

Pension Application for Peter Baker

R.429 (Widow: Mary Caprenter) Married March 4, 1779 by Rev'd Mr. Case in Pleasant Valley, Dutchess County. Died July 6, 1842. Children Ann, wife of Lott Vandewater, Elizabeth widow of Stephen Bedell, Patience widow of Joseph Curtis, and Rosella wife of Joseph B. Gildersleeve.

Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

State of New York

County of Queens SS.

On this 39th day of October 1832, personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Queens and State of New York being a Court of Record, so constituted by an act of the Legislature of the said State, Peter Baker a resident in the town of North Hempstead in the said County, who being first duly affirmed according to law, doth on his [?] affirmation make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832—That he was born in the said town in the year 1756 and is now in the 77th year of his age—that in the year 1776 he removed to the county of Dutchess in said state, and during that year at the Town of Poughkeepsie entered the service of the U. States as a volunteer under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

The company was commanded (he thinks) by Captain Samuel Tudor; Robert Hatton, Lieutenant and Moses Smith Ensign—That he was engaged for several months in fighting and driving out the Tories who infested that part of the country. When the term for which; he volunteered was out, he came to Long Island and when it was taken possession of by the British (under Genl Howe in August 1776) this affirmant with other Whigs, was made prisoner and kept in confinement 5 or 6 months, but by means of disguise he effected his escape and got to his uncles at Hempstead Harbour, where he concealed himself, & while there was attacked by the small pox, & was confined for some time—

In the fall of 1777, being ported upon Long Island for the purpose of observing and giving secret information of the motions and acts of the British and Tories, he heard of the capture of Genl Burgoine & his army at Saratoga, and having expressed his satisfaction thereat, was informed of [?] by some one apprehending danger, fled to the east end of Long Island and crossing into Connecticut, got back to Dutchess County—

In the month of Jan'y 1779, he was specially appointed & directed to traverse the country for purpose of detaining and suppressing all conspiracies and combination of British & Tories & giving information thereof, during the time he was engaged in this service he was several times within the British lines at the peril of his life—

In the latter part 1779 he volunteered to oppose the British who were proceeding up the North River and prevent them from destroying the property of the inhabitants, and they were finally compelled to take refuge on board of their ships—he continued to do duty in various capacities where he could be most useful, and in 1781 was ordered with his company to Albany & from thence to Saratoga—The name of his captain was Andrew White—Frederick Wisenvelt commanded the Regiment—this affirmant was made Orderly Sergeant, and sometimes acted as such to the company and at other times to the colonel—he was never engaged in any considerable battle, but was in several skirmishes—at Saratoga in 1781 he commanded a Platoon at the time of an alarm from the British and Indians and was in many dangerous other actions at various other times—

He (in 1781) was sent to engage men for the army, and obtained several whose names are not now recollected—he hired one man himself and clothed him at his own expense & sent him into the service—

This affirmant afterwards joined the Regiment at Fishkill and went down upon the lines in WestChester County to watch and oppose the British & Tories – in 1779 this affirmant acted as a Lieutenant for some time and was also sent on business of a secret of confidential nature by his superior officers, & discharged his duty to their satisfaction – in 1778 or 1779 he volunteered to aid & assist while

the fortifications were erecting at West Point & was ordered by Governor Clinton to take such as were disaffected and send them to the fort; which service was my arduous and perilous, but he was applauded for his fidelity in his employment.

That he was more than four years in the service of his country during the war and performed with pleasure and fidelity every thing that was expected of him.

But he does not know that any of his old companions in arms are living by whom he can prove the particulars above stated, other than the affidavit of James Baker and John Langdon which ;are hereto annexed, and to which he refers –

He has long since lost or destroyed all the documents which were in his possession, relative to his revolutionary services, expecting they would be of any use to him.

And further that several clergymen with whom he was formerly acquainted and to whom his age or services in the revolution and his character were in any wife known have long since deceased, and those now living in his vicinity are comparative stranger to 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. (Signed) Peter Baker

Affirmed to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. Samuel Sherman [?] of Queens Com. Pleas.

Letter in file dated June 4, 1926, written in reply to an inquiry.

I have to advise you that it appears from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim, R.429, that Peter Baker was born in North Hempstead, New York.

While a resident of Dutchess County, New York, he enlisted in 1776 and served at various times until 1783, amounting to more than four years in all, as private, orderly sergeant, lieutenant and spy with the New York Troops under Captains Samuel Tudor, Andrew White and Aspenwall Cornell, and Colonel Frederick Weisenfels. After his first tour of service he went to Long Island and while there he was taken prisoner about August 1776, but made his escape after being held five or six months.

He married at Pleasant Valley, Dutchess County, New York, March 4, 1779, Mary Carpenter.

He was allowed pension on his application executed October 30, 1832, while a resident of North Hempstead, Queens County, New York.

He died at North Hempstead May 31, 1838, aged eighty-one years, nine months and twenty-six days.

His widow, Mary, died July 6, 1842, in Queens County, New York, aged eighty-one years, four months and three days.

They had the following children: Ann or Nancy who married Lot Vanderwater; Elizabeth who married Stephen Bedell; Rosetta who married Joseph B. Gildersleeve; Patience who married Joseph Curtis; and John S. who died December 2, 184[?], leaving the following children: Peter C., Abram B., Rebecca Walsh, and John S.