

Pension Application for William Thompson

S.14677

William Thompson in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress Passed June 7th 1832.

State of New York

Niagara County SS

On this sixth day of May A.D. 1833, personally appeared in open court before the Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the County of Niagara now sitting William Thompson, a resident of the Town of Pendleton in said County of Niagara aged seventy five years the 12th day of April last past, 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 enlisted in the Army of the United States in the month of March of the year 1776. (But what day of the month this deponent has forgotten & cannot now state) with Captain Robert McKean (1) whose company belonged to the Regiment of Col. Wynkoop (whose Christian name this deponent has forgotten) according to the best recollection of this deponent—but whither said Col. Wynkoop ever accompanied his Regiment from home into the army at all for any length of time or not, deponent has forgotten—but state that Col. Nicholls (2) (whose Christian name he was forgotten) soon had & assumed the Command of the same regiment theretofore commanded by said Col. Wynkoop—

Whether Col. Wynkoop resigned his office & was detached off to some other part of the Army, deponent has forgotten & cannot state—That said regiment commanded by Col. Nicholl, belonged to the New York Line, and this applicant served after the said Col. Nicholl assumed the command of the said regiment, under the following officers to wit—Lieutenants French (3) (whose Christian name is forgotten) & Albert VanDerwarker (the Christian name of said Lieutenant Vanderwarker being a Dutch name may be spelled wrong)—Capt. Robert McKean—Col. Nicholls (whose Christian name is forgotten)—That this applicant at the time of his said enlistment, lived in the town of Cherry Valley, (then in the County of Montgomery, now Otsego County, State of N. York)—

That he enlisted at the time aforesaid, for the term of six months, but continued in the service in the said McKean's Company for the term, (or as near the term) of ten months as he can now recollect—This deponent recollects that when he left the company of said McKean the snow was on the ground & he believes it was in the Month of December 1776, but what day of the said month he cannot recollect)—That after he enlisted in the spring of 1776 as aforesaid, he remained with his said company at Cherry Valley about the term of one month & then marched to the Mohawk River, in the town of Johnstown, about Six miles of the Village of Johnstown, to stop some boats from carrying goods & provisions to the British in Canada—

That they went up the said Mohawk to Rome where there was a carrying place from said Mohawk to Wood Creek at which place it was expected they would be able to intercept the Tories with their boats of goods & provisions destined for the British as above stated—that they succeeded in capturing most of the Tories & their stuff which they were conveying as aforesaid to the British—

That after this they returned down the Mohawk to the place called the Sand Flats about five or six miles from the said River (as deponent now thinks) where the company of said McKean & the company of Capt. Seaver (4) (which had accompanied said McKean's Company on the expedition to intercept said boat; as aforesaid) were mustered & where, after being mustered, the said two companies, were detached & sent to join the New Jersey soldiers (called the Jersey Blues) then under the command of Col. Dayton (thinks his Christian name was Jonathan but cannot be positive)—

That in connection with said Col. Dayton's Regiment, the said two companies of Capt. McKean & Capt. Seaver (deponent under Capt. McKean) marched back to Fort Stanwix (now Rome) where they all were stationed to repair said fort and guard, the said Wood Creek in order to prevent the British from bringing artillery down said creek, to convey to said Mohawk & so down to Albany & on the Hudson River, & to prevent the Tories from conveying supplies to the British by way of said Wood Creek.—That they remained at said Fort Stanwix on guard & in repairing as aforesaid for some months but how long precisely, he has now forgotten—That at the expiration of said term at Fort Stanwix, they were relieved by a Regiment commanded by Col. Ellmer, Ellmore, (5) or Helmore (the mode of spelling the name he cannot state—thinks it was pronounced as if written Elmer)—When so relieved as aforesaid, the two companies commanded by said Capts. McKean & Seaver, were marched down to, or near to the Village of Johnstown, the said Regiment of Col. Dayton being ordered to another place (to the North of Fort Stanwix as he now thinks)—That this deponent & his said company continued at Johnstown, a few months (the precise time he cannot now recollect) which completed the said term of ten months, being the first term of service performed as above stated—at which last mentioned place this deponent & his said company were discharged & deponent went home to Cherry Valley—the said company of Capt. Seavers being ordered to some other part of the county (cannot recollect where)-- --

