

Pension Application for Charles Baker

S.12109

State of New York

Washington County SS.

On this 4th day of December 1832 personally appeared in open court before us the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the County of Washington now sitting Charles Baker resident of the Town of Kingsbury County of Washington and State of New York aged sixty four years on the 7th day of March last 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 entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

That while he lived in the City of Albany with his Father's family who had moved from the town of Kingsbury aforesaid from before the enemy and on the first day of August A.D. 1777 he after obtaining the permission of his father he being only nine years and five months old at that time volunteered and went in company of one kin and joined the army at and on an island being in the Hudson River about opposite of Lansingburgh under the command of Col. Hay who received him into the service and he was employed [sic] in and about the camp a short time when he was assigned to Col. Morgan and he being a large stout boy was attached to Dr. Humphrey's the surgeon of Col. Morgan's Regiment and was employed in driving and had the care of the team which had the baggage and Medicine of Dr. Humphrey, after sometime he was marched under the order of Gen. Horatio Gates up the river he being personally present and [incompted?] on Beamus' Heights at Stillwater where he met with Gen. Burgoyne and his army and was present at both of the action and stationed near Gen Gates's head quarters he was marched to Fish Creek after Burgoyne in a very great fall of rain that there were small skirmishes on their march and until about the time Burgoyne surrendered himself and army— When he was marched to Albany and remained there several days, when he was assigned to the command of Col. Yates and by him he was detached with several others and sent up the river Hudson with teams and to Lake George, Fort Ann & on Wood Creek, Lake Champlain to look up and serve Public Property and was in this way employed until about the 2nd day of January A.D. 1778 when they came to Fort Edwards and was discharged by parole where he had served and [?] his duty as a private soldier five months.

And this declarant further saith that he remembers of seeing during this time Gen. Arnold when he delivered and express to the army before the first battle & Gen. Lincoln, Gen [blot] & Fellows, Gen. Glover, does not remember the names of the officers commanding regiments and the particular militia regiments.

And this declarant further saith that while he lived in the town of Kingsbury County of Washington and State of New York and on the first day of April A.D. 1778, he volunteered and entered the service under the command of Col. [VanSwykes? VanSchaick?] in a detachment called Artificers and was marched to Lake George to repair and rebuild the Fort and barracks which was burnt the fall before by the enemy that Charles Denison was the overseer and gave the new persons directions he continued and was engaged until the Fort and barracks was repaired completed and finished when Col. Warner arrived with a part of his Regiment while a part remained at Fort Edward he then went under the command of Col. Warner and his officers who had the command of the two Forts and he was employed by him and his officers. That he was under the command of Capt. Bates principally but sometime under the command [of] Capt. Benjamin Sill, Capt. Moulton who were Col. Warner's officers & that he bore arms and was detached to drive a team from Lake George to Fort Edward and to Fort Ann and other places to transport provision and other necessaries as circumstances required under the special directions of the officers under whom he served.

That he continued in the service as above until the eight day of October A.D. 1780 and was discharged by parole when he had served and performed his duty as a private soldier two years and six months. That he does not recollect that there were any other troops that were stationed then at Fort Edward and Lake George except some companies of militia who came occasionally and on account of alarms as these parts were harassed almost continually by the Indians and Tories.

That he well remembers that Gov. Clinton came up and ordered out the militia and marched to Lake George when down the lake and afterward returned at which time he was in the above service. That there were other militia troops that come from different parts of the states and probably from other states but he cannot distinctly remember the names of officers or regiments.

That while he lived at Stillwater County of Saratoga and State of New York and sometime in the Spring of the year A.D. 1781 he volunteered and went out as an Indian Spy from Stillwater up the Hudson river in the night times and crossed the river above Stillwater Falls and passed up the river and on the Summit of Fort Edward Hill he took into the woods and through the woods to the Falls on the halfway brook above Fort Ann and up the halfway brook to Lake George Road crossed the road and followed the said halfway brook to the foot of the mountain and returned back to Stillwater the object was to make such discoveries of the Indians and Tories as might be lurking in and about the woods and foot pathes where they frequented and made no discoveries except he found a very bright and new carving knife by a bladder of something like tallan which bladder he left and does not know what it was the knife he brought home there he found in the woods by a larger yellow pine tree not far from the Lake George road and the said brook in the course he travelled he went upwards of one hundred miles was gone about eight days.

That he moved into the town of Kingsbury in March the 17th A.D. 1783 where he now lives and has lived ever since.

That he has no documentary evidence and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can prove who can testify to his service except Caleb Baker whose affidavit is hereto annexed.

That he was born in the City of New York on the 7th day of March A. D. 1768 as he is informed.

That there is a record of his age in the Family Bible once he knows of no other record.

That when he entered the service he resided in the town of Albany, Kingsbury, and Stillwater and since the revolutionary war he has lived in the town of Kingsbury aforesaid and has lived for forty nine years and where he now lived.

That when he entered service as a volunteer.

That he cannot remember with more particular recollection the names of the regular officers or the continental and militia regiments and the general circumstances of his service than is contained in the body of his declaration.

That he never received a written discharge.

That he is known in his present neighborhood by Burden Philips, Silas Fillows, Israel Hand, Nathaniel Pitcher, Darius Sherril, Simeon Berry, and many other who can testify to his character for truth and veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution.

That there is no clergyman residing in his neighbourhood who knows his character as a soldier of that is acquainted with him.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state or territory. (Signed) Charles Baker.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. J. S. Leigh Clk.