

Pension Application for John Wemple

S.23490

State of New York

County of Schenectady SS.

On this fifth Day of October one thousand eight hundred and thirty-two, personally appeared before me William Strong—one of the Justices of the Peace in and for said County, John Wemple a resident of the town of Princetown in said County & State aged eighty 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.

He was born at Fort Hunter in the County of Albany now county of Montgomery on the 4th day of October (old style being the 15th October new style) in the year 1749. The record of his age is in his family Bible.

When he was called into the service of the United States in the army of the revolution he was living in the then township now City of Schenectady and he has lived ever since the revolutionary war at Norman's Kill, now Princetown in said County of Schenectady.

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

Early in the year 1775, he enlisted in Captain John Mynderse's (1) Company of Minute Men, to wit, at the time said company was first organized. The other officers of said company were Lawrence Mynderse (2) and James H. Peck Lieutenants & Abraham J. Truax Ensign. This company was afterwards he thinks in the year 1777 in the latter part thereof attached to Colonel Abraham Wemple's Regiment of militia—His other field officers whom he recollects were Abraham Swits (3) and Myndert Wemple Majors.

He served in said company from the time of his enlistment therein as aforesaid until the end of the said war. He served faithfully during the whole of said period whenever the services of his company were in requisition; and at no time procured a substitute. He was out in every expedition in which his company or the militia of said Regiment were engaged, except one to Cobleskill, when he was excused through sickness. If it be required that he should state his different engagements & specify the particular periods, he must be permitted to say that as he made no memorandum thereof at the time nor since his memory does not serve him to do so fully more particularly since his services were made up of numerous tours some of which did not consist of more than three or four days each. The most prominent of the expeditions in which he engaged were as near as he can recollect them as follows.

To Johnstown in the beginning of the year 1776 about fourteen days on which occasion a detachment of soldiers were ordered out under Generals Schuyler (4) & Ten Brock in consequence of some hostile movements on the part of Sir John Johnson who eventually surrendered himself a prisoner of war and disarmed his tenants and dependants.

In the fall of the year 1776, he was on duty with the troops at Skeenesborough and Fort Ann and assisted in guarding the boats laden with ammunition & from Fort Ann to Skeenesborough. He was from home in this expedition about four weeks.

In the spring of the year 1777 he served with a detachment of about 300 men under Colonel Warner (5) and marched to Jessup's patent in pursuit of a party of Tories who rendezvoused there. He was in this expedition under command of Captain Jesse Van Slyck (6) and was from home about one month.

In the spring of the year 1776 he was at Sacondaga engaged in fortifying that place. His commanding officers there whom he now recollects were General Clinton or Governor Clinton (7) & Adjutant Tunis Waggoner. (8) He was on duty at this place about three weeks.

From the month of June the first day thereof until and after the surrender of Burgoyne (9) & his army on the 17th of October then next: to wit for the term of nearly five months he was on duty at Fort Edward, Stillwater, Snookkill, (10) and other posts occupied by the American Army in that campaign, and was in the battle at Snookkill aforesaid & the other engagements and skirmishes which took place during this northern campaign.

In the years 1778 & 1779 he was with the detachments of militia that were ordered out to Forts Plain & Plank & Stone Arabia—performed garrison duty at Stone Arabia (Fort Paris), nearly one month & at Fort Plain nearly three months—He was at Fort Plain (11) in pursuit of the enemy when that place was burnt by them—He has been twice at the forts in Schoharie discharging military duty there at both times for a period not less than six weeks.

He was under the command of Major Swits in an expedition to Ballston when that place was burnt by a part of the British under Major Monroe (12) in the year 1780. In this expedition he was from home at least three weeks.

In 1781, when warrensbush was destroyed by the enemy under Major Ross (13) & Butler he served with the troops under Colonel Willett—and was from home on this occasion at least three weeks.

In the year 1780 when Caughnawaga (14) and other settlements on the Mohawk were devastated he was on duty as well as the whole Regiment of Col. Abraham Wemple aforesaid. He was in this tour about three weeks—then returned to Schenectady and after remaining there two or three days was ordered out to the upper fort in Schoharie where he did garrison duty about two weeks, while there he was under the command of Capt. John Roseboom & had command of that fort himself for eight or ten days.

He has often been on scouting expeditions to Heldeberg, Beaverdam & other places infested with tories, and took his turn in guarding Schenectady. In addition to the turn of service he performed as a minute man from 1775 to 1777, the time of his actual service in Colonel Wemple's Regiment as a soldier, and as a scout & Indian spy exceeds twenty months.

From the year 1778 til the end of the war he was the orderly sergeant of said company of Captain John Mynderse.

The following are the names of some of the regular officers whom he knew, or who were with the troops where he served, and such continental and militia regiments or companies with which he served, or as he can recollect, viz: General Gates, (15) General Arnold, General Schuyler & the companies that served under them, Colonels Gansvoort, Lt Col. Marinus Willett & his levies & Colonel Van Dyck Cortland, Dubois, Gordon & Harper & Adjut Jellis A. Fonda.