That very soon after deponent returned home in the said month of December 1776 as aforesaid, he was enrolled in the militia of Cherry Valley in the company of Capt. Thomas Whitaker, (6) as a minute man, & required to hold himself in readiness to march, in case of alarm, at a minutes warning—

That he remained thus enrolled & thus situated as a minute man in Cherry Valley aforesaid till sometime in the spring of 1777 (deponent says that it is possible it might have been the very latter part of the winter of 1777, but he thinks it more early in the spring of that year as the River was breaking up & the snow leaving when he was called out together with the said company of Militia commanded by said Thomas Whitaker & marched to Harpersfield to guard the place from an attack threatened against by a body of Highlanders, living near said Harpersfield led & directed by one McDaniel (7) & or McDonald)— That three or four small detachments from other companies were united with Whitaker's Company & with it marched on said expedition to Harpersfield, (said drafts or detachments from said other companies were under the immediate order & charge of one Warfield (whether Capt. or Lieutenant Warfield, (8) he cannot now state)—

That while at Harpersfield terms of pacification were arranged between the officers of our troops & the said Highlanders—two of the leading ones being taken & retained by our troops as hostages (said McDaniel (or McDonald) agreeing to march the rest of the disaffected Highlanders to Canada—which was done by him—that this deponent remained at Harpersfield aforesaid a number of weeks (he cannot say how long precisely) & then returned in said Whitaker's Company to Cherry Valley & said other detachments to their respective places of abode—That immediately after said Whitaker's Company returned to Cherry Valley deponent with said company was called out on an alarm it being reported that the enemy were approaching—That from the time he so returned rather sought new homes, after the burning of Cherry Valley as aforesaid—That soon after the destruction of Cherry Valley (9) as aforesaid, when said Whitaker's Company was dispersed He said Whitaker left Cherry Valley as the deponent then understood went to Albany or Near Albany with his family to reside.

That at the time Cherry Valley was burnt, Col. Alden (10) of the Continental Army who commanded a Regiment then stationed at Cherry Valley was killed—that after said Col. Alden was killed, the command of his regiment devolved upon Maj. Whiting (11) who continued with

the remains of said Regiment but a short time & then returned home to New England, as deponent was informed & believes—that Capt. Ballard (being the oldest Capt. in said Regiment as deponent was then informed & believes) then assumed the command of said regiment which was according to deponents recollection, early in the spring of 1779, although he the said Capt. Ballard, (12) commanded a company in said Alden's Regiment stationed at Cherry Valley as aforesaid during the summer & fall of 1778 & winter of 1778-9 till the said spring of 1779 when he so assumed the command of said Regiment.

That immediately after said Capt. Whitaker left Cherry Valley & the command of his company as aforesaid, this deponent & a few others who had theretofore been attached to said Whitaker's company, some other militiamen from the neighbourhood of Cherry Valley went into the Garrison at Cherry Valley & were attached to said Ballard Company & continued there to keep garrison till sometime in the forepart of the summer or latter part of the spring of 1779 when deponent was one of a scouting party sent out from said Garrison to a place called the Butternuts, to reconnoiter the country & see that the Tories were then believed to be gathering at that place were kept in due check & restraint—That said scouting party were absent from Cherry Valley some eight or ten days (cannot recollect the precise time) when they returned to Cherry Valley again—when soon afterward or about the month of August 1779, (13) Capt. Ballard's Regiment Continental troops were ordered to join General Sullivan on his expedition against the Indians around the Seneca Lake—that when said Ballard's regiment left Cherry Valley as aforesaid deponent & the other militia then in Garrison who had been under the Command of said Ballard as aforesaid, still remained in Garrison—That the length of time after said Capt. Whitaker left Cherry Valley as aforesaid in the fall of 1778, up to the month of August (which is the time deponent thinks that said Ballard's Regiment was ordered away as aforesaid) is about ten months as deponent verily believes—(this deponent here states that the length of time since the above events is so great that he may have mistaken the precise date & the affidavit of Thomas Thompson hereto annexed may upon this point be correct, when he says it was twelve months).

