

JOHN P. BECKER.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 378.]

FEBRUARY 24, 1836.

Mr. WARDWELL, from the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, made the following

REPORT:

*The Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, report, in relation to the petition of John P. Becker, as follows:*

The petitioner sets forth, that he resided, at the commencement of the war of the revolution, in what is now the county of Schoharie, in the State of New York; that he belonged to Captain Ryghtman's company, in Colonel Vroomen's regiment of militia; that he was a sergeant in said company, and continued to the close of the war; that the frontier settlements where he resided were constantly exposed to the incursions of savages and tories, who committed depredations on the citizens.

The petitioner further represents, that in the year 1777, a company of scouts was formed, of which the petitioner was one; that he was kept in service a great part of the time, either in the fort, or going on expresses to Albany, and other places, to carry and receive intelligence, and to procure ammunition for the use of the fort, &c. He further states that he was born on the 9th day of May, 1762.

Hiram Steele, a credible witness, swears that said Becker, about the year 1830, applied to him to make out his pension papers; that he left with him a paper, purporting to be a sergeant's warrant, dated, as he thinks, in the year 1777, and was signed by Peter Swart, a lieutenant colonel commandant in the New York militia; that he either sent the said warrant to the pension office at Washington, or has lost the same. Martinus Borst, a credible witness, swears that he knew said Becker from his childhood. He knew him to belong to a company of militia in the service of the United States, in Colonel Peter Vrooman's regiment; says he knows that said Becker was in the service during the war more than two years.

Barent Becker, a credible witness, swears that John P. Becker was stationed at Middleport, in Schoharie, at the time Schoharie was burned, and about that time, he, the petitioner, was despatched as an express to Albany, by order of Major Woolsey, the commandant at said fort.

The committee are of opinion that said Becker performed some service for the United States in the war of the revolution. But from the vague manner in which it is stated the precise time is not known.

They report a bill for six months' service as a private.