

Pension Application for Valentine Freligh (Fraligh)

W.16995

State of New York

County of Fulton

On this fifth day of April, One thousand eight hundred and forty-one, personally appeared before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for said County now sitting, John Freligh, a resident of the town of Glen NY who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath, make the following declaration, in his own behalf and in behalf of his sister Margaret Van Etten children of Maria Freligh, widow of Valentine Freligh (or Felter Fraligh) in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July 4th 1836. That the mother of this Declarant the aforesaid Maria Freligh was the lawful widow of said Valentine Freligh who served in the war of the revolution as herein after and with annexed affidavits is set forth.

This declarant well recollects, that when he, this declarant, was about ten years of age, his father the said Valentine in company with several active soldiers, of whom he recollects, Richard Coppernol, George Herkimer and Nicholas Coppernol (1) engaged in a scouting party to Saratoga and were away from home in this expedition, a number of days. This declarant being too young at the time to understand and more recollect, if it had been at the time explained. To him the particulars of the different tours of military duty performed by said Valentine Freligh (2) in said war, yet he well recollects having been informed many years ago and long before the decease of his father, by his said father as well as others who knew the fact that his said father served with the militia of the Tryon County in the expeditions against the British when the Battle of Oriskana (3) took place, that he was in said battle and also the battle of Oswegatchie (4), Oriskany and Johnstown (5) that he said Valentine Freligh was enrolled in the Regiment of Colonel Jacob Clock and served under the different officers of said regiment from time to time, serving every year of said war that he was almost constantly engaged in performing garrison duty at the Stone Arabia fort in the neighborhood of which he resided. This declarant has also heard his own father often declare that he served during these years at least in the company of Rangers commanded by Captain Getman or Kitman. (6)

He also remembers the names of Dillenback (7) or Dygert (8) and as officers under whom he served, and this declarant further saith that he is now seventy years and about six months old. That his sister the said Margaret Van Etten widow of the late Peter Van Etten, deceased is seventy three years of age and that he the declarant and said Margaret Van Etten are the only surviving children of said Valentine Freligh and Maria Freligh. That his mother's maiden name was Maria Hanlenbech and that they the said Valentine and Maria had other children born previous to the birth of his said sister Margaret Van Etten vizt, one son not married having died at his birth who was born about two years and a few months before Margaret Van Etten his sister.

That said Valentine Freligh and said Maria Freligh, the father and mother of this declarant were lawfully married at Lunenburgh NY by the Lutheran clergyman of that place on about the _____ day of _____ on thousand seven hundred and sixty four, that the said Valentine Freligh departed this life on the tenth day of March one thousand eight hundred and ten and that said Maria Freligh remained a widow ever since that day until the day of her death as will appear from the proof hereto annexed and said widow Maria Freligh died on the twelfth day of December one thousand eight hundred and thirty six. (Signed with his mark) John Fraleigh

Subscribed and Sworn to in open Court, before the Judges aforesaid, the day & year first above written. Witness the seal of said court and the signature of the Clerk Thereof. T. A. Stoutenburgh, Clerk

State of New York

Montgomery County.

Personally appeared before the undersigned a Justice of the Peace in and for said county on the 8th day of August 1839, John L. Nellis of the Town of Palatine in said county, who being duly sworn saith that during the war of the revolution he was well acquainted with Valentine Freligh, that same person referred to in the accompanying papers, in behalf of whose widow not long since deceased, application is now being made for a pension.

That this deponent will recollects that said Valentine and Maria were a married couple during the war of the revolution and deponent understood at the time and believe the same to be true that they had been married several years before the commencement of said war of the revolution.

That said Valentine and Maria lived together as husband and wife and were universally esteemed and respected to be such until the death of said Valentine which occurred about thirty years ago that said Maria remained or continued to be the widow of said Valentine Freligh until the day of her death.

That said Maria Freligh departed this life between two and three years ago.

And said deponent John L. Nellis further deposeth and saith that he served during said war in the company of Militia commanded by Captain Henry Miller from the year 1778 until the close of said war which company was attached to the Regiment of Colonel Jacob Clock in the then County of Tryon in said state.

