

Pension Application for William White

W.16471 (Widow: Huldah)

State of New York

County of Columbia

City of Hudson

On this 17th day of August 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Justices of the Justice Court of the City of Hudson aforesaid now in Session it being a Court of Record having common law Jurisdiction a clerk and a seal William White a resident of the Town of Hilsdale in said County of Columbia & State of New York aforesaid seventy four years of age 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 seventh 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers & served as hereinafter stated to wit the fore part of September 1776 & when deponent resided in the Town of what was then called Nobletown now called Hilsdale in said County of Columbia aforesaid.

He this deponent was a soldier in the Mabeltown Company commanded by Captain Nathaniel House in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Robert Van Rensselaer, at this time the Forces in Dutchess County rose against he Committee & fired into the windows of the House of John Carpenter where the committee were sitting which caused and alarm & the word came to Capt Haun who was ordered to march with his company to repel the forces and deponent marched with said company under the command of Capt House to what was called the Hollow at Noblestown in Dutchess County and was then sent out in Scouts in different direction to take the Tories and we took about fifty of them thirty of whom we took to Exeter in the State of Connecticut & left them under guard, the other twenty after an [?] by Col. Van Rensselaer were discharged in this tour deponent was out one month.

The spring following April 1777 deponent and the company to which he belonged where he still resided in Nobletown aforesaid was again called out under the command of Lieutenants John Whitney & David MC Kinstry and Ensign John [blot]bush, and marched into the lower part of the County of Columbia in what was then called Livingstons Maner [Manor] after the Tories we took as many as seventy or eighty Tories some of them we took to John McKinisbris in Nobeltown and residue we took to Albany & first then in jail was out over one month on this tower.

Then in May of the same year. There was an alarm which reached Nobeltown. That Burgoine was advancing into the State at the North and the company to which deponent belonged was called out and deponent marched with the company from Nobletown the Company was then under the command of Lieutenant David McKinstry.

Joshua Whitney was then Capt of the Company but did not start with the company but joined us at Saratoga. After we had retreated from Lake George after starting from; Nobletown we did not make much of a halt until we got to Lake George when we [?] them we found the regular American troop under the command of Genl Schuyler after we got to Lake George there was a company formed by selecting men

from several companies to go to Skenesborough deponent lives in one selected, where we arrived at Wood Creek near Fort Ann we ascertained that Genl Fraser & the British troops were in possession of Skeensburgh we then retreated down to Jones Mills and there made a stand when we got to Wood Creek we found the rear guard of the American armies thus with us retreated down to Jones Mills and while there we had a Scrimage with the Indians. They killed eight or ten of our men & wounded several deponent was in this engagement we then retreated to Fort Edward & from thence retreated down to Fort Miller where we found the American Army under Genl Schuyler. We then continued the retreat to Mr. Niels Ferry & from there to Saratoga when the American troops, Joined with other then having been before that divided in different parks and from there the whole American Army continued the retreat to Stillwater & thence made a stand and here deponent was discharged having been out this lower six weeks.

That second day after deponent arrived home he was again drafted for three months and immediately returned under the command of Capt John McKinstry Lieutenant Harrison and Ensign Samuel Uppers their company on arriving at Half Moon found that the American troops had retreated to that place and when we arrived there our company joined the Regiment from Columbia County commanded by Col Henry Livingston, Major Richard Esselstyne Adjutant Darrow at this place Genl Gates took command General Arnold & Genl Glover was also there and our Regiment was attached to the Continental Brigade commanded by Genl Glover from Half Moon we all marched back to Stillwater, remained there two days & then marched for Bemus's Heights on the way the advance guard of the American & British armies met and exchanged a few shots and each retreated to their respective armies.

Each armie then took their ground and wen to fortifying what continued for above two weeks then an ingagement commenced between a scouting party of the Americans & the British and from this reinforcements were sent on by each and a pretty general engagement took place and continued until night with [?] then remained upon the ground all night and in the night a truce was agreed upon to bury the killed and the net day the dead were burned there was no name filing under about two weeks when again the contest was commanded by two scouting parties as before and on the same ground which was an open white pine wood and reinforcement were sent by each army and the fiting [fighting] combined for about two or three hours when Genl Fraser was killed and on the second in command coming up to take command there was a [???] under [?] between the British officers and the army was thrown into greater confusion what was discovered by Genl Arnold of the American troops who ordered the Americans to charge bayonet upon them which we did and drove the British from the breast works and took their artillery.

They then retreated to Saratoga during the night and in the morning about day light the Americans pursued the British to Saratoga on arriving there in the afternoon. Then skirmishing the British shrew shells all night in the morning at four [?] the brigade of Genl Glover marched up under the cover of a hill it being verry fogga [foggy] that morning we were not discovered until we got close to them and our grenadier

loosened the [?] of all the bottoms of the British what lay at the mouth of Saratoga Creek in the North river and in which the British had all their provision & in the Ballons [batteaus?] floated down the current and at this time the British discovered us but too late for the provisions & battons were gone they fired upon us but we made our escape and did not web [wound] a single man and we returned to the main army during the whole of this day there was scattering fire and in the morning the next morning Burgoine sent a flag of truce desire or section of [?] for three days.

That was refused but granted it for three house, and before the expectation of the truce how Burgoine sent requesting two days which was reused, but granted for two hours & the third time Burgoine sent a flag for a cessation of arms to arrange a capitulation which was granted in the capitulation took place and the third day after this Burgoines army marched in surrender.

