

Pension Application for William Hammill

S.10794

Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed 7th of June 1832.

State of New York

Montgomery County SS.

On the 18th day of August in the year of our Lord 1832 personally appeared before me Henry J. Diffendorff Esquire, one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in & for the said County of Montgomery being a Court of record William Hammill at the house of William Lane Esqr in the Town of Canajoharie in said County of Montgomery aged 80 years who being first by me 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 that he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated to wit. Deponent was born on the 14th of Sept. 1752 in the County of Antrim Ireland & moved to Cherry Valley at the age of 19 years then Canajoharie in the County of Tryon now Otsego County & now resides in Canajoharie & County of Montgomery –

In the month of January on the 26th day thereof 1776—he was ordered out with the militia under Capt. Clyde (1) in Genl Herkimer's (2) division—Col. Campbell (3) commanded the Regt—went down the Mohawk to disarm Sir John Johnson was gone 18 days was dismissed & returned home—

In the summer of 76—month does not recollect, deponent kept garrison at Col. Campbell's house at Cherry Valley where his son now resides—Col. Campbell & Capt. Clyde -- was then & on scouts at that time four months acted as Seageant [Sergeant] – a few days thereafter was called on & went under Capt. Thomas Whitaker (4)—Col. Campbell commanded the Regt—Clyde then was a major all under the command of Genl Herkimer & went down the Unadilla River—to meet with Brant (5) & concluded a kind of treaty with Brant then commanding a party of Indians—Brant notwithstanding the treat was soon found among the enemy again was absent on this occasion on service 18 days—

In July 1777—was called out under Col. John Harper (6)—to disarm the Tories & Indians at Harpersfield 25 miles & out of Cherry Valley—absent on this service—18 days. His captain was not out at this time—deponent had the command of the men from C. Valley as Sergeant—Returned & on the 20th of the same month was called out—by the whole company to go to the German Flatts -- in Herkimer County distance about 30 miles under the command of Capt. Whitaker gone from home 16 days.

Immediately thereafter was called out under Capt. McKean (7) until we arrived with the officers of the Regt—on the way to Oriskany—arrived but after the battle at that place—returned home when without any delay – he was sent with an express by Col. Campbell & General Herkimer to Genl Clinton (8) at Albany—Deponent went to Albany—delivered the express brought back the answer—to the residence of Genl Herkimer—the day after the general's death by a wound received in the Oriskany battle. Deponent was ordered to join the troops of Genl Arnold (9) then on their way up to Fort Stanwix Joined them at Canajoharie on the Mohawk—went—until they arrived at the German Flatts -- on hearing of the evacuation of that Fort –they returned—

Deponent went home--& the very next day volunteered to take the place of his brother Robert who had been drafted—went to Bemis Heights at Stillwater under Lieutenant Campbell, (Capt. Whitaker being absent) in Col. Samuel Campbell's Regt—arrived there before the great battle at that place—which was called the second battle with Burgoyne (10)—were then sent around the enemy's camp—as spies or scout, with Col. Morgan's (11) company of Riflemen and

returned home with the Regt—returned home about the 12 or 13th of Oct 1777 as near as this deponent recollects.—

This Regt being dismissed the very day of the battle on account of the perilous condition of Cherry Valley & its vicinity, these last periods of service amount to 4 months—

In the spring of 1778 deponent kept garrison at Cherry Valley under Col. Alden (12) until his death & then under Col. Ballard 10 months & 17 days & was discharged in the early part of 1779—Then had a written discharge under the hand of Col. Ballard (13) for the last period of time at that place—Deponent acted on Scouts & skirmishes and during the whole time as Seargeant—

After Cherry Valley (14) was burnt, deponent served as a volunteer in several alarms & verily believes to the amount of 3 months in all—but in such detached portions of time that deponent cannot otherwise describe it—Deponent was never in any general battles—

Has seen in the service Genl Gates, (15) Genl Schuyler, Col. Morgan, Genl Putnam & many others & often Genl Lafayette (16) (The latter not in the service)—Deponent has no documentary evidence nor does he know of any person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service only those whose affidavits are hereto annexed. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. (Signed) Wlm. Hammill

Sworn to & subscribed the day & hear first above written before me. Henry J. Dievendorff

Letter responding to a request for information dated February 29, 1936. Leap Day.

The data which follow were obtained from the papers on file in Revolutionary War claim for pension, S. 10794, based upon service of William Hamill in the Revolutionary War.

William Hammill was born September 14, 1752, in County Antrim, Ireland, names of parents now shown. He moved to “Cherry Valley at the age of nineteen years, then Canajoharie in the County of Tryon now Otsego County”, New York.

