

## Pension Application for Caleb Bentley

W.16184

State of New York  
Chemung County SS

On the 29<sup>th</sup> day of August 1838, personally appeared before Guy Hulett Esq. one of the Judges of the County Courts of the said county of Chemung, Mary Bentley of the Town County & State aforesaid aged seventy eight years and upwards who being first duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed July 7<sup>th</sup> 1838 entitled "An act granting half pay & pensions to certain widows."

That she is the widow of Caleb Bentley who was a captain of the fifth Company of foot (Militia) in the Sixth Regiment in the County of Albany whereof Stephen J. Schuyler was Colonel appointed by the Provincial Congress of the Colony of New York on the 20<sup>th</sup> of Feby 1776 as will appear by the commission annexed, and who was afterwards reappointed a Captain in the same Regiment by the Council of Appointment of the State of New York on the 28<sup>th</sup> of May 1778 as will appear by the certificate of the Secretary of State, annexed: That from information derived from her husband & others, and certain payrolls found among the papers left by him at his decease it appears that he was in Service as a Captain in the 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment commanded by Col. Cornelius Humphrey in Gen. Scott's Brigade of New York Levies raised the 23d of June 1776 & stationed at Fort Constitution: that he remained at Fort Constitution during that season, and as she has always understood until he was ordered to the northern part of the State in the following year 1777, when the invasion of Burgoyne took place: The rolls & memoranoms annexed shew apart of his service at Fort Constitution.

In the following year he was in the Battle at Bennington and was in service when Gen. Burgoyne surrendered.

That she has applied at the office of the Secretary of State & Comptroller of New York for evidences of Captain Bentley's Services, but has been informed that the payrolls, receipts &c on file in the offices of the Secretary & Comptroller have been transmitted to the Pension Office at Washington. She has no other documentary evidence of her husband's services than the papers annexed and after much enquiry she cannot learn that any persons are now living by whom she can prove the service of her said husband; but has no doubt that the papers forward into the Pension Office from the archives of the State of New York will furnish such proofs and she therefore respectfully refers to them.

She further declares that she was married to the said Caleb Bentley on the 27<sup>th</sup> of November 1782 at Little Hoosick in the then County of Albany now County of Rensselaer N.Y.

That Elder Barnes of the Baptist Church performed the marriage ceremony: That Mary Cropsey (now Mary Griffith) the wife of Jeremiah Griffith, now of the County of Chatauque [Chautauqua] N.Y. is the only person now living who was present at the marriage, and her affidavit is annexed. That neither her said [husband] or herself received a certificate of the marriage from the said clergyman. She has caused enquiry to be made in the church of which W. Barnes was an Elder but cannot learn that any record of marriages was kept in the church the family bible of the said Caleb Bentley in which their marriage was recorded was given many years since by the said Caleb Bentley to his eldest daughter Mary on her marriage with Nathaniel Smith, many years since; it was at the time much worn and she has no doubt it is long since destroyed. The said Caleb Bentley died on the second day of March in the year in one thousand eight hundred & twenty eighty (1828).

She further states that she was not married to the said Caleb Bentley prior of his leaving service but the marriage took place previous to the first of January, seventeen hundred and ninety four, viz on the twenty seventh day of November seventeen hundred and eighty two as above stated. (Signed with her mark) Mary Bentley

Sworn & subscribed before me this 29<sup>th</sup> August 1838 the said Mary Bentley, making her mark from an affliction of the nerves produced by old age and debility. Guy Hulett, Judge of Chemung County Courts.

Letter in folder dated March 28, 1925, written in response to an inquiry.

I have to advise you that the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim, W.16184, it appears that Caleb Bentley, while residing at Little Hoosick, New York, was appointed February [?], 1776 Captain of Fifth Company, Colonel Stephen J. Schuyler's Sixth Regiment of Albany County, New York Militia, and served at various times, he was wounded in the leg at the battle of Bennington, was at the capture of Burgoyne, and served six months.

He died March 2, 1826.

Soldier married November 27, 1782 at Little Hoosick, New York, Mary Hewitt, she was allowed pension on her application executed August 29, 1836, while a resident of Chemung County, New York, aged seventy-eight years.

Mary, soldier's oldest daughter, married Nathaniel Smith; their son, Darius B. Smith, was twenty-five years old in 1838.

A son, Uriah, was born June 21, 1779, was by soldier's first wife, her name is not stated.

It is stated that Caleb and Mary Bentley raised a family of children, their names are not given.