

Pension Application for Bartholomew VanValkenburgh or VanVolkenburgh

R.10,899

State of New York

Montgomery County SS.

On this 19th day of September 1832 personally appeared in open court at the Court House in Johnstown in said county now sitting Bartholomew VanValkenburgh aged seventy 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 Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he was born in Kinderhook, Columbia County State aforesaid that he was about 19 years of age when he first entered the service of his country, that his first captain was Isaac VanValkenburgh, (1) that the chief business of the company was in scouring the country, watching the Tories & keeping off what were then called the cow boys. That he served off & on in such capacity about one year—when a detachment from said county consisting of about eight hundred men were ordered up the Mohawk River under the command of Genl Henry VanRensselaer [It was General Robert VanRensselaer], Col. Abraham VanAlstine, Major Harman VanBuren (2) & John Lansing, who I have understood has since been chancellor of this state, was quartermaster, that we marched up said River & got near Stone Arabia, where we met the Tories & Indians & had a Battle (3), I well remember it for Col. Brown was killed on the field. [Oct 1780] That he then went with the army across the river to Fort Plain, that while the said Lansing (4) was out on a scouting party & was chased & got his horse swamped, that he came in the Fort about day break & asked the men who dared to try to get his horse, this deponent said "I am one" that three others also volunteered, two I remember Jacob Staats & Peter VanSlyck (5), that they went & found his horse & brought him to the camp, that because I was the first who said I would go, Genl VanRensselaer gave me a discharge, That I then went home but was soon again ordered out & most of our business then was for some time in watching the Tories & marching to different parts of the county, that one time we was sent by Col. VanAlstine & Major VanBuren to surprise & take some Tories that we fired & killed one & then we took seventeen of them & took them to camp, Peter Hugener was one I remember that we took—That we again went up the Hudson River under Genl VanRensselaer staid a while at Albany, we was then ordered to Saratoga, and I was one of those who saw that glorious day when Burgoine (6) surrendered to the American arms, [Oct 1777] Arnold the traitor was there, so was Gates, and Morgan (7) the old Rifle Man, after that I went home & served the rest of the war under Bartholomew Jacob VanVolkenburgh (8), that he saved [served] under him the remainder of the war on scouting parties, watching the Tories & catching the Cow Boys. That altogether he saved [served] more than four years the precise time however he cannot state. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. (Signed with his mark) Bartholomew VanVolkenburgh

Subscribed & Sworn in open court this 19th September 1832. Geo. D. Ferguson, Clerk

End Notes—Bartholomew VanValkenburgh—R10899

1. Most likely he enlisted he enlisted in 1776 when he turned 16 years of age in Captain Lambert Borghardt's Company (First Company) in Colonel Andries Witbeck's Seventh Regiment of Albany County Militia. On April 2, 1778, First Lieutenant Isaac P. VanValkenburgh was commissioned Captain of the First Company in place of Borghardt. On the same date Abraham VanAlstine was commissioned Colonel of the Seventh Regiment in place of Witbeck.
2. Harmon VanBuren was appointed major on September 5, 1776 and he received his commission on October 30, 1778 in the Seventh Albany.
3. Bartholomew was referring to the Battle of Klocksfield which was fought in the afternoon of October 19, 1780. Colonel Brown was killed in the morning of October 19, 1780 at Stone Arabia. Brigadier General Robert VanRensselaer with the Albany County Militia were closer to Fort Hunter when this battle took place.
4. The only John J. Lansing in 1780 to serve as a Quarter Master served in the Twelfth Regiment of Albany County Militia. But it does not appear that this regiment was with General VanRensselaer. Their district would have taken in what was then Ball's Town. Ballstown was attacked and a good part of it was burned on October 17, 1780. Many of the militia including its Lieutenant-Colonel James Gordon were taken prisoners in this raid.
5. Staats and VanSlyck served as privates in Captain VanValkenburgh's Company.
6. General John Burgoyne surrendered his British forces on October 17, 1777 to Major General Horatio Gates of the Continental Army.
7. Major General Benedict Arnold and Colonel Daniel Morgan in 1777.
8. Bartholomew J. VanValkenburgh served as a Lieutenant in the First Continental New York Regiment under Colonel Goose VanSchaick. He did not serve in the Seventh Albany.