

Pension Application for Levi Sterling or Starling

S.40515

New York, Penn.

District of Pennsylvania SS.

On this twenty sixth day of June AD 1818, before me, Richard Peters, Judge of the District Court of the United States, in and for the Pennsylvania District, personally appeared Levi Sterling, of Philadelphia County who being duly sworn deposes and declares, that during the War of the Revolution he served against the common enemy as a sergeant in the army on the Continental Establishment—that on the [blank] day of AD 1777 near Kings Ferry in the state of New York he enlisted in Captain Craig's (1) Company and was afterwards transferred to Captain Orson's Company in Colonel Gansevoort's Regiment of the New York Line on the Continental Establishment—that on the reformation or consolidation of the said Line, the company to which he belonged was transferred to the First Regiment commanded by Colonel VanSchaick—(2) That he continued in service until the peace of 1783 when he received a pensionable discharge—that he served for the term of seven years & eight months—that he was present & assisting at the Capture of Burgoine (3) and Cornwallis (4), and was with General Sullivan (5) on the expedition against the Indians at Tyoga &c where he was severely wounded (6)—that he is now sixty years of age.

That by reason of his reduced circumstances in life, he is in need of assistance from his country for support, that he never has received, or been allowed any pension by the laws of the United States—that he is a resident citizen of the United States, and that his present declaration is made in order to obtain provision under the late Act of Congress "to provide for certain persons engaged in the land & naval service of the United States during the war of the Revolution. (Signed) Levi Starling

Sworn and Subscribed this 26th day of June A.D. 1818, before me. Richard Peters.

Letter in folder dated April 15, 1929, written in response to a request for information.

I advise you that from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim S.40515 it appears that Levi Starling (pensioned Sterling) enlisted near King's Ferry, New York, his place of residence at that time not stated, served as sergeant in Captain Thomas Craig's (7) Company, Colonel Baxter's (8) Pennsylvania Regiment, was transferred to captain James Gregg's Company and served in Colonels VanSchaick's and Gansevoort's New York Regiments, Captain Aaron Aorson's Company, Colonel Marinus Willett's New York Regiment, was in General Sullivan's Expedition against the Indians at Tioga where he was severely wounded, nature of wound not stated, was at the capture of Burgoyne and surrender of Cornwallis and was discharged in 1783, having served seven years and eight months.

He was allowed pension on his application executed June 26, 1818 at which time he was a resident of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and stated that he was aged sixty years, but in 1820 stated that he was aged sixty-nine years.

In 1828 he was a resident of Warwick Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

It is not stated that soldier was ever married, and the names of his parents are not given.

This is the history of the only soldier named Levi Starling, or similar spelling, found on the Revolutionary War Records of this bureau.

End Notes—S.40515—Levi Sterling

1. Levi enlisted as a private for during war in Captain James Gregg's Sixth Company on January 13, 1777 in Colonel Peter Gansevoort's Third New York Continental Regiment. In 1778, he was transferred to Captain Aaron Aorson's Company of Light Infantry in Colonel Gansevoort's Regiment. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 69, folders 41 and 42 (Aorson's Company), National Archives, Washington, D.C.
2. On January 1, 1781, the First and Third New York Continental Regiments were consolidated into a new First New York with Captain Aorson and Levi with others being transferred to this regiment. Colonel Goose VanSchaick remained the Colonel of the First New York.
3. There are several pensioners of the First and Third New York Regiments claiming to be at Saratoga and the battles there on September 19 and October 7, 1777. Many have also claimed to be at the surrender of the British Army on October 17, 1777 which were commanded by Lieutenant General John Burgoyne. The Third New York was at Fort Schuyler and were besieged for 21 days during August. The siege ended on August 22, when Major General Benedict Arnold arrived with a relief force which included the First New York. When General Arnold left Fort Schuyler and returned to Saratoga leaving the First New York at Fort Schuyler with the Third New York and were there well into September. So far nothing shows that a detachment from the First and Third New York Regiments went with Arnold to Saratoga. Also, Sterling does not mention the siege at Fort Schuyler, of which he would have been a part.

4. Levi in 1781 was a Corporal in Captain Aorson's Company in the First New York. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls, 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 65, folder 5, National Archives, Washington, D.C. The Yorktown Virginia campaign was from September 28 to October 19, 1781.
5. Major General John Sullivan and Brigadier James Clinton joined forces and led an expedition against the Iroquois Villages in Western New York in 1779.
6. The Battle of Newtown, (present Elmira, NY) was fought on August 29, 1779. Levi would have been in the Third New York at this time.
7. There was a Thomas Craig as a Captain in the Second Pennsylvania Battalion in 1776 until September 29, 1776 when he was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel. The Colonel of this regiment was Arthur St. Clair until August 9, 1776 and then Joseph Wood was appointed Colonel on September 7, 1776.
8. A Colonel ____ Baxter of the Pennsylvania Battalion of the Flying Camp was killed at Fort Washington, N.Y. on November 16, 1776.