

Pension Application for Alexander Thompson

R.22005

Homer Jany 5th 1835

Dear Sir—enclosed I send you four Affidavits in the case of Alexander Thompson's Application for a Pension plan to call on Mr. Edwards, and render all the assistance you can, consistantly for Mr. Thompson—he is an old soldier, that was with one, to see you at the Cortland House just before you left for Washington. That showed you the wound by a Muskat Ball in the leg which he received from the Indians, in the time of the Revolution defending his Country—his three brothers, he tells me draw Pension, also, Mr. Wm. Shankland, who is the father of Esqr Shankland of Cortlandville who, all, served in the same company & regiment with him, most of the time, he thinks he was out more than his Brothers being younger & his brothers were kept at home, to work, it is a hard case, that he cannot draw, when all the rest, who served with him, do, even, if the Papers are deficient, in regularity—Mr. Edwards objects, that in his first Declaration he swears that he was 69 years old, 24th Sept 33 & born in 1764—(1) had a record of his age & very true, he had not his record with him—it was down at Cherry Valley before & by, Judge Morse—that is the Declaration was drawn & he thinks he told the Judge he could not recollect certain—but when he made his second Declaration he first stated wrong & after as before he went before the Court, his son & he brought the exact time in figures from the Bible to me—the reason why he made no allusion to service prior to 1780 in his first declaration, was, he was told it was unnecessary, for , that he served enough after to entitle him to a pension – it was totally impossible for a man, that was a friend to his country to live in Cherry Valley without being out before 1780 Col. Alden was killed & our people all drove off & massacred before that period & as to his liability being under 16 years of age, if so & he had entered an[d] rec'd by proper officers, as a soldier & did duty, it is not for the government to say that he should be rejected and that account many a one did duty at 12 years old--& I had a soldier was [?] mustered which was as good a man as was carried a musket—Mr. Edwards says he recites a number of tours in quick succession beginning with 1776 with a precision as memory could supply, than militia on the frontiers were frequently out, for one two three & so on days as guides, Indian Spies &c. He swears to the best of his recollection in a letter from Mr. Edwards on this subject & others, he frequently requests the applicant to state times with precision, so as to know how much to allow which was in the second declaration done as near as could be, if an honest claim is to be rejected because there has been mistatements or mistakes, in the declaration affidavit &c, whereby they clash, then Mr. Thompson must suffice the consequences—but when others, who served in the same company and at the same time, draw & he not, it is harsh unkind & ungenerous—he is a poor wounded old man, worn out, in serving his county in the time of the revolution—yours with sentiments of respect L.B. Canfield

Maj'r Genl S.E. Hathaway

P.S. Mr. Thompson can get more affadavits if wanted. LMC

Declaration. In order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress of the 7th June 1832

State of New York

Cortland County

On this 28th day of January 1834 personally appeared in open Court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of said County & state now sitting Alexander Thompson a resident of the Town of Homer, in the County of Cortland & State of New York, 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 provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832—That he entered in the Army of the United States as a private soldier in the