That immediately after said Ballard's Regiment left Cherry Valley as aforesaid, this deponent moved his quarters from C. Valley to the Mohawk on account of the defenceless state of Cherry Valley—That at this time the inhabitants of C. Valley generally left there, on the same account—That immediately after deponent arrived at the Mohawk, which was but a few days after said Ballard's Regiment marched to join Genl Sullivan, he deponent was enrolled in Capt. Van Eavers (14) (Eaver being a Dutch name it may be misspelt) Company, in Col. Willett's (15) Regiment composed partly of Militia & partly of regulars, & went to Fort Ehle to guard the fort & kept garrison where he continues in wait VanEava's Company on duty till the next fall to Cherry Valley after the Harpersfield expedition & up to the fall of 1778 said Whitaker's Company with deponent were almost without one day's [blot] on active duty, marching & countermarching & preparing for different expeditions, according to the circumstance, of different parts of the country in the region of Cherry Valley—

That during that period said company were marched to Unadilla, to check the Indians under the famous Indian Chief "Jo. Brandt"—& to many other places in the region of Cherry Valley—That during the same period Cherry Valley was burnt by the British, Indians & Tories—that said, "Brandt headed the Indians, and Sir John Johnston (16) & Colo. Butler (17) the British & Tories—

That when deponent & his said company under Capt. Whitaker when to Unadilla, as aforesaid, the brigade Commanded by Genl. Herkimer went along on said expedition for the aforesaid purpose—Deponent thinks Lieut. Col. Sam'l Clyde (18) commanded the Regiment to which Capt. Whitaker's Company was attached; Col. Sam'l Campbell remaining at home at

Cherry Valley during the time spent in said expedition to Unadilla & not accompanying his said Regiment—There was a Col. Cox also in said Herkimer's Brigade—also a Col. Harper (19) who resided in Harpersfield, attached to said Brigade under Gen'l Herkimer upon said expedition—That deponent thus continued in the service of his country in the said Capt. Whitaker's Company from the said spring of 1777 to the fall of the year 1778, making the term of eighteen months, (or more as he verily believes which he spent in actual service as aforesaid, over and above the time spent in Cherry Valley as aforesaid, while he was enrolled as a minute man (20) & previous to the said expedition—to Harpersfield above stated & thereon and after his said discharge at Johnstown as aforesaid—

That deponent cannot now recollect the precise time in the said fall of 1778 when the company of said Whitaker returned to their homes—or (the fall of 1780) which was about the time of fourteen or fifteen months after he so joined said VanEavers Company—That at the expiration of said last mentioned term of service this deponent left said VanEaver's Company & went as a substitute for a Mr. George Lambert (21) or Lamper (it being a Dutch name this deponent may not have spelt his name right) in the company commanded by Capt. Gray (22) or Braidby—he cannot say which for the term of three months—That while thus in Capt. Gray's (or Braidby's Company) he went to Fort Herkimer to keep garrison—that he & his said company then returned back to Fort Ehle when & where deponent was again united with the said Capt. Van Eaver's Company in which he continued till the close of the war, considered as a minute man—That after he thus returned to Fort Ehle, & before the close of the war he was a number of times called out on the occasion of alarms—at one time during said period, Col. Willett's (23) Regiment with all the militia at Fort Ehle & a company from towards Schenectady were ordered out & march to Johnstown where the British & Indians were ravaging & burning the country—that a Battle (24) took place between the American troops and the enemy—that owing to the fact that only a part of Col. Willett's Regiment arrived at Johnstown when the battle first commenced, the Americans were forced to yield the ground, most of said portion of said Regiment which thus began the battle being cut off—but upon the other detachment of the Regiment under Major Rowley (25) (who had gone round to come in upon the back of the enemy) coming up in the rear of the enemy's troops, the battle was renewed & the enemy driven from the field & from Johnstown the enemy then retreated from Johnstown & were pursued by our troops; & on the next day were overtaken and another battle (26) took place--though not a hard one as the British soon yielded—some being killed & the rest fleeing—That during the night between said two battles our troops took some British prisoners, how many deponent cannot now recollect—In the first battle above mentioned, said Major Rowley was wounded through his ankle [ankle]—that this deponent was in said first battle & went in pursuit the next day, but was in the rear of the pursuing party, so that he did not actually engage in the skirmish of the second day—that frequently deponent was called to said Fort Ehle on alarms given & remained there a short time--& then returned home a distance of about one mile—That deponent has no doubt he spent some months in this way in going to, staying at & returning from said Fort during said term & before the close of the war—he always being obliged to go in a minute's warning as he was a minute man. (27)

This deponent further states that he has no documentary evidence of his services than the depositions hereto annexed.