He never received any written discharge from the service.—

He has no documentary evidence, and knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service except those whose depositions are thereto annexed besides others who can testify to the same services.

The following are the names of persons to whom he is known in his present neighborhood, and who can testify as to his character for veracity, and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution, to wit. James H. Peek, Cornelius Z. VanSantvoord, James V. S. Ryley and Giles F. Yates.

He hereby relinquishes every 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) John Wemple

Subscribed and sworn to the day and year first aforesaid before me. Wm. Strong, Justice of the Peace.

End Notes—S.23490—John Wemple

1. The officers for the second company of minute men were appointed on May 27, 1775 as follows: Captain Corenlius VanDyck; First Lieutenant John Mynderse; and Second Lieutenant Garret S. Veeder. Mynderse was promoted to captain after Captain VanDyck accepted a commission on June 28, 1775 in Colonel Goose VanSchaick's Second New York Continental Regiment. FROM: Minutes of the Albany Committee of Correspondence 1775-1778, Minutes of the Schenectady Committee 1775-1779, ed. Alexander Flick, Albany, 1925, vol. II, p. 1013.
2. The officers under Captain Mynderse were Garret S. Veeder as first lieutenant, Solomon Pendleton as second lieutenant, and Lawrence Mynderse as the ensign. They were appointed on November 22, 1775. Ibid, vol. II, p. 1032. On June 5, 1776, New York's Provincial Congress abolished the minute men regiments and companies. Captain Mynderse's Company was annexed to Colonel Abraham Wemple's Second Regiment of Albany County Militia and was still the second company. The officers were the same but Garret S. Veeder and Solomon Pendleton were appointed as officers in Colonel Cornelius D. Wynkoops' Fourth New York Continental Regiment. On June 20, 1778 Lawrence Mynderse was commissioned the first lieutenant; Jacobus Peake or James Peck, Peek, etc., as the second lieutenant and Abraham Truax as the ensign.
3. Abraham Swits was appointed the first Major and Nicholas Veeder was appointed the second major. As Veeder declined or resigned his commission Myndert M. Wemple was appointed the second major. Colonel Wemple and Majors Swits and Wemple were commissioned on June 20, 1778.
4. Major General Philip Schuyler of the Continental Army and Brigadier General Abraham Ten Broeck of the Albany County Militia Brigade.
5. Seth Warner was the colonel of one of the Additional Sixteen Continental Regiments.
6. Jesse VanSlyck served as a Captain in Colonel Wemple's Regiment.
7. In April of 1779 Brigadier General James Clinton ordered a blockhouse to be built at Sacondaga because raiding parties were either entering or leaving the Mohawk Valley by using the Sacondaga River from the north. Governor George Clinton, brother of James was not there at that time.
8. Tunis VanWaggoner or VanWaggon or Wagenen, etc., served as an ensign and later as a second lieutenant and finally as a first lieutenant in Colonel Philip Van Cortlandt's Second New York Continental Regiment. The Second New York was also not involved in the building of the blockhouse.
9. Lieutenant General John Burgoyne of the British Army.
10. This battle occurred on August 2, 1777.
11. Captain Joseph Brant and Cornplanter (Seneca war chief) destroyed the Canajoharie Settlement on August 2, 1780. This area today is the Village of Fort Plain and part of the Town of Minden, Montgomery County.
12. Captain John Munro destroyed the Ball's Town settlement on October 17, 1780. Today the area is the Village of Ballston Spa and the Town of Ballston.
13. Major John Ross and Captain Walter Butler attacked several settlements along the Mohawk River on October 24 and 25, 1781. They marched to Johnstown and later in the afternoon of the 25th, Lieutenant Colonel Commandant Marinus Willett with his American forces attacked Ross. After several hours of fighting the enemy retreated towards Canada. Willett caught up with the rear guard of Ross' forces on October 30 and a skirmish ensued. Butler was killed with 3 others.
14. Caughnawaga was destroyed by forces under Sir John Johnson on May 22, 1780. This area today is the Village of Fonda and the Town of Mohawk, Montgomery County.

15. Major Generals Horatio Gates and Benedict Arnold; Colonel Peter Gansevoort of the Third New York Continental Regiment; Lieutenant Colonel Cornelius VanDyck of the First New York Continental Regiment; Colonel Lewis Dubois of the Fifth New York Continental Regiment, Lieutenant Colonel James Gordon of Colonel Jacobus VanSchoohoven's Twelfth Regiment of Albany County Militia, Lieutenant Colonel Commandant John Harper of a regiment of New York State Levies in 1780 and Jellis A. Fonda who had served as an ensign in Captain VanSlyck's Company and later served in the levies in 1780 to 1783 as a lieutenant, adjutant and captain.
16. John's name does not appear on Mynderse rolls for any service but a John Wemple appears on a certificate roll for Captain John VanPatten's Third Company in Wemple's Regiment. He had one certificate for £____-- . 8. . 10 2/3. A John Wemple served as sergeant in Captain Thomas B. Bancker's Company in Wemple's Regiment. John had served in various detachments under different officers as John Roseboom was the first lieutenant of Captain Abraham Oathout's Company in Colonel Wemple's Regiment.