While a resident of Cherry Valley, William Hammill enlisted January 26, 1776, served eighteen days in Captain Clyde’s company, Colonel Campbell’s regiment, down the Mohawk River against Sir John Johnson. He enlisted in the summer of 1776, kept garrison at Colonel Campbell’s house in Cherry Valley (where his son now (1832) resides) under the same officers and went out from there on scout duty. A few days later, was called out in Captain Thomas Whitaker’s company, Colonel Campbell’s regiment, went down the Unadilla River to make a treaty with Brant who then commanded a party of Indians, length of service eighteen days. In July, 1777, he was called out under Colonel John Harper to disarm the Tories and Indians at Harpersfield, twenty-five miles south of Cherry Valley, and served eighteen days, during which time he was in command as sergeant, his captain not on this tour. From July 20, 1777, he served sixteen days in Captain Whitaker’s company at German Flatts in Herkimer County. Immediately after, he was called out under Captain McKean and arrived at Oriskany just after the battle, returned home and without delay was sent as express bearer by Colonel Campbell and General Herkimer to General Clinton at Albany, delivered the message, returned home with the answer to the residence of General Herkimer, the day after the general’s death, which resulted from a wound received in the battle of Oriskany. Next, he joined the troops under General Arnold at Canajoharie on the Mohawk en route to German Flatts, and on arrival at that place, learned of the evacuation and returned home. He volunteered the next day to take the place of his brother Robert who had been drafted, and went to Bemis Heights (Stillwater) under Lieutenant Campbell in Colonel Samuel Campbell’s regiment, arrived before the second battle at that place, acted as spy and scout around the enemy’s camp and returned home

about October 13, 1777, because of the perilous condition then existing at Cherry Valley, these tours in all about four months. From the spring of 1778, he kept garrison at Cherry Valley ten months seventeen days under Colonels Alden and Ballard and received a written discharge from the latter. After Cherry Valley was burned, he volunteered on several alarms under Captain Haight, no details of service given. His entire service was as sergeant, engaged in spying, scouting, etc., in the New York troops and amounted to more than two years. (It cannot be determined whether the "son", referred to above, was the son of William Hammill, or whether the pronoun "his" has reference to Colonel Campbell (17) named in the same sentence, since the name was not stated.)

William Hammill was allowed pension on account of his service in the Revolutionary War, on his application executed August 18, 1832, at which time he was a resident of Canajoharie, Montgomery County, New York. He signed his name William Hammill.

John Gallt, (18) of Cherry Valley, New York, in 1832, aged sixty-six years, stated that he lived in Cherry Valley before the Revolutionary War and knew William Hammill and had known him ever since that war and that he (Hammill) was known as a very active and efficient man and a zealous Whig, and one John Thompson, of Cherry Valley in 1832, aged seventy-four years, made practically the same affidavit. It was stated in 1833, that William Hammill had numerous connections and friends.

No reference was made in the papers in this claim to the wife of William Hammill and no names of children are shown.

End Notes—S.10794—William Hammill

1. On August 26, 1775, officers of the Tryon County Militia were appointed. Samuel Clyde was appointed Captain of the First Company in Colonel Nicholas Herkimer's First Regiment of Tryon County Militia. The following were appointed officers in Captain Clyde's Company: John Campbell Jr., as the first lieutenant and James Cannon as the second lieutenant.
2. Nicholas Herkimer wasn't appointed brigadier general until September 5, 1776. On being appointed the colonel of the first regiment he was also appointed Chief Colonel or Senior Colonel of the Tryon County Militia.
3. On the August 26, 1775 list of appointments Samuel Campbell ;was not appointed an officer of any rank. The major and quartermasters were appointed on September 19, 1775. Also on September 19, 1775 the field also known as regimental officers for the Tryon County Battalion of Minute men were listed as such: George Herkimer as colonel and Samuel Campbell as lieutenant colonel. The minute men battalions were disbanded on June 5, 1776 by order of the Provincial Congress.
4. This is not a definite date when Samuel Clyde was appointed the second major in the First Tryon. When Herkimer was promoted to brigadier general, Ebenezer Cox was promoted to colonel and William Seeber went from major to lieutenant colonel. Clyde as being the captain of the first company was the senior captain and would have been promoted to major. Sometime after that Thomas Whitaker was appointed captain of the first company. He was commissioned captain on June 25, 1778. How or why Whitaker was promoted captain over First Lieutenant John Campbell, Jr. is unknown. Whitaker was not appointed an officer in 1775 in any of the companies of the First Tryon.
5. The meeting with Captain Joseph Brant at Unadilla was on June 27, 1777.
6. John Harper was the Colonel of the Fifth Regiment of Tryon County Militia.
7. Robert McKean was appointed captain on November 21, 1776 of the Sixth Company in Colonel Goose VanSchaick's First New York Continental Regiment. Captain McKean was not at Cherry Valley in 1777 and did not march with the Tryon County Militia.

8. Governor and Brigadier General George Clinton and Brigadier General James Clinton do not appear to have been at Albany at this time. They were at or near Fort Montgomery in the Highlands near wet Point, New York.
9. Major General Benedict Arnold marched his relief force to Fort Schuyler. Colonel VanSchaick's Regiment was part of this column and General Arnold left to return to Saratoga he left the First New York at Fort Schuyler.
10. The Second Battle of Saratoga was fought on October 7, 1777.
11. Colonel Daniel Morgan commanded the 11th Virginia Continental Regiment.
12. Colonel Ichabod Alden of the Sixth Massachusetts Continental Regiment.
13. Cherry Valley was destroyed on November 11, 1778.
14. William H. Ballard was the captain of the first company in Colonel Alden's Regiment.
15. Major Generals Horatio Gates, Philip Schuyler and Israel Putnam of the Continental Army.
16. Major General Marie-Joseph Paul Yves Roch Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de La Fayette of the Continental Army.
17. William was referring to the son of Colonel Campbell.
18. John Gallt or Gault was the son of William Gallt, a loyalist but was also burned out at Cherry Valley on November 11, 1778.