He hereby relinquishes any claim whatever to a pension, annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state and that he was born in Cherry Valley in the now county of Otsego in the year 1758 according to his best knowledge & recollection & belief. That he has no family records. The family record which stated & set forth his this applicants age, being contained in a family Bible belonging to his

father, which was burnt up at the burning & destruction of Cherry Valley as above stated in his declaration—since which he has had no record. He lived in said Cherry Valley when first called into service as it before stated—he first lived since the Revolutionary War in Cherry Valley about three years—next in the town of Springfield west of Cherry Valley about twenty years—next in Cherry Valley again about ten years—next in Cortland County, N. York & last in Niagara County, N. York, where he now lives as above stated—he first enlisted for six months as before stated & afterwards continued as above stated in this declaration.

The names of many of his officers now recollected by this applicant as above stated, in this declaration. This applicant never received a written discharge—he was [?] by his officers with the other soldiers to march out & provide arms and accouterments & then were told to go home receiving no written discharge.

This deponent is acquainted with a Mr. Andrus a Baptist Clergyman, George Oliver—a Mr. Sykes, Esqr, Alanson Sykes & others now living in said town of Pendleton & who he believes will testify to his character for veracity & their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution. (Signed) William Thompson

Sworn & Subscribed this 8th day of May 1833 before me. H. Dayton Judge

We, Leman Andrus a clergyman residing in the Town of Pendleton in Niagara County N. York and Nathaniel Sykes—residing in the same place hereby certify, that we are well acquainted with William Thompson who has subscribed & sworn to the above declaration: that we believe him to be seventy five years of age as he has above in his declaration stated—that he is reputed & believed in the neighbourhood where he resides, to have been a soldier of the revolution—that we concur in that opinion—that he is a man whose reputation for truth & veracity is perfectly good— Leman Andrus, Nathaniel Sykes

Sworn and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid. H. Dayton, Judge

End Notes—S.14677—William Thompson

1. Robert McKean was appointed Captain on March 1, 1776 in Colonel Cornelius D. Wynkoop's Fourth New York Continental Regiment. William is listed as a private on the company muster roll but there is no date of enlistment next to his name. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 78, folder 179, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
2. So far a Colonel Nicholl has not been found as belonging to this regiment. A Francis Nicholl was the lieutenant colonel in Colonel Abraham TenBroeck's Third Regiment of Albany County Militia in 1775. When TenBroeck was promoted to brigadier general, Nicholl was promoted to Colonel. There was a Colonel Isaac Nicholl of the Regiment of Orange County Minute Men in 1775 and part of 1776. Colonel Nicoll was at Fort Constitution and other fortifications in and near West Point, N.Y., as late as May of 1776. It is possible he was referring to Colonel John Nicholson's Additional Continental Regiment. Nicholson's Regiment and Captain McKean's Company were stationed in September of 1776 in the Johnstown area. Nicholson would have been the overall commander as Colonel Wynkoop did not come to the Mohawk Valley with the companies that were sent to help build Fort Dayton during the summer.
3. First Lieutenant Abner French and Second Lieutenant Albert VanDerwerker.
4. Captain Jacob W. Seeber of Wynkoop's Regiment. McKean's and Seeber's companies were sent first to assist Colonel Elias Dayton's Third New Jersey Continental Regiment in Building a fort at the German Flats and when it was completed it was named Fort Dayton.

