

Pension Application for John VanAlstine

S.9501

State of New York

Montgomery County SS.

On this nineteenth day of September 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Montgomery aforesaid John Van Alstine a resident of the County of Montgomery aforesaid 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 to wit:

That he was seventy three years old sometime this summer and was born in the town of Canajoharie in the County of Montgomery aforesaid and has resided in the same place ever since— That at the commencement of the Revolutionary War he was a private in the company of Militia in said tour commanded by Captain Ryner Van Every (1) & his two brothers & continued a member of said company during the whole of said war—That early in said war applicant was detached with half dozen men of his company to accompany General Herkimer (2) & Colonel Cox on to the Unadilla for the purpose of effecting a treaty with Colonel Brant (3) [Captain Brant] & his Indians. In this expedition he thinks he was out about two weeks—That he was twice detached to Guard Fort Eaton [Dayton] at the German Flats about 30 miles & was there the last time two days does not recollect how long he was there the first time but thinks it was much longer—applicant was sent at least a dozen times to guard fort Plank & thinks the term of his service at each time average at least six or eight days with Colonel Campbell (4) or Colonel Clyde usually commanded this Fort applicant was two days on a scouting party though [sic] Springfield & Cherry Valley—Applicant was employed for the most of three successive seasons in guarding a Picket fort at Canajoharie called fort Ehle and thinks he spent at least a year in that service. This Fort was a part of the time occupied thoroughly by militia men some part of the time was partially guarded by regular troops—applicant was a number of times stationed for several days at Fort plain and was forced to go with a man once to Lake Champlain & once to Fort Stanwix. Those two last expeditions must have taken at least ten or twelve days—applicant was hampered with numerous services of the above descriptions during the war which it is now impossible distinctly to recollect and he verily believes that more than two years were then faithfully spent by him in the service of his country—Applicant was engaged in the Battle at Johnstown (5) in which Colonel Willett commanded the Americans & Colonel [Major] Ross the British forces—Applicant was sent to Saratoga for the purpose of assisting in the construction of boats for the service where he was employed three months; does not know whether it was upon contract or not but is confident he never received any pay for his services—Said applicant hereby relinquishes any 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) John Van Alstine

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid in open court. Geo. D. Ferguson, Clerk
Reply to a letter of inquiry in the pension folder dated September 30, 1924.

I have to advise you that from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim, S.9501, it appears that John Van Alstine was born in the summer of 1759 in Canajoharie, Montgomery County, New York.

While residing in said Canajoharie, he served from the beginning of the War until its close, as a private at various times, amounting in all to two years, under Captain Ryner VanEveren, (6) Colonels Cox and Clyde, in the New York Troops, and was in the battle of Johnstown.

He was allowed pension on his application executed September 19, 1832, while a resident of Canajoharie, New York.

There is no data on file as to his family.

The above noted soldier is the only John Van Alstine, found on the Revolutionary War records of this Bureau, and there is no John C. Van Alstine found on said records.

End Notes—S.9501—John VanAlstine

1. Rynier VanEvera was appointed captain on August 26, 1775 of the Seventh Company in Colonel Nicholas Herkimer's First Regiment of Tryon County Militia. The officers under Captain VanEvera at this time were Martin C. VanAlstyne as the first lieutenant and James Guinall (Guenall, Grinell) as the second lieutenant. On June 25, 1778 the following were commissioned in Captain VanEvera's Company as follows: John VanEvera as second lieutenant and Henry Schrembling as ensign. On March 4, 1780 the following were commissioned in Captain VanEvera's Company: John VanEvera as first lieutenant, Henry Schrembling as second lieutenant and Cornelius VanEvera as ensign.
2. Herkimer was appointed brigadier general of the Tryon County Militia Brigade on September 5, 1776. Ebenezer Cox was the lieutenant colonel of Herkimer's Regiment and was appointed colonel in Herkimer's place when Herkimer was promoted to general.
3. General Herkimer with about 200 Tryon County Militia met Captain Joseph Brant who had close to that number of Indians and Loyalists met at Unadilla on June 27, 1777.
4. After the Battle of Oriskany which was fought on August 6, 1777, another change in the command structure of the First Regiment of Tryon County Militia took place. Colonel Cox was killed in the battle, Lieutenant Colonel William Seeber of Cox's Regiment died of his wounds about September 1, 1777. First Major Samuel Campbell was appointed Colonel and Second Major Samuel Clyde was promoted to lieutenant colonel. Both were commissioned on June 25, 1778.
5. The Battle of Johnstown was fought on October 25, 1781. Lieutenant Colonel Commandant Marinus Willett commanded the American forces and Major John Ross commanded the British forces in this battle.
6. According to Captain VanEvera's Receipt Roll dated 29 September 1784, John produced two certificates for the following amounts: 11284 £ ____ .3 . . 6 and 11253 £ 2 . .16 . . 8. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 72, folder 89, National Archives, Washington, D.C. The service that John mentions when he went to Saratoga was building bateaus in 1778 for the 1779 expedition of Brigadier General James Clinton against the Indian Villages of Western New York. John served in Captain Nicholas Veeder's Company of Artificers (carpenters, blacksmiths, etc.) in 1778 which was part of the Quartermaster General Dept. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 122, folder 78, National Archives, Washington, D.C.