Militia of the State of New York in the year seventeen hundred & seventy six as a volunteer under Captain Thomas Whitaker (2) & Capt. Robert McKeen of Cherry Valley, then County of Tryon & State of New York, the Regiment was commanded by Colonel Samuel Campbell & Lt. Col. Samuel Clyde, (3) both of said Cherry Valley—Lt. John Campbell, (4) belonged to Capt. McKeens (5) Company, Ensign Benjamin Dickson, Sergeant John Thompson, my brother belonged to the same company. Capt. Whitaker aforesaid moved off pretty soon, after & Capt. Keen took the command—Cherry Valley was a Frontier town, in the State of New York, in the time of the Revolution—he says he was called out, he thinks on or before the tenth day of May, as he volunteered to keep guard & help build a breast work around Col. Campbell's house in said Cherry Valley—he was kept on duty till four weeks, then in a few days, say four days after he again was called out or volunteered, to help build Fort Alden in Cherry Valley aforesaid, thinks on the 23rd of June after, worked on said Fort, three weeks till the 13th of July after he says in July 1776 (7) he went out on a scout to the Butternuts under Capt. Keene was gone twenty one days til the Fourth of August after then in the same month of August he was called out again under Capt. Keen to go after Tory's and cattle, went to the Butternuts again, and was gone twelve days—then on the 24th of the same month, he went out on a scout under Ensign Benjamin Dickson, to Middlefield after Tory's, we took, some Tory's recollects one by the name of Chamberlain Michael Mc Darmit & Hector Southerland, which we brought to Fort Alden was gone nine days—he says on the Tenth of September same year, he was called out to do Garrison duty in Fort Alden, did duty one month til the 10th of October after & on the 1st of November after he again was called out, and did garrison duty, two weeks, and on the 18th of November after he was called out to do duty, in said Fort & at Col. Campbells' House, thinks he was out twenty days til into December after he says he furnished his own provisions when he went out Scouting aforesaid—he says in the year seventeen hundred & seventy seven on the 2d of May in said year, he was called out under Captain McKean to do Garrison duty in Fort Alden, and repair & enlarge said fort did duty & worked til the 2d of June after one month, he went out in Scouting parties under Lt John Campbell & Ensign Dickson, three times, was gone at least twelve days each time, and in July twice in August, same &c and he said in the month of Sept. after on the 7th day of said month as near as he can recollect he again was called out to do garrison duty in Fort Alden, by Capt McKeen for one month & that he did duty honestly and faithfully til the 7th of October after when he was discharged by Capt. McKeen after said—he was discharged by Capt. McKeen after said—that again on or before the 25th of said October he again was called out & did garrison duty twelve days as near as he can recollect—he was discharged in November after—he says that in the year seventeen hundred and seventy eight, he was called out under Capt. McKeen aforesaid, to help to do Garrison duty in Fort Alden for one month, it was on the 3d day of June in said year as near as he can recollect, he was discharged verbally in July after, thinks on the 4th day –he says he volunteered under Capt. Ballard (8) of the Continental line of the Army of The Revolution in July, to go on a Scout to the Butternut about 30 or 40 miles from said Cherry Valley, after Indians & Torys, was gone twenty three days—he says in October the same year, he again volunteered under Capt. Ballard aforesaid to go to the Butternuts after the Indians & Tory's he was gone at least Fourteen days, he thinks, he did not get back to Fort Alden til after the 20th of said October—he says he again on the 7th of November after was called out to Garrison Fort Alden and Capt. McKeen was in the action on the eleventh of November 1778, in and about Fort Alden was present when Col. Alden (9) was killed, his guard were mostly killed and 20 or 30 of the Inhabitants & Militia of Cherry Valley were killed—Mr. Hugh Mitchels, & wife & five of his children, Robert Wells, (10) John Wells, Jane Wells, Catharine Murphy, and Jane Furgesson were killed—Miss Betsy Delop [Dunlop] and Mrs. Delop, the Rev Mr. Delop was taken prisoner

painted by the Indians & sent back – Col. Statice was taken a Prisoner at the same time – he says he knows McKeen Capt. Lane, (11) Capt. Reed, Capt. Day, Adjutant Whitten, Lt. Buffington, Lt Day & Ensign Parker of the Continental Line—he says in the month of January 1779 he was drove off from Cherry Valley & moved to Canajoharie on the Mohawk River – when he joined a Company of Militia commanded by Capt. VanEvera (12)—Lt. Henry Scramblin & Ensign John Van Evera—Col. Marinus Willett (13) commanded the Regt Majr Rowley, belonged to the same Regiment—Col. Willett commanded the Militia all along the valley of the Mohawk he thinks til the close of the Revolutionary War—he says according to the best of his recollection on or before the 10th of May 1779, he was called out by Capt. VanEvera to guard Fort Ehle in Canajoharie was on duty three weeks til 1st of June after then again he says he was called out to Garrison said Fort was out one fortnight in June said year—he says in July after he was again called out & was in & about Fort Ehle, three weeks—in the month of August after he was again called out for two weeks to guard said Fort—he says in the month of September after he again was called out for two weeks at least & in the Month of October after he was called out for two weeks, & in November he was called out & staid nine days – all the time he was under Capt. VanEvera a Lt. Scramblin or Ensign VanEvera—he says on or before the 10th of June 1780, he again volunteered at said Canajoharie under Capt. Van Evera & Marched to Fort Ehle, where he kept garrison til the first of July after 20 days, then again, he was called out on the 15th of said July by said Capt. VanEvera to do duty in Fort Ehle, he did duty 10 days he thinks—he says on the 1st of August after, he was Draughted to go a Tour of Militia duty as a Private under Lt. Scramblin aforesaid to guard Boats & Military stores, from Fort Ehle & Fort Stanwix, was gone on said duty, twenty one days—he says, that on the first day of October after he again was called out as a Private in Capt. VanEvera’s Company to go to said Fort Ehle & keep Garrison in said Fort & that he did duty as such fifteen days—he says he was Draughted to go out in a Scouting party after Indians & Tory’s in a small party commanded by Sergeant John Van Evera thinks on the sixth of July 1780, he went from Fort Ehle on the Mohawk to Bowman’s Creek, Cherry Valley & on the Susquehannah was gone seven days on the Fifth day of September 1780 he says he was draughted to go out on a Scouting party under Lt. Scramblin he went from Fort Ehle, to a place called Turlew, (15) Curry Town & Sharon was gone five days—