That said Valentine also belonged to and served in said Regiment of Colonel Jacob Clock, but by reason of said Valentine Freligh serving in a different company in said regiment, this deponent is unable to say in how many

expeditions or in what tours of duty said Valentine Freligh served during said service but this deponent often saw him under arms at Stone Arabia, Fort Plain, and at other posts and forts in said war.

This deponent also recollects hearing at the time thereof that said Valentine Freligh served in a company of Rangers raised in said county commanded by one Captain Kitman or Getman. (Signed) John L. Nellis
Sworn before me.....

Letter included in the Pension Application

February 26, 1927

I have to advise you that from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim, W.16995, it appears that Valentine Freligh, Felter, Freligh or Velten Frelighen, while a resident of Tryon (which was later Montgomery) County, New York, served at various times from 1776 until sometime in 1782 as a private in the New York troops under Captains Christian Getman, John Hess, Severinus Klock, Peter Suts and Colonel Jacob Klock; he was in the battles of Oriskany, Oswegatchie and Johnstown.

He Married March 27, 1764, in Lunenburgh at Athens, Greene County, New York, Maria Hallenbeck.

He died March 10, 1810.

His widow, Maria, died December 12, 1836, in Glen, Montgomery County, New York.

On an application executed April 5, 1841, by John Freligh, the pension that was due the soldier and his widow, Maria, was allowed the two surviving children, said John Freligh (9) of Glen, New York, and Margaret Van Etten, widow of Peter Van Etten and at that time they were aged seventy years and about six months and seventy-three years respectively. There were other children but their names were not stated.

This is the only soldier by the name of Valentine Freligh, searched under all spellings of the name, that is found in the Revolutionary War records of this bureau. Respectfully, Winfield Scott, Commissioner

End Notes—W.16995—Valentine Freligh

1. All three men had served in Colonel Jacob Klock's Second Regiment of Tryon County Militia.
2. Valentine's name is on the rolls of Captains John Hess, Severinus Klock, and Peter Suts Companies in Colonel Klock's Regiment. A certificate for pay in Captain Sut's Company No. 17001 dated December 31, 1782 gives his pay as £ 2..13..4. It was extracted from Book No. IV. Also "from the same book that the said Valentine Freligh served his term above named under Captain Peter Suts & on the 31st Decr 1782, Marinus Willett was Col. Comd't." This book was in the New York State Comptroller's office in Albany, N.Y. on January 31, 1840. This bit of information was included in the pension application. The book along with many of the records in the comptroller's office were destroyed in the capitol fire of 1911. (Albany is the capitol of New York State).
3. The Battle of Oriskany was fought on August 6, 1777.
4. The Battle of Stone Arabia was fought on October 29, 1780. This battle has several nicknames. It was the battle as some pensioners claim was at or near the road to Oswegatchie.
5. The Battle of Johnstown was fought on October 25, 1781.
6. Valentine enlisted as a private on August 9, 1776 in Captain Christian Getman's Company (Second Company) of Tryon County Rangers. He was discharged on March 27, 1777. On the payroll, (no date given), he was paid £ 9..6..0. The muster roll and payroll was submitted by John Bacchus and were in his pension application. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 74, folder 103, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
7. Captain Andrew Dillenback of the Fourth Company and Colonel Klock's Regiment. Dillenback was killed at the Battle of Oriskany
8. He is probably referring to Captain John Dygert. He served in Klock's Regiment. He was also killed at Oriskany.

Additional Information

Margreth or Margaret was baptized February 21, 1768. FROM: Book of Baptism, page 83, Dutch Reformed Church of Stone Arabia.

Johannes (John) born October 6, 1770. FROM: Book of Baptisms, page 33, Lutheran Church of Stone Arabia.

Jacob born September 30, 1778, baptized October 9, 1778. FROM: Book of Baptisms, page 54 same Lutheran Church.

George born December 4, 1781. FROM: Book of Baptisms, page 51, Dutch Reformed Church of the German Flatts.