

**Pension Application for Denier Relja, or Dernier Relyea**

W.20365 (Widow: Annatje or Nancy Kniestcarn, Former Widow) married May 13, 1778 and he died August 29, 1797. Afterwards she married William Kniestcarn, who died November 12, 1829)

The deposition of Joseph Peck of the City & County of Schenectady in the State of New York aged 83 years and upwards who testifies and says that he was during the war of the Revolution for the years 1779 and 1780 a Captain of Batteaumen fatigue men & laborers and served as particularly set forth in his Declaration now on file at the pension office Washington.

That during the time Deponent thus served he well remembers that one Ryner VanEverer was also serving in the like capacity of Captain of Batteaumen and Deponent thinks for a like space of time, upon the Mohawk & Hudson Rivers.

Deponent particularly remembers having seen said VanEverer on command with said Company at Albany and upon several occasions saw him leave Albany with his said Company upon expeditions up the Hudson River. Deponent was also during said period well acquainted with Dernier Relyea the same person referred [referred] to & described in the accompanying papers and believes that he served during said years under the command of said Captain VanEverer, but he cannot particularly state that he belonged to said company altho he well knows that he was serving during said period in the capacity of a bateauman, and was informed & believes that he served two enlistments during said years. (Signed) Joseph Peck

Subscribed & sworn this 2d day of September 1840 & I certify that he is a credible witness, John H. Van Eps. J. &c

In the matter of the application of Annatje Kniestcarn for a pension under the act of July 4<sup>th</sup> 1836.

Albany Jany 12/43

Sir

The above claim was transferred to me by Giles F. Yates Esqr with the request that I would continue the application. I would respectfully request therefore that your reply may be made to me.

By reference to the papers handed me by Mr. Yates I find that the following service has been proved.

Batteau service during the year 1777 In the Compy of Capt. Hunn by 3 witnesses. 1 year.

Batteau service in 1779, in Capt. Van Everet's compy by Joseph Peck himself a Captain of Batteau. 1 year.

Militis service in 1775, 1778, 1780 41 days.

Two witnesses to wit, Jacob Reyea & Paul Hopckstrasser swear that Dernier Relyea was on duty when Schoharie was burnt In the fall of 1780.

Mrs. Kniestcarns marriage, occurred in the month of May 1778. There is no record of marriage but a record of the Captain of her son David in July 1779. L All the witnesses except Isaac Truax have sworn to service after marriage. Two witnesses

swear to his being present when Schoharie was burnt in the fall of 1780. Capt Joseph Peek to batteau service in 1779, all but one to his service at the Schohare forts in 1778 a part of which was after marriage. This one only knew of his service in the batteau in 1777.

The affidavits of John Beebe & Cornelius Wormier which I now send you strengthen the evidence and show that there was no other Denier Relyea but this, and the affidavit of Widow Charity Relyea which I also enclose is express that said Dernier & Annatje were married as early as the spring of 1778 & that said Dernier served in the was thereafter.

On this evidence we are compelled to rest the application and would respectfully request that Mrs. Kniesztczarn may be allowed such amount of pension, as you may adjudge her right upon the proofs presented. The poor old widow has waited long & patiently & I should rejoice to be able to assist her in perfecting her claim.

Mr. Yates informs me that after his return from Washington and additional affidavit of Isaac Groot was taken before me as Commissioner of Deeds (but that it is now lost or mislaid) & that the affidavit confirmed the testimony of the other witnesses of Militia service particularly served after marriage.

I am very Respectfully Your Obt Servt. Wm. B. Pierce