He says on the 1st day of May 1781 he was draughted as a Private Soldier under Capt. Van Evera for the term of three months to go to Stone Arabia was stationed most of the time in Fort Keyser, he went out in a Scouting party over to Sackandago [Sacondaga] back of Johnstown, while there Capt. Bigbread [Breadbake] (16) Commanded the Company Lt. Devendorf (17) & Ensign Keyser belonged to the same Company, Col. Willett Commanded the Regiment, Major Whiley (18) belonged to the same Regiment, he was discharged by Capt. Bigbread verbally on the 1st day of August 1781 having served honestly & faithfully the full term of three months for which he was Draughted—he says on the 7th of August he was sworn Orderly Sergeant (19) of said Company, Commanded by said Capt. VanEvera 1781, he says, he was ordered out on a scouting party by said Capt. VanEvera to go to Bowman’s Creek it was on the 12th day of August that he went from said Fort Ehle, he commanded the Party of six soldier—he was gone three days, and was in an action with the Indians at Bowmans Creek and he said he was wounded with a rifle ball in the right leg below his knee, by the Indians in the said Action—he says on the 17th of August 1781 he was called out by said Capt. VanEvera to do Garrison duty in Fort Ehle, did duty as Orderly Sergeant til the 9th day of September after Capt. VanEvera, Lt. Scramblin & Ensign VanEvera Commanded the company—he says that on the 12th day of September after he volunteered as a orderly sergeant under Lt. Scramblin to go to Fort Plain on the Mohawk he went from Fort Ehle to said Fort Plain did duty as a Sergt for

sixteen days, the party consisted of Forty Men—he says he saw Col. John Brown (20) of the Continental Army while there, he was discharged on the 28th of September 1781, he thinks he was at Fort Plain when Col. John Brown was killed.

He says on the 10th of October as near as he can recollect, he was called out by the order of Capt. Van Evera in 1781 with the whole company to go to Fort Ehle, as an Orderly Sergeant to do garrison duty & he did go & served as Sergeant fifteen days til the 24th of said month—was discharge verbally by Capt. Van Evera aforesaid—he says that on or before the 24th day of May 1782 he was called out as orderly sergeant with the whole company by Capt. Van Evera to go to Caughnawaga down the Mohawk River, from Fort Ehle and that he did go to Caughnawaga, Sacondaga & Stone Arabia & back to Fort Ehle where he was discharged verbally by Capt. Van Evera on the 12th of June after having served sixteen days—he says that on the 24 of July 1782, he was again called out, as orderly Sergeant with the whole company, by said Capt. Van Evera to go and Guard Fort Ehle, he went & did duty til the 10th of August after when he was discharged verbally by Capt. Van Evera having served fifteen days—that on the 18th day of September after he again was called out as Orderly Sergeant to go to Fort Ehle & Johnstown, by Capt. Van Evera aforesaid, that he with the whole company went to Fort Ehle, when part of the Company went to Johnstown & he, with the remainder remained at Fort Ehle til the 18th of October after when he was discharged verbally at Fort Ehle by Capt. Van Evera having served one month as sergeant he says that on the 30th of May 1783 he was called out with the whole company by Captain Van Evera to go to Fort Ehle on an alarm to do Garrison duty & went with the company, did duty as an Orderly Sergeant in said company til the 15th of June after when he was discharged, verbally by Capt. Van Evera—he says that in July after he was orderly Sergeant was called out with the whole company by said Capt. Van Evera to go and keep guard at Fort Ehle, and he went and did duty as sergeant ten days—

He says he volunteered and went from Fort Ehle under Capt. Van Evera aforesaid on the 20th of July 1783 to Bowman's Creek, he was gone and served as Sergeant Ten days, he returned & was discharged at Fort Ehle verbally by said Capt. Van Evera on the 24th of said month—he says that he was not employed in any Civil Pursuit while out, any of the above time by him set forth—he says he knew Genl. Herkimer, (21) Col. Jacob Klock, Col. Alden, Col. Stacey, Major Whiting, Major Beebee, Capt. Ballard, & Sergeant Lord while out in the above different Tours—Doctr Whiting (22) he says was surgeon of Col. Aldens Regiment—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 any agency in any State.

Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

Interrogatories put to the applicant in Open Court by the Court—

1st Where and in what year were you born – answer—I was born in 1762.

2d Have you any record of your age, & if so, where is it—answer—I have a record of my age in my family Bible now in Homer—

3d Where were you living when called into the service, where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live—answer—I lived in Cherry Valley & Canajoharie, when I was called into the service—from Canajoharie after the Revolution I moved back to Cherry Valley, from Cherry Valley I moved to Homer, where I now reside.

4th How were you called into service, were you draughted, did you volunteer, or were you a Substitute and if a substitute, for whom—answer—I was Draughted or Volunteered—

5th State the names of some of the Regular Officers, who were with the troops where you served such Continental & Militia Regiments as you can recollect & the general circumstances of your service—answer--Col. Alden, Col. Statia, Capt. Ballard, Capt. Lane, at Cherry Valley of the Continental Line, while on the Mohawk, Col. John Brown.

6th Did you receive a discharge from the service and if so by whom was it given & what has become of it—answer—I never received a written discharge, but was always discharged verbally by the Officer who commanded me—I never received a commission.

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood & who can testify, as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a Soldier of the Revolution—answer—Capt. Joseph Hobert, Doctor Lewis, W. Owen, Capt. John Baum, Joseph Bates, Capt. Asaph H. Carpenter, [Danl?] Esquire Jones. Major John Hubbard.

He says for the year 1776 he served as a Private Soldier, five months one week, and six days, as near as he can recollect for the year 1777, he served as a Private soldier—Three months & Six days, for the year 1778 he served as a Private Soldier two months & two days—for the year 1779, he served as a Private Soldier Four Months one, week & two days—for the year 1780 he served as a Private Soldier two months one week & five days—he says in the year 1781 he served three months as a Private Soldier –and in the year 1781 he served as Orderly Sergeant two months & one day—that in the year 1782, he served as Orderly Sergeant for two months & one day –and that for the year 1783, he served as Orderly Sergeant for one month, as near as he now can recollect—and for such services he claims a pension. (Signed) Alexander Thompson

Sworn and Subscribed before me the day and date aforesaid—Samuel Hotchkiss Jr. Clerk of Cortland County.

End Notes—R.22005—Alexander Thompson

1. It was later established by testimony that he was born in 1762 which means he turned 16 in 1778 which was the legal age to enroll in the militia.
2. Captain Thomas Whitaker was commissioned Captain on June 25, 1778 in Colonel Samuel Campbell's First Regiment of Tryon County Militia. ; No muster rolls or pay rolls have been found for this company as his home was destroyed on November 11, 1778 they may have been destroyed in the fire and Captain Whitaker moved out of the area afterwards.
3. Samuel Clyde was commissioned the lieutenant colonel on June 25, 1778 in Colonel Campbell's Regiment.
4. The following were officers in Captain Whitaker's Company. John Campbell as the first lieutenant, Samuel Campbell as the second lieutenant and Samuel Whorfield as the ensign.
5. Robert McKeen was appointed captain on November 21, 1776 of the sixth company in Colonel Goose VanSchaick's First New York Continental Regiment. He resigned on January 29, 1778 as his wife had died and his oldest child Samuel was only 14. Robert returned to Cherry Valley to take care of his family. It was proposed in late 1778, for McKeen to form a company of rangers by Brigadier General John Stark but so far there is no evidence that the company was ever formed. There are some references to Captain McKeen going on scouting excursions in 1778 but in what capacity he served is unknown. Captain McKeen in 1779, 1780, and 1781 served in various levy regiments and died of wounds on July 10, 1781 which he received in the Battle of New Dorlach.
6. There is only Ensign Whorfield listed for Captain Whitaker's Company and no names of appointments to Captain McKeen's Company of Rangers if they were ever mustered into service.
7. Alexander was only 14 in 1776 and was not of legal age to serve and if he did it didn't count. Also Fort Alden was not built until 1778. L captain McKean in 1776 was serving in Colonel Cornelius D. Wynkoop's Fourth New York Continental Regiment. Captain McKean or McKeen and his company were sent to assist the Third New Jersey

Continental Regiment in building a fort in what is now the Village of Herkimer. The fort was named Dayton in honor of Colonel Elias Dayton of the Third New Jersey. Captain McKeen and his company were ordered to the Johnstown area. It appears the duty tours for 1776 and 1777 are actually all in 1778.

