deposes and saith that by reason of old age and consequent loss of memory he can not swear positively as to the precise length of his service; but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades:

1 mo 5 day In 1777 June for one month & five days I served as a private.

3 mo in 1775 for three months I served as a private.

3 mo 1779 for three months I served as a private.

4 mo 10 day 1780 for 4 months 10 days I served as a private.

In all I served for eleven months & 15 days as above & served as a private for which I claim a pension. (Signed with his mark) John Steenburgh.

Sworn & Subscribed before me the 25th day of December 1833. Oran G. Otis, Justice

State of New York
County of Saratoga SS.

On this 28th day of August 1833, personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the court of Common Pleas in & for the county of Saratoga and State of New York now sitting at the Village of Ballston Spa, John Steenburgh a resident in Milton in said County & State of New York aged seventy three 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.

To the question where and in what year were you born? He answers and says in Fishkill in the County of Dutchess [Dutchess] and State of New York, March 23, 1760 which is recorded in his father's family Bible now in possession of my brother Jacobus Steenburgh at Middle Town.

3. To the question, where were you living when called into service? Where have you lived since the Revolutionary War, and where do you now live? He answers and says. That at the commencement of the Revolutionary War, he lived in Halfmoon, in the then County of Albany now Saratoga & State of New York where he lived until 1811, when he moved to Milton in said County of Saratoga, where he has lived ever since, and where he now lives.

4. To the question How were you called into service; were you drafted, did you volunteer or were you a substitute and if a substitute for whom? He answers and says, In 1776, being then sixteen years of age he was enrolled into captain John VanDenbergh's Company of Infantry in Colonel Jacobus VanSchoonhoven's Regiment of New York Militia in Half moon County of Albany (now Saratoga) and State of New York---Ten Broek was first Lieutenant and William Waldo Ensign.

In 1777 in June he was called out into service under the above named officers, on alarm, he marched under the aforesaid officers from Halfmoon through Stillwater to fort Edward where we were stationed (a part of our company only went) with some other companies of our Regiment, don't remember the names of their officers, at Fort Edward there were sever Militia companies, but don't remember their officer's names.

While at Fort, E, about 100 soldiers were selected to go through White Creek & other places to Fort George of which scout this deponent was one in order to drive the cattle, sheep, hogs, horses &c from before the enemy & bring them into Fort Edw'd which duty we performed, Major Brown he thinks commanded the scout, after returning to the fort he this deponent continued on duty on guard until July he was permitted to return home having served as aforesaid. One month & five days at least & served as a private.

In 1778 in June, when he resided in Halfmoon aforesaid & belonged to Captain Vandenburgh's Company aforesaid in Colonel VanSchoonhoven's Regiment of Militia as aforesaid, being situation on the Frontier & the country new & many of the inhabitants were Tories, who were in the habit of harboring the enemy, then in the habit of making incursions from Canada in small parties by which means the Whig inhabitants were in almost constant alarm. These parties would increase their numbers by new recruits from amongst the Inhabitants--& return to Canada with as many of the principle Whigs as they could seize upon, generally taking them on surprise at dead hour of the night while sleeping & convey them prisoners to Canada being frequently harassed by the enemy as aforesaid he this deponent was called into service under the aforesaid officers in order to protect the defenceless inhabitants, that from June to November he served on alarms and scouting parties through Stillwater & Dunning Street Ballston Lake & Halfmoon doing duty on guard, that during the period aforesaid he was in constant

service as aforesaid for at least three months as a private when he was verbally discharged by Captain Vandenberg aforesaid at Fort Edward of said service he has no documentary evidence.

In 1779 similar depredations were committed by the Tories &c as were committed in 78, and our company of Militia with the Regiment were frequently called out on alarms and in scouting parties to serve in the said Town of Halfmoon & other places besides the service aforesaid he this deponent served under Captain VanDenbergh on a tour to Fort Edward through Stillwater & served at least three months from the spring of '79 to the fall of the same year in November. He recollects that Colonel Seth Warner was at Fort Edward while he was then with his Regiment of Continental Troops.