The Brigade of Genl; Glover to what deponents company belonged march down to Albany and while there the three months for which deponent was drafted expired & he was discharged and came home to Nobletown.

And in the spring following in the month of June 1778 deponent was again drafted for two months and marched form Nobletown in the company commanded by Capt Jonah Graves & Edward Vaun was lanchd as Ensign to Cherry Valley then joined the Continental troops commenced by Capt Ballard; during the second month while deponent was there the Indians in great numbers was there and burnt and destroyed everything without the first and not within reach of our fire.

They were so numerous that we dare not sally from the fort after them. deponents company left Cherry Valley and went to fort Plain on the Mowhawk [Mohawk] river, and remained there until his tow months had expired was then discharged and returned home to Nobletown –and in the latter part of September of the same year deponent was then drafted again to go to Fishkill in the company commanded by Capt Johsua [Joshua] Whitney Lieutenant David McKinstry, and remained at Fishkill & west Point for one month was then discharged and came home to Nobletown and remained home until the next spring in the month of June 1779 was again drafted to go to Schoharie went in the company commanded by Capt Aaron Hale, marched to Schoharie to the Middle Fort was there and at the Upper fort for two months or more while there [their] Captain Hale deserted and runaway deponents company was then put under the command of Captain Hager as long as we remained in Schohaire from thence we marched up to Fort Plain or the Mowhawk and remained there and at Fort Herkenier [Herkimer] until our time was out no fiting [fighting] or any thing of consequence took place while there was discharged and returned home to Nobletown remained home untill the fall of 1780 the whole of the Malitia was then called out on the alarm of Butler & Brants on the Mowhawk and deponent marched with the company commanded by Capt David McKinstry, the regiment of Col Robert Van Renssalaer and on the way at Greenbush was joined by Col Robert Van Patten under Brant and all marched together to near fort Hunter thence encamped for the night but on the discovering the firm of the building burnt by Butler & Brant we took up our march again in pursuit of them and pursued them all night and at Canajoharie

overtook them and a battle took place near night and during the night the British made the escape deponent was out on this tower [tour] one month was then discharged and came home to Nobletown this was the last of deponents service.

Deponent was born in Nobletown in the County of Columbia and State of New York and resided there at the commencement of the war and has ever since resided there & still resides there. Deponent has no documentary evidence to show any of his service nor does he now know of any person living whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service except Benjamin Doty whose testimony is hereto annexed.

Deponent hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to any pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on any pension roll of the agency of any state. (Signed with his mark) William White

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. H. Wilbur Clerk.

Questions propounded by the Court.

1st where and in what year were you born. Answer I was born in what was then called Nobletown now called Hilsdale in the County of Columbia & State of New York on the 27 day of June 1758.

2d Have you any record of your age if so where is it. Answer I have a record of my age in an old Family Bible record was made by parents I have it now at home.

3 Where were you living when called into service when have you lived since the Revolutionary War & where do you now reside. Answer I was born in what was then called Nobletown now Hilsdale Columbia County afers'd and resided there when called into service & have ever since that time and do now still continue to reside there.

4 How were you called into service were you drafted, did you volunteer or were you a substitute. Answer I was always drafted never served as a substitute.

5 State the names of some of the Regular Officers who were with the troops where you served such Continental and Malitia Regiments as you can recollect. Answer at Lake George Schyler [Schuyler] ws the Commanding General Gen. Poor, and at Half Moon Gen Glover Genl Gates, Gen Poor, Col Henry Livingston of the Malitia and Gen Arnold of the regular troops in 1780 up the Mowhawk Col. Harper Gen Van Rensselaer Col Pratt all of the Malitia.

6 Did you ever receive a discharge from the service & if so by whom was it given & what has become of it. Answer I never received any written discharge at all I am acquainted with John Wager Elder, Abel Brown and Benjamin Doty, the last of whom was with me in my three months tour at taking Burgoine they will testify as to my character for veracity & their belief of my services as a soldier of the Revolution. (Signed with his mark) William White

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid Hiram Wilber, Clerk.

Family Record

William White Born June the 27th AD 1758.

Hulday White Born May the 29th 1762.

Hannah White Born July the 13th 1783.

[torn]nah White Born February the 18th 1786.

David White Born June the 26th 1790.

Gettice Wahite Born October the 1st 1788 and Departed this life [?] 29th 1789.

Married Sept 22d 1782. Husband died 6 Feb 1837.

Letter in folder dated Oct 20, 1922. This was written by a family member to the Department of the Interior in a quest for information. Usually this sort of information is not included.

I enclose a document received from your department in 1919 and would like to have you advise me if I am to understand that two pensions were granted; one to William White on application executed Feb 28 1839, and, if so, could you advise me if they both carry the same names for children?

My reason for asking this is that my great grandfather was one William or Calvin White, who married Huldah Valence, and resided in Hillsdale, Columbia Co., N.Y. They had eleven children: Elijah, Jonah, Garry, William George, David, Calvin, Henry, Cornelius, Hannah and Lydia. Do not know the order of their birth, however. Calvin was my grandfather. You will note the attached document carries the names of Hannah, Jonah (Evidently) and David, which leads me to believe that I am on the right line but cannot get the name Calvin.

In tracing my grandmother's ancestry (Apphia Stowell White), I find that her father in making application for pension only mentioned a part of his large family, presumably those that were living in the same house with him or dependent upon him at that time. I enclose letter received from you department in that connection in 1910. His family consisted of Eunice, Elijah, Samuel, Hannah, Elon, Apphia, Almena and Florilla. Of course, in this instance my grandmother is mentioned so that is complete enough for my needs . . .