8. Captain William H. Ballard commanded the first company in Colonel Ichabod Alden's Sixth Massachusetts Continental Regiment. Alexander's name does not appear on Captain Ballard's muster rolls. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 37, folder 10, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
9. Ichabod Alden was appointed Colonel of the Sixth Massachusetts Continental Regiment on January 1, 1777. Colonel Alden was quartering at the Robert Wells house when the attack began and was slain in attempting to reach the safety of Fort Alden.
10. Robert Wells had been appointed the first major on August 26, 1775 in Colonel Nicholas Herkimer's First Regiment of Tryon County Militia. Wells being a loyalist declined the appointment. Even though the wells family were loyalists they shared the same fate as many of the patriot families endured in the attack by Captains Walter Butler and Joseph Brant.
11. Captains Daniel Lane, John Reed, Luke Day, Adjutant & Lieutenant William White, Lieutenants Samuel Buffington and Elijah Day and Ensign Levi Parker all were officers of Colonel Alden's Regiment.
12. Rynier VanEvera was the captain of the Seventh Company in Colonel Campbell's Regiment. The other company officers of the Seventh Company were Martin C. VanAlstine as the first lieutenant, John VanEvera as the second lieutenant and Henry Schrembling as the ensign. On March 4, 1780 John VanEvera was commissioned as the first lieutenant, Schrembling as the second lieutenant and Cornelius VanEvera as the ensign.
13. Marinus Willett in 1779 was still the lieutenant colonel of Colonel Peter Gansevoort's Third New York Continental Regiment.
14. Aaron Rowley was the major of Colonel Elisha Porter's Regiment of Massachusetts State Levies in 1781. On April 27, 1781, Willett was appointed lieutenant colonel commandant of a regiment of New York State Levies. Major Rowley with four companies of levies were sent to the Mohawk Valley in 1781 to reinforce Willett's Regiment and the Tryon County Militia. Rowley was not in the Mohawk Valley until 1781.
15. Often called Terlow, Turlough, etc. but they were referring to New Dorlach which is now the present day Village of Sharon Springs and the Town of Sharon in Schoharie County, New York.
16. John Breadbake was the captain of the fifth company in Colonel Jacob Klock's Second Regiment of Tryon County Militia.
17. Alexander is wrong or confused on the names of these officers. There was no Lieutenant Dieffendorph or Ensign Keyser in the Tryon County Militia in 1781.
18. There was no officer named Major Whiley serving in the Mohawk Valley. The major for Klock's Regiment was Christopher W. Fox and the majors of Willett's Regiment were Andrew Finck and Joseph Throop.
19. Alexander's name does not appear in any capacity on Captain VanEvera's Receipt Roll dated September 29, 1784. Alexander's brothers, John, Thomas, and William are listed and an Aaron Thompson is also listed as serving in VanEvera's Company. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 72, folder 89, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

20. John Brown was Colonel of a regiment of Massachusetts State Levies in 1780. Colonel Brown was killed in the Stone Arabia Battle on October 19, 1780.
21. Nicholas Herkimer was the brigadier general of the Tryon County Militia Brigade; William Stacey was appointed the lieutenant colonel on January 1, 1777 in Colonel Alden's Regiment; Major Daniel Whiting of Colonel Alden's Regiment and was also appointed on January 1, 1777; First Major Martin Beebe of Colonel William B. Whiting's Seventeenth Regiment of Albany County Militia; Sergeant William Lord of Captain Ballard's Company.
22. The surgeon of Alden's Regiment was not Whiting. Ezekiel Brown was appointed surgeon on January 1, 1777 and remained with the regiment until he returned from the service on January 1, 1781. The surgeon's mate was Francis deBeviere. He was appointed on August 26, 1778 and was taken prisoner on November 11, 1778 and was kept a prisoner until the end of the war.