
Pension Application for Jacob Esselstyn or Esselstyne

S.29144

State of New York

Columbia County SS.

On this 20 day of July 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Justices Court of the City of Hudson County & State aforesaid Jacob Esselstyne a resident of Claverack in said County aged 70 years, who being duly sworn according to Law, makes the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he was born in Claverack aforesaid in April of 1762. That in May or June of 1777 he engaged in the service of the United States in the Militia of New York for one month in the company of Capt. Bortle (1) and served at Fort Edward & in 1778, he was out two months in a similar service in the Company of Capt. Huyck (2) & Regiment of Col. VanAlstyne for the first month, & in Company commanded by Lieut Peter VanValkenburg (3) for the second month. He was on service at the Highlands at this time & there saw Genl Washington. (4)

In Sept. of this year 1778, he was appointed as Orderly Sergeant by Col. Robert VanRensselaer (5) as will [be] seen by the order of appointment herewith forwarded; Under this appointment he acted over two years, being from Sept. 30th 1778 till April 1781. During this time he was obliged to keep a horse at his own expense & be ready at all times to go on any expedition required by the field officers.

In April of 1781 he enlisted in Capt. Marshall's (6) Company & Regiment of Col. Marinus Willet. Marched to Albany first where his troops were embodied thence to Johnstown, tarried some time at that place—thence to Caughnawaga & there the troops embarked on board bateaux & went down to Schenectady, loaded these boats with provisions & returned up the river to Little Falls, there landed, discharged their lading & had it carried up the Falls. Then they returned to Fort Plain. On the 10th of July had an action with the Indians, when Major McKean (7) was killed. From Fort Plain they went to Fort Herkimer. Thence again to Fort Plain, thence to Ft. Hunter, (8) thence to Ball[s]town, thence to Schenectady & again to Ft. Hunter where he was discharged at the expiration of nine months.

And this deponent further declares that he has no other documentary evidence than what are hereto annexed, which are the originals as he received at the time they bear date.

That he hereby relinquishes all claim whatever to any pension except the present, and that his name is not on any other pension roll of any State agency. (Signed) Jacob Esselstyn
Subscribed and sworn to the day & year aforesaid.

Brian Wilber, Clerk

End Notes—S.29144—Jacob Esselstyn

1. In Jacob's December 8, 1832 deposition he amended his July 20, 1832 deposition and gave his captain's name as Peter Bortle in 1777, it was Captain Philip Bartel of the first company in Colonel Peter VanNess's Ninth Regiment of Albany County Militia. He also states that Colonel Beekman commanded and Major Esselstyne also was present. John H. Beekman was the lieutenant colonel of Colonel Killian VanRensselaer's Fourth Regiment of Albany County Militia. Richard Esselstyne was the second major of Colonel Robert VanRensselaer's Eighth Regiment of Albany County Militia. This proves that it was a detachment of the Ninth, Fourth, and Eighth Regiments of Albany County Militia sent on this tour of duty.
2. This is also a tour of service of a detachment from the Albany County Militia Regiments. Abraham VanAlstine or VanAlstyne was the Colonel of the Seventh Regiment. Captain

Casper Huyck and First Major Henry J. VanRensselaer were of the Colonel VanRensselaer's Eighth Regiment.

3. Peter I. VanValkenburg was commissioned Ensign on June 20, 1778 in Captain Jeremiah Muller's First Company in Colonel Robert VanRensselaer's Regiment.
4. Commander-in-Chief, General George Washington.
5. In Jacob's pension application is the order for his appointment is blotted from the ink having gotten wet and creases from being kept folded for a length of time. The following is a transcription of what can be read: "*Sir. You are hereby appointed orderly Sergt to my Regt [blotted] You are carry all such orders [blotted] Field Officers of the Regt shall send you. Robert VanRensselaer Collo. 1778—To Jacob Esselstine Junr Iff] you chose to [blotted] will immediatley carry the order if not, signify it to me, directly so that another [blotted] [blotted] be appointed.*" Every company was to have an orderly sergeant. The orderly sergeant was able to read and write and would receive the orders from the commanding officer or adjutant. Usually the orderly sergeant would keep an order book which would have the daily orders and duties recorded.
6. Captain Elihu Marshall in Lieutenant Colonel Commandant Marinus Willett's Regiment of New York State Levies for 1781. In Captain Marshall's receipt roll Jacob is listed as being owed £20. .4. . 1 as sergeant and £ 7. . 4 as a private. FROM: Revolutionary War /Rolls 1775-1780, Series M-246, Roll 78, folder 173, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
7. The Battle of New Dorlach was fought on July 10, 1781. Captain Robert McKean was mortally wounded and died on the march back to Fort Rensselaer. McKean is often referred to as major but all official correspondence give McKean's rank as captain.
8. In Jacob's pension application is an order dated at Fort Hunter as follows: "*Fort Hunter Sept 26th 1781. Sergt Asselstine you will send one of your men with Corpl Carr [William] to Johns Town these 4 men hath got [blotted] or that man of yours [blotted] To Sergt Asselstine [blotted] Jas Cannan at Caughnawaga Lieut Command'g.*