

Pension Application for William Ball

S.28631

State of New York

County of Albany SS.

day of September 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Justice's Court of the City of Albany now sitting William Ball a resident of the Town of Bern in the County of Albany and State of New York, aged on the 12th day of December last, sixty nine years of age—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 7, 1832.

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

In the year 1778, as near as I can recollect, I was a drummer in the Company of Militia commanded by Capt. William Deitz (1) of Beaver Dam, in Albany County, where I then resided. The regiment to which we belonged was commanded by Col. Peter Vrooman (2) and by Major John Becker.

In the spring of that year in the early part of the month of April we were ordered into the service & went into the Town of Bern & there built a Fort for the protection of the Inhabitants against the British Tories & Indians—We were stationed there and engaged in building said Fort and in guarding it from the month of April until the latter part of the month of November following—when we were discharged & went home. The fort was called Weidman's Fort-

Sometime in the month of September Capt. Dietz, who resided near the Fort, and had gone home to see his family & attend to some business was surprised and taken by a party of Indians & Tories and his family consisting of his wife & several children & his father & mother & a servant girl were all murdered. (3) He himself was taken prisoner & carried to Canada, & died on his way home, after being exchanged—after his capture we were commanded by Capt. Matthias Shultis (4) and the families in the neighborhood with the women & children removed into the Fort. We were discharged the latter part of November.

I served in said line of duty as a drummer in said company commanded by Capt. Deitz & Capt. Shultis, not less than seven months.

In the following year, that is, 1779, as near as I can now recollect, I was again ordered into the service as a drummer in said company of Militia then commanded by Capt. Shultis, -- and we again occupied Weidman's Fort.

I believe we went out in the month of April and continued in the service in said Fort from that time until the month of November following when we were discharged.

I was engaged on this term of duty, not less than six months & which we were stationed in the Fort we were several times out on scouting parties in order to watch the Indians &c, and protect the inhabitants and I went on one occasion to Schoharie, I think in the year 1778 to act as a guard there in the place of other troops who were gone in pursuit of the Indians—and after being there a few days returned back to the Fort.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. (Signed) William Ball

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid in open court. J. G. Wasson, Clk

Letter in file dated August 27, 1921 written in response to an inquiry.

You are advised that it appears from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim S.28631, that William Ball was born December 12, 1763, place not stated.

While a resident of Beaver Dam, Albany County, New York, he enlisted and served as drummer with the New York troops as follows: from sometime early in April, 1778, until late in November, 1778, in Captains William Dietz's and Matthias Shultis' Companies in Colonel Peter Vrooman's Regiment (5) and aided in building Weidman's Fort at Berne; from April, 1779, until November, 1779 in Captain Shultis' Company.

He was allowed pension on his application executed September 24, 1833, at which time he was living in Berne, Albany County, New York.

End Notes—S.28631—William Ball

1. William Dietz was commissioned captain on March 4, 1780 in Colonel Philip P. Schuyler's Third Regiment of Albany County Militia.
2. Peter Vrooman was the colonel of the Fifteenth Regiment of Albany County Militia. Jost Becker was the second major in Colonel Vrooman's Regiment.
3. This incident happened in late August or early September of 1781. Lieutenant Colonel Commandant Marinus Willett makes the following mention of the attack on the Dietz family: "*F Renselear 5 Sept. 1781. Sir Yours of yesterday I have recd I am (sorry) to hear of the Melancholy Fate of the family of Capt Teats. Such murders ought to raise every friend to Humanity.*" FROM: Colonel Marinus Willett's Letter and Orderly Book Fort Rensselaer 1781, Doc. No 15705, Special Collection sand manuscripts, NYSL, Albany, N.Y.
4. Matthias Shultis was commissioned the first lieutenant in Captain Dietz's company on March 4, 1780. There are no known muster or payrolls for this company.
5. It is possible that a district change was made in 1781 to change the boundary of Captain Diet's Company beat from Schuyler's Regimental district to Colonel Vrooman's Regimental District. The following clearly states that Dietz was in Colonel Vroomans' Regiment.

"A Return of the Amount of the several Bounties, paid by the respective Classes within the Regiment Commanded by Coll. Peter Vroman, agreeable to General Orders, dated at Poughkeepsie the 1st of November 1782. Schohary January 14, 1783.

To His Excellency George Clinton Esqr.
Governor of the State of New York
Peter Vrooman. Coll"

"March 22, 1781

Capt William Dietz [£]	14	___	___
Mr. John Eacker	23	17	___
Mr. Peter Witeman	28	___	___
John Ving	20	___	___

July 1st 1781

Capt. William Dietz	10	___	___
Mr. Adam Dietz	10	___	___

1781 March 25th [£] 18 18___

Lieut Mathew Shultis

Mr. Jacob Dietz	16	16	___	"
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FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 77, folder 167, National Archives, Washington D.C.

