

Pension Application for Henry Staley

S.11490

State of New York

Montgomery County SS.

On this thirtieth day of August in the Year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty two, personally appeared before John Hand, Esquire, one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the County of Montgomery, Henry Staley, a resident of the town of Florida in the County of Montgomery and State of New York, aged eighty six years, 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 7th 1832.

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

That he the said Henry Staley was born on the 15th day of February in the year 1746, in Rariton, New Jersey, that he has a record of his age kept upon a map in his house which was copied from the family record of his father and which he believes is correct. That in the month of May in the year 1776 as he believes, he entered the service of the United States as a private soldier and as a volunteer in a company of Militia commanded by Captain David McMaster, Lieutenant James McMaster & Ensign David Beverly and was attached to a regiment of the Militia of Tryon County, which was commanded by Col. Frederick Fisher, and that he served in said company from the time he so entered the same as a private soldier till the close of the war in the year 1783, that at the time he entered the service he resided in the town of Florida & County of Montgomery (then Tryon) and has resided in the same town ever since the war, that the company was composed of thirty or forth privates, among whom he does not know that more than three or four are living to wit. Albert VanHousen, Hugh McMaster and John Servoss by all of whom he can prove his service, that the only battle in which he was engaged was at Oriskany which he thinks was in the month of August in the year 1777, that General Herkimer was wounded in that battle of which wounds he died. He recollects seeing Col. Willett at that time, and that it was the general confidence of the Militia in the character & bravery of Col. Willett that prevented much greater slaughter, that he is now unable from his great age, loss of memory & debility of mind (as well as body) to recollect the order of events as they occurred, that the company to which he belonged were kept in detached [?] of from four, to six, and stationed at different places within a few miles to give alarms and prevent depredations from Indian Scouts, Tories & British along what was then considered as the frontier in Tryong County along the Mohawk River, the principle places of quartering were at Fort Hunter, the town of Florida, Caughnawaga, Fort Plain, German Flatts, Canajoharie, Johnstown, Fish House, Bowman's Creek & Herkimer, the names of the other captains who commanded companies in the same Regiment as he now recollects were captains DeGraff, Maybe, Yeomans, Hodges, Snook & Pettingal. Some portion of the company to which he belonged were engaged in other battles or skirmishes; at the time of the battle or skirmish at Johnstown Capt. McMaster's Company were ordered there, when they arrived within about a mile of the battle or the place where it had been, it was about the dusk of the evening they met Col. Willett with his Regiment who were then leaving the field of battle that he saw Col. Willett once also at Bowman's Creek during the war but cannot recollect in what year that he never received any written discharge nor has he any documentary evidence of his service, that he is unable to attend any court of record to make this declaration by reason of bodily infirmity. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. (Signed with his mark) Henry Staley

Subscribed and sworn to this 30th day of August 1832 before me John Hand one of the Judges of the Montgomery County Courts.