

Pension Application for Rudolph Steele, Steal, Stale, Staley, Steel

R.10,099

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

State of New York

County of Herkimer SS.

On this tenth—day of October, one thousand eight hundred and thirty two, personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Herkimer, now sitting Rudolph Steele a resident of the town of German flatts in the County of Herkimer and State of New York, aged eighty seven years and five months, 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 7, 1832.

That in the winter of the year 1776, or in the month of December proceeding & before the year following this Deponent was appointed a Quarter Master (1) in Col. Peter Bellinger's Regiment, in Nicholas Herkimer's (2) Brigade of Infantry of the Militia of the State of New York. That Deponent was appointed by the sub Committee of Safety of the County of Tryon, now Herkimer County, Frederick Bellinger (3) was Lieut. Col. J. Denis Clapsattle (4) Major of said Regiment.

That this Deponent after his appointment he believes nearly two years after received a commission from his Excellency George Clinton then Governor of the State of New York, under the Seal of said State, that the officers were directed to keep their commissions about their persons so that if captured by the enemy they would be treated with more humanity—that by carrying his Commission about him this Deponent entirely wore out the same so that it was destroyed—wore out the same so that it was destroyed—

That this deponent acted under said commission until the spring of the year 1780 and done duty as Quarter Master in said Regiment when he removed to the City of Schenectady that this Deponent at the time he was appointed resided at German Flatts in the County of Herkimer and State of new York, that this Deponent was in one brush or skirmish with the Indians and tories on the Mohawk River in the present town of Frankfort, Herkimer County—that this regiment was employed in locating the Indians and tories, guarding boats in passing up the river with provisions and other necessaries for the troops stationed at Fort Stanwix, that Deponent was principally employed in procuring teams, wagons, boats, provisions, powder & ball as the same was required, that this Deponent had charge of the guard in protecting the baggage and wagons at the Battle of Oriskany in August 1777, and that during this time Deponent was with the Regiment at Coaghnawaga (Caughnawaga) at the time Genl Herkimer went to treat with Sir John Johnson—that he was also out at the Unadilla River (5) when Genl Herkimer visited Brandt to make a treaty with him—that Deponent was in the pursuit of Butler in 1781 at which time he resided at Schenectady & came out as a volunteer acting as Quarter Master in Col. Peake's (6) Regiment & that Deponent was out when Andrustown (7) was burned—When Springfield was destroyed by the Indians—that Deponent is unable to say how many days he was absent on each of these occasions—that he thinks he was employed in al these excursions & in the forts at least two years of the same could be exactly ascertained.

That by the spring of the year 1780 Deponent removed to Schenectady where he acted as Quarter Master in Col. Peake, Major Fonda & they furnished Deponent with a horse & saddle and bridle & he acted in said Regiment until the End of the war 1783. When this Deponent returned to German Flatts that while at Schenectady Deponent came up the River in pursuit of Butler after the defeat of the Enemy at Johnstown (8). That when at Johnstown Deponent recollects that the bodies of those slain in that battle were still bleeding—that Deponent went up the Canada Creek after Butler but did not go to the place when he was killed, that they retreated after he was killed.

And to the Questions put by the court this Deponent answers—

That he was born in the town of German Flatts, in the County of Herkimer & State of New York, on the first day of May 1745 as my wife be eight [?] that Deponent has no record of his age, that the same was burnt in his Father's House in the French War—That Deponent lived in German Flatts when he first did duty, has remained there ever since the war & still resides there.—

That he was acquainted with Col. Marinus Willett, Col. Gansevoort & others – VanSchaick & Allen (9). That Deponent recd a Commission from & under the Seal of this State signed by Geo. Clinton, Governor—And that the same was destroyed by being carried in Deponents pocket.

That John Frank, William Feeter & many others can testify as to Deponents character for truth, & as to his services. Sworn in Open Court. (Signed) Rudolph Steele

Oct 10th 1832. F. E. Spinner Dept Clerk

End Notes—Rudolph Steele-- R.10,099

1. Rudolph D. Staley or Steele was appointed Quarter Master on September 19, 1775 in Colonel Han Jost or John Joseph, Herkimer's Fourth Regiment of Tryon County Militia. In the original appointment of officers on August 26, 1775 Herkimer was appointed colonel and Peter Bellinger was the lieutenant-colonel. Colonel Herkimer declined the appointment and by March 21, 1776, John Moore representing Tryon County at the Provincial Congress reported the following, "That Col. Peter Bellinger had appointed the

place of Rendezvous for his Regiment, which is the fourth of Tryon County) by the Church at Kingsland at the South Side of the River." FROM: Documents Relating To The State of New York, ed. Bertold Fernow, State Archives, Vol. I, vol. XV, page 89, Weed, Parsons and Company, Printers, Albany, 1887. Additionally, Bellinger and Steele were commissioned on June 25, 1778.

2. Nicholas Herkimer was appointed colonel on August 26, 1775 of the First Regiment of Tryon County Militia. "By the majority of another voting of this committee, Col. Nicholas Herkimer is appointed Chief Colonel, or Senior Colonel, and Commander For the County of Tryon." FROM: Frontiersmen of New York, Jephtha Simms, Vol. I, p. 512, Geo. C. Riggs, Publisher, Albany, NY 1882. On September 5, 1776 Colonel Herkimer was promoted to Brigadier General of the Tryon County Militia Brigade.
3. Frederick Bellinger was appointed Captain of the Fourth Company in Colonel HanJost Herkimer's Regiment of Tryon County Militia on August 26, 1775. Frederick was promoted to lieutenant-colonel in 1776 and he was commissioned on June 25, 1778.
4. Augustinus Clapsaddle had been appointed second lieutenant on August 26, 1775 in Captain Han Jose Herkimer's Company which was the sixth company. Captain Herkimer, brother of Nicholas was a loyalist and declined the appointment and fled to Canada. Augustinus was promoted to major also in 1776 and was killed at the Battle of Oriskany on August 6, 1777.