

Pension Application for Elias Steenbergh or VanSteenbergh

W.25099 (Widow: Katharine)

Pages of family information in the file: James Stanbargh was born May the 20 in the day of our Lord 1783. Caterien Steenbergy was born Nov ye 24th in the year of our Lord 1788. Married Caterien Huffman November the 3 Anno Dommia 1767. Elias Stenbargan was born Agust [sic] the 27th at Night in the year of our Lord 1759. John Steenbarg was born March the 23 at Night in the year of Our Lord 1762.

State of New York

Saratoga County. SS

On this twenty seventh day of February 1837 personally appeared before me Nicholas B. Doe one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the County of Saratoga aforesaid Katharine Steenburgh a resident of the town of Half Moon in the County of Saratoga and State of New York aged ninety two 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 provision made by the Act of Congress July 4th 1836.

That she is the widow of Elias Steenburgh or VanSteenburgh who was an Ensign in the War of the Revolution commissioned in October 20th 1775, agreeable to date of Commission hereunto annexed and this deponent further saith that in the year 1775, in the month of May as near as this deponent can now recollect. She this deponent together with her husband Elias Steenburgh moved from Fishkill Dutchess County, State of New York to Half Moon then Albany County now Saratoga County State of New York. That soon after Lottbury in said town of Half Moon aforesaid.

There was a company of militia of the State of New York commanded by Captain Jeremiah Vincent in which company Joshua Taylor was Lieutenant and Elias Steenburgh husband of the deponent was Ensign that this company as this deponent recollects and believes belonged to Colonel Jacobus Van Schoonhoven's Regiment then Albany now Saratoga County.

And this deponent further saith that during said year 1775 and the year 1776 to about the first of June 1777 as near as this deponent can now recollect the said Elias Steenburgh above named Continued to serve as Ensign in the said Capt. Vincent's company as afore named. Reference to documents now on file at War Office in the claim of Capt. Vincent for a pension, after which period this deponent's husband sill continued to serve but not under the said Capt. Vincent as he was removed but under Captain Joshua Taylor as a Lieutenant for a short period but as to this this [sic] deponent has no documentary evidence in the possession she cannot therefore positively say that her husband the said Elias Steenburgh did serve as Lieutenant or not but thinks that he did.

And this deponent further saith that during the year 1775, 76 &77 until the surrender of Burgoine at Saratoga this deponent's husband was called out by orders of the Colonel and otherwise on a number of expeditions. That during said years he this deponent's husband was called to go to Lake George then she thinks Albany County also to Crown Point. Also to Fort Edward a number of times also to Fort George also to Saratoga also to Dunning Street all then northern fortifications. And at General Schuyler's a great number of times. Yet she has no means in her power whereby she can determine the time the entered the service as to year, month or day or the manner by which he was dismissed whether by discharge a dismissal but things it was by dismissal.

And this deponent further saith that she believes from the best of her present recollection that her husband the said Elias VanSteenburgh or Steenburgh afore named was engaged in the battle at Saratoga in 1777 at the Surrender of Burgoine. And this deponent further saith that between the year 1777 and 1780 he this deponent's husband aforesaid was promoted to the rank of Captain. Yet at what period of this time she has no means in her power whereby she can determine but that he was commissioned as such will appear from the commission hereunto annexed and that he continued to serve as such until the close of the Revolutionary War.

And this deponent further saith that during the war of the Revolution the vicinity in which this deponent and her husband resided Halfmoon aforesaid was inhabited by a great many Tories that owing to her husband's absence in the army she was frequently annoyed and at times put to flight with her little family to avoid being robed [robbed] or capture. That she has been obliged to stay in the woods or fields during the night with her little family to prevent being taken prisoner or otherwise to escape the flames of her dwelling.

And your deponent further saith that as she has before stated, she has no documents in her possession whereby she can determine the length of time as to years months and days her husband the said Elias Steenburgh aforesaid was actually engaged in his country['s] cause in active service that her age and consequent loss of memory is such that she cannot give any minute detail of the same except such as herein before given but she thinks that from the best of her present recollection that from the first of the summer of 1775 until after the surrender of Burgoine in 1777 a great proportion of her husband's time was devoted to service of his country in actual service. That from that date to the close of the Revolution it did not require such continued service in this section. Therefore he was not called on as often as previous to the surrender of Burgoine as aforesaid.

She further declares that she was married to the said Elias Steenburgh or VanSteenburgh on the third day of November in the year Seventeen hundred and Sixty Seven according to an entry made in a Dutch Book containing the family record of that date, that her husband the said Elias VanSteenburgh or Steenburgh aforesaid died on the twelfth day of March in the year eighteen hundred and [blank] and that she has never intermarried but has remained a widow ever since that period as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereunto annexed. (Signed with her mark) Katherine Steenburgh

Sworn before me this 27th day of February AD 1837. N.B. Doe, Judge of Saratoga County Courts.

Letter written June 12, 1940, replying to a request for information.

The data which follow were taken from papers on file in pension claim, W.25099 based on the Revolutionary War service of Elias Steenbergh or VanSteenbergh.

The date and place of his birth and the names of his parents are not shown in the papers of this claim.

Elias steenbergh or VanSteenbergh moved from Fishkill, Dutchess County to Half Moon, Albany County, New York, in May, 1775, and while living there he served at various times from the summer of 1775 until the close of the Revolution, the entire length of service not stated. On October 20, 1775, he was appointed Ensign in Captain Jeremiah Vincent's Third company of Foot in Albany County Militia and was in Colonel Jacobus VanSchoonhoven's Regiment and served as such until June 1, 1777, when he served as Lieutenant under Captain Joshua Taylor, was in the battle of Saratoga and was present at the surrender of Burgoyne. On March 4, 1780, he was commissioned Captain of a company in Colonel VanSchoonhoven's Albany County Regiment of Militia and served as such until the close of the Revolution.

Elias Steenbergh or VanSteenbergh married November 3, 1767, in Fishkill, New York, Katharine or Caterien Huffman of Fishkill.

He died in Saratoga County, New York, March 12, 1817 as shown by papers in this claim.

On account of his service in the Revolution, his widow, Katharine or Caterien, was allowed pension on her application executed February 27, 1837, at which time she was ninety-two years of age and a resident of Half Moon, New York.

Katharine or Caterien Steenbergh or VanSteenbergh died August 20, 1838.

Their son, Peter Steenbergh, who signed in person as Steenbergh, was living in Half Moon, New York, in 1838 and was fifty-eight years of age. He stated that the family had dropped the Van from their surname.

The following family data are shown:

“Elias Stenbargar” was born August 27, 1759.

“John Steenbargar” was born March 23, 1762.

“James Stanbargh” was born May 20, 1783.

“Caterien Steenbergh was born November 24, 1785.

In 1837, John G. Taylor was living in Broadalbin, New York, aged seventy-four years, and he stated that he lived in Half Moon, New York, during the Revolution and served in Captain Jeremiah Vincent’s Company in which Joshua Taylor was Lieutenant and Elias VanSteenburgh was Ensign.