In 1780 he this deponent continued to reside at Halfmoon aforesaid & early in the Spring was called out into the service under the before named officers to hunt Tories from Canada, headed by the noted Capt. Joe Bettys who had previously deserted the American service & joined the British in Canada & one Walter Myers both well known in this quarter their resentment was personal in the Whigs of their old acquaintance. In 1780 or 1781 they captured several persons & took them captives into Canada, not with standing our Militia were almost constantly on the watch, Lieutenant White of Ballston & several other persons were taken by them in the spring in May or June & so on at different times Colonel Gordon was taken in the fall of 1780 & several other persons one man killed by the name of Stowe that he this deponent served on alarms in scouting through the towns of Halfmoon, Ballston, Stillwater, then a large extend of Country newly, partly settled, that from the last of April to the last of November in the same year he this deponent was in constant service as aforesaid under the aforesaid officers for at least four months and ten days he served as a private.

In 1781 & 82, like depredations were continued upon the frontier, as before stated, he this deponent still continued enrolled in the militia under the aforesaid officers at Halfmoon aforesaid when we were frequently called upon by our said officers & performed duties on alarms & scouting, that from the spring of 1781 to the fall of 1782 he this deponent was in constant service at least three months in each year. Making six months within the aforesaid period.

He has no documentary [evidence] of his said services or any part thereof, he does not know of any person or persons now living by whom he can prove his said services except John B. Taylor & Samuel DeVoe now living in Halfmoon in this county --

[There appears to be a page missing in this deposition.]

5. To the question state the names of some of the Regular officers, who were with the troops where you served; such Continental and Militia Regiments as you can recollect, and the general circumstances of your services. He answers & says he can answer no farther than he has already sated herein.

6. To the question did [you] ever receive a discharge from the service; and if so, by whom was it signed and what has become of it? He answers and says, that he received no written discharge from the service at any period of the Revolutionary War.

7. To the question, state the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution. He states the following names, Rev'd Charles McCabe, Doctor George Bonham, Jonathan Nash, Hill Savage, James Thompson, Simon P. Veeder.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. (Signed with his mark) John Steenberg

Sworn & subscribed the day & year aforesaid in open court. A. Goodrich, Clerk

Letter in file dated January 17, 1939, written in reply to a request for information.

Reference is made to your letter in which you request the Revolutionary War record of John (Johannes) Sternberg, variously spelled, who served from New York State, while very young.

The data which follow are found in the papers on file in pension claim R.10102, based upon service in the Revolutionary War of John Steenbergh.

John Steenbergh was born March 23, 1760 in Fishkill, Dutchess County, New York. His father, Elias Steenbergh, lived with his family in Half Moon, Albany County (later Saratoga County), New York, during the years of the Revolutionary War and served as a captain; the name of John's mother is not shown in this claim.

John Steenbergh lived in Half Moon, New York, during the period of the Revolutionary War, and continued to reside there until 1811, when he moved to Milton, Saratoga County, New York.

He applied August 28, 1833, while a resident of Milton, New York, for the pension which might have been due on account of his service in the Revolutionary War. He stated then that he enlisted in June 1776, then only sixteen years of age, as a private in Captain John Van den Bergh's company, Colonel Jacobus Schoonhoven's regiment of New York Militia, that he was called out in June 1777, and served one month and five days, that he served subsequently in 1778, 1779, and as late as 1782, on short tours on various alarms under said officers, amounting in all to more than one year, during which he was on scouting parties against the Tories near the northern border. His claim for pension was not allowed as he failed to furnish proof of service as required by the pension laws.

The soldier died January 26, 1834, in Milton, New York.

John Steenbergh married February 22, 1785, in Lansingburgh (later Rensselaerville), New York, Anna Margaret Demett, who resided then in Half Moon, New York; the marriage was solemnized by the Minister of the Presbyterian Church of Lansingburgh, New York. John's Sister, Betsey, went with them from Half Moon to Lansingburgh when they were married.

In 1842, the soldier's widow, was a resident of Milton, New York, aged seventy-five years; the names of her parents are not shown. Daniel Steenbergh, one of the Children of John and Anna Margaret Steenbergh, resided in Milton, New York, in 1842, at which time he was aged thirty-Six years; he resided there in 1850 also.

In 1842, Betsey, the sister of John Steenbergh referred to previously, was the wife of Henry Vanderwerker, of Half Moon, New York; she gave her age then as sixty-eight years.

In 1833, the soldier's brother, Jacobus Steenbergh, resided in Middle Town, the state not given.