

**Abstract of the Report made to the Surgeon General, relating to Exemptions from Military Service by Dr. A. Willard, Examining Surgeon, for the County of Chenango.**

The examination of those claiming exemption was commenced on Monday, the 27th day of October, and was continued daily, until the 8th day of November.

Of the twenty Towns in the County, all had filled their quotas, excepting six and were consequently considered by the Commissioner to be free from the draft. The whole number of applications made from these six Towns was 860, and of those, 634 were recommended to the Commissioner as proper subjects for exemption. The task assigned me was one of very great and peculiar difficulties. It was no easy matter to avoid doing injustice to the applicant on the one hand, and to those who were compelled to stand the draft on the other. I have no idea that in all cases strict justice was done, although I endeavored to deal with the applicants conscientiously and impartially. I have no doubt but most of those who applied for exemption, considered themselves fairly and honestly entitled to it. Some probably there were, who attempted deceit knowingly and very likely sometimes succeeded. I hope that such instances were few. Unquestionably in the hurry (for our time was limited) some were exempted who should not have been, and some were refused who were fairly entitled to exemption. Of the 860 who made application, some few failed to appear for examination, probably on the ground that their complaints were of so trivial a nature that they had no reasonable hope of obtaining exemption. These may properly be classed among those whose claim was refused.

The diseases for which certificates of exemption were sent to the Commissioner are given below classified in a general, rather than a scientific manner. This summary will answer all practical purposes :

Asthma, .....	18
Disease of Stomach and Bowels, .....	14
" Throat and Lungs, .....	48
" Eyes and Defective Vision, .....	54
" Heart, .....	42
" Kidneys and Urinary Organs, .....	16
" Skin, .....	4
" Ears and Defective Hearing, .....	29
Debility—General ill-Health, .....	64
Defective Speech, .....	4
" Teeth, .....	5
Epilepsy, .....	9
Fractured Ribs and Sternum, .....	5
Hemorrhoids, .....	27
Hernia, single, .....	44
" double, .....	3
" Ventral, .....	4
" with Varicocele, .....	3
Insanity and Disease of Brain and Spine, ..	13
Injury and Disease of Upper Limbs and Joints, .....	27
Injury and Disease of Lower do do, .....	95
Near Sighted, .....	10
Paralysis, partial, .....	3
Rheumatism, .....	43
Varicose Veins, .....	11
Varicocele and Cirsocele, .....	6
Miscellaneous Causes, .....	24

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Under the head of miscellaneous causes are included cases of Prolapsus Ani, Eroding Ulcer, Necrosis of Upper Jaw, Hydrocele, Scrofula, Spasm of Diaphragm, Chorea, Neuralgia, Epistaxis, Goitre, Club Foot, Bunions, Chronic Hepatitis, Chronic Headache, Encysted Tumours, Periodic Cholice, Fistula and Diseased Tongue.

In many cases where the disease was not perfectly apparent, I felt myself justified in taking the evidence, with all due precaution, of the Family Physician and of neighbors who were cognizant of the facts in the case.

Among other reasons for the great crowd of applicants, may be stated the fact, that in most of the Towns the Enrolling officers considered it their bounden duty to enrol every male citizen between the ages of 18 and 45 years without any special regard to the fact of his being *able bodied*, and hence in many cases the lame and the halt—the blind and the deaf, cripples of all sorts and descriptions, were brought before the Examining Surgeon for judgment. Many middle aged men were placed on the lists, who had never before been considered of sufficient bodily ability to be enrolled in the militia.

A. WILLARD, Examining Surgeon.

*Examinations completed Nov. 10. 1862*