5. Colonel Samuel Elmore's Connecticut State Regiment. The Third New Jersey was ordered to another area to the north. Continental Regiments were usually rotated to different posts. By April of 1777, Elmore's Regiment was replaced by Colonel Peter Gansevoort's Third New York Continental Regiment. Several of Elmore's men enlisted in Gansevoort's Regiment as their time was up in April.
6. Captain Thomas Whitaker was commissioned on June 25, 1778 in Colonel Samuel Campbell's First Regiment of Tryon County Militia.
7. Captain John McDonell was a noted loyalist.
8. Ensign Samuel Whorfield of Captain Whitaker's Company.
9. Most of Cherry Valley was destroyed on November 11, 1778 by Captain Walter Butler and Captain Joseph Brant.
10. Ichabod Alden was appointed Colonel of the Sixth Massachusetts Continental Regiment on January 1, 1777.
11. Lieutenant Colonel William Stacey of Alden's Regiment was captured at Cherry Valley on November 11, 1778. Major Daniel Whiting of Alden's Regiment now commanded the regiment at Cherry Valley. In 1779, John Brooks was appointed the lieutenant colonel commandant of the late Alden's Regiment. There is a great confusion as to the number of this regiment. It is sometimes called the Sixth and at other times the Seventh Massachusetts. After Colonel Alden was killed it is usually referred to as the late Alden's Regiment. In 1780 all of the Massachusetts Continental Regiments were reorganized and the late Alden's Regiment was officially designated as the Seventh Massachusetts.
12. Captain William H. Ballard of the first company in Alden's Regiment. Ballard was the senior captain in rank and therefore commanded the first company of the regiment. Ballard assumed the command of the regiment as Major Whiting was the senior ranking officer but when Whiting was away then Ballard would be the senior ranking officer of the regiment until Whiting returned.
13. Actually it was in June of 1779 when Alden's Regiment with Brigadier General James Clinton and the other regiments left the area of Lake Otsego near what is today Cooperstown, NY and after several weeks joined Major General John Sullivan's Army. Sullivan and Clinton with their combined armies of 2,000 men marched against the Iroquois Villages in Western New York and burned all the villages they encountered. William was never officially part of Captain Ballard's Company.
14. Rynier VanEvera was the Captain of the Seventh Company in Colonel Samuel Campbell's First Regiment of Tryon County Militia.
15. In 1779, Lieutenant Colonel Marinus Willett was still serving in Colonel Peter Gansevoort's Third New York Continental Regiment.
16. Sir John Johnson was not at the destruction of Cherry Valley.
17. Lieutenant Colonel John Butler was also not at Cherry Valley. It was his son Capt Walter Butler who commanded the white troops.
18. The command structure of the First Regiment of Tryon County was as follows in 1777: Ebenezer Cox was the colonel, William Seeber was the lieutenant colonel, Samuel Campbell was the first major and Samuel Clyde was the second major.
19. John Harper was the Colonel of the Fifth Regiment of Tryon County Militia.
20. After June of 1776 all minute men regiments and companies were dissolved and every man serving in the militia were always to be ready at a minute's notice.
21. George Lambert or Lampert, etc. served as a private in Captain Adam Leipe's Company in Colonel Campbell's Regiment.

22. Which Captain Gray is unknown. In 1780, Silas Gray served as a lieutenant in the Fourth New York Continental Regiment. He was appointed Captain on April 11, 1780. There is no record of George or of this William Thompson as serving in this regiment. Captain Samuel Gray commanded a Company of Bateamen in 1779 and 1780. There is no record of George or William serving in this company which leaves Captain Braidby. There is no record of a Captain Braidby and he may have served under Captain John Breadbake. Captain John Breadbake in July was appointed Captain in Colonel Lewis DuBois Regiment of New York State Levies. A William Thompson enlisted on July 25, 1780 and was discharged on October 24, 1780 for 3 months service. Captain Breadbake's Company was stationed at Forts Herkimer and Dayton. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 72, folder 96, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
23. Marinus Willett was appointed lieutenant colonel commandant on April 27, 1781 of a regiment of New York State Levies which was to serve in the Mohawk Valley.
24. The Battle of Johnstown was fought on October 25, 1781.
25. Aaron Rowley was the major of Colonel Elisha Porter's Regiment of Massachusetts State Levies. Major Rowley was sent with a detachment of Porter's Regiment to reinforce the troops in the Mohawk Valley. Major Rowley was wounded in this battle.
26. Actually this skirmish at West Canada Creek was on October 30, 1781. In this fight the British raiding force's second in command, Captain Walter Butler, was killed.
27. William had two pay certificates for service in Captain VanEvera's Company. FROM: VanEvera's Receipt Roll was dated 29 Sept 1784 and the following was for William: Certificate no. 11271 £ 0 . 7 . 1 and Certificate no. 11301 £ 0 . . 3 . 6. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series N-246, Roll 72, folder 89, National Archives, Washington, D.C.