

## Pension Application for Henry Becker

S.22643

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

State of New York

Onondaga County SS.

On this sixth day of March in the year of our Lord 1833 personally appeared in open court before the court of Common Pleas now sitting Henry Becker, a resident of the town of Clay in the said County of Onondaga & State of New York aged 84 or 85 years, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

That he entered the service of the said United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

That the fore part of the Revolutionary War but the particular year or month he cannot recollect, he enlisted as a private soldier in the New York State Troops for the term of six months, and served in the company of one Captain Yates and under one Major Fink and the Lieutenant's name was Keyser. That he cannot recollect the name of the Colonel or any of the other officers at that time, the he first went to Albany, and staid there about two weeks, that he marched from there to Skinesborough, from thence they went by water across and landed near Saint Johns, in Canada, that he then march[ed] directly to Satin Johns and attacked the Fort there, and took it & some prisoners, that he then marched to Montreal attacked the British at that place and was in a battle and took Montreal, that he then marched back and helped take a small wooden Fort near Saint Johns aforesaid and took some prisoners, and then returned to Montreal again, with the prisoners, and remained there until his said six months expired.

That he immediately enlisted again during the war as a private soldier and served in the company commanded by one captain Sever either in the New York State Troops or in the Continental Troops & which he cannot recollect that he cannot recollect the names of the other officers in the company or in the Regiment except that he was placed under the command of General Montgomery, that he marched from Montreal to Quebeck, thinks it was early in the winter but the year he cannot recollect, that there was a battle & the Americans repulsed and General Montgomery was killed, that he was on guard at the time of the battle and was not in it. That he sometimes served as a Sergeant.

That he then marched from thence to Kingsbridge and he was on guard near Stillwater at the time Burgoine surrendered thinks it was before he went to Kingsbridge. That after that he went to the west on what was called Sullivan's Expedition, against the Indians thinks he left Canady in the summer after Montgomery was killed, that he marched to a great many places whose names he cannot recollect.

That he recollects of being at Fort Stanwix that they marched to the Oneida, and to most of the Indian Settlements in the interior of the State of New York, and conquered the different tribes. That he recollects of being at the Onondaga tribe, that they destroyed the Indians' corn, that he thinks he was on this expedition about a year or more.

That he went on a scouting party and get separated from the rest of the company, but the place he cannot recollect, and was lost that in the mean time General Sullivan turned back and marched his men to the east, thinks it was at Onondaga that he procured an Indian to pilot him out that it was a long time before he got out and nearly the close of the war and was nearly starved with hunger in the time, that they came out of the woods at a place called German Flats, that he cannot recollect particularly of any service that he did after that time, that he cannot recollect the particular year or the time of year. That he could never read or write and cannot recollect names & dates very well.

That he was born in the [blot] of Germany about the year 1748 as near as he can recollect & came to this country at three years old.

That he has no record of his age.

That when he was first called into the service he resided at Stone Arabia in the State of New York & that since the revolution he has resided at said Stone Arabia & at Charleston, Montgomery County & Sharon, & Cobleskill, from there he moved to the town of Cicero in the county of Onondaga, which is now a part of it called the town of Clay, where he has resided for nine years last past.

That when he first entered the service he volunteered.

That he never received any written discharge from the said service.

That he is acquainted with Horatio Warren a clergyman and Andrew Johnson in his neighborhood who can testify as to his character for truth and veracity also as to the tradition of his said services, and that he knows of no living witness by whom he can prove his said services any more fully, than by them.

That he has no documentary evidence of his said services and 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.

And he further saith that in consequence of old age and infirmity and consequent loss of memory he cannot state positively the length of the time of his said services or any more particularly than he has above stated, but according to his best recollection he served as much as three years for which he claims a pension. (Signed with his mark) Henry Becker

Subscribed and sworn in open court this sixth day of March 1833 before me. R. L. Hess Clerk of Onondaga County

Letter in file dated January 28, 1929, written in response to a letter of inquiry.

I advise you from the paper in the Revolutionary War pension claim, S.22643, it appears that Henry Becker was born in 1748 in Germany and came to this country when he was three years old.

While residing in Stone Arabia, New York, he enlisted early in the Revolution and served six or nine months as a private in Captain Christopher Yates' Company and was in the attack on Saint John's and the battle of Montreal.

He enlisted at Montreal and served as a private in Captains Tierce or Pearce's, VanDeburg's and Sever's Companies, Colonels Weisenfels' and Van Cortlandt's New York Regiments, he was in Sullivan's expedition against the Indians and served until the close of the war.

He was allowed pension on his application executed March 6, 1833, at which time he was living at Clay, Onondaga, County, New York.