

Pension Application for John P. Becker

W.16187 (Widow: Margaret) John served as a sergeant 1783-1783.

State of New York

County of Washington SS.

On this twenty ninth day of August one thousand eight hundred and thirty two personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Washington now sitting John P. Becker a resident of the town of Salem in the County of Washington and State of New York aged sixty eight years, 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 7, 1832.

That he was born in Schoharry (then County of Albany) in the State of New York in the year 1764, but has no record of his age: then he was about six years old his father moved to Easton in the (now) county of Washington, where he resided with his father when he entered the service: that he has lived in said County of Washington ever since the Revolutionary War except one year that he resided in the City of Troy in the County of Rensselaer; and he now resides in the town of Salem in said County of Washington.

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

He entered the service in November 1775, and by order of General Schuler [Schuyler] (he thinks) went with his father to Fort George with wagons and from that place went twice to Albany with baggage & arms &c taken from the British at Ticonderoga & Crown Point by Colonels Allen & Arnold; the last time he went to Albany, a guard accompanied with three prisoners, two of whom were Indians & one a Frenchman or Canadian.

Soon after he returned home from the last trip to Albany, to his father's house in Easton, the ground was covered with snow so that the sleighs commenced running & then by order of Colonels, Schuyler & Knox he went to Fort George to take cannon from thence to Boston; he went with the cannon as far as Springfield, where sleighing failed and he was dismissed.

In the month of February 1776 by order of Lewis or Tenyck (he thinks) he went in company with others for Government to Albany for Loading, and took it to Montreal, on the return to Albany brought down Captain Lawn a British officer with his waiter & baggage, & carried him to Poughkeepsie, he being a prisoner on parole.

In December 1776 he in company with others carried provisions from Bennington and Williamstown to Ticonderoga where he with his father and others in the latter part of February 1777, was pressed by Colonel Hay to & did draw wood and timber for the bridge, the Americans threw across to Mount Independence; he was detained at Ticonderoga three weeks and then dismissed.

On or about the first of September 1777 while the American Army lay at Stillwater he volunteered to join it, and continued to serve in it until General Burgoyne surrendered to General Gates at Saratoga on the 17 October 1777, he cannot recollect all the officers under whom he served while the army lay at Stillwater and after it followed Burgoyne to Saratoga but recollect that part of the time the army lay at Stillwater he was under command of Captain Peter VanVooert, does not know what Regiment, Captain VanVooert belonged to but knows his company lay near the Regiment commanded by Colonel VanVechten.

In the fall of 1779 he volunteered under Captain Henry Humphrey's of Dutchess County who commanded a company of seventy five days men; and was stationed with that company in Easton & continued to serve in said company at least two months & was frequently out on Scouts and alarms, went on a scout to Parmerton & Saratoga Springs.

In April 1780 his father was drafted for nine months and he volunteered as a substitute in his father's place, in the company commanded by Captain Abram Livingston, and was stationed at General

Schuyler's as a guard; that he continued to serve in said company until the expiration of said nine months.

That in August 1781 he was enrolled in the company commanded by Captain Ephraim Lake in Easton in the Regiment commanded by Colonel VanVechten, Colonel McCrea first Colonel, Jacob VanSchaick Major; that he was called out in said company and served therein in Easton aforesaid three months and was then dismissed. Most part of said three months he kept guard; during the summer & fall of 1781 the enemy were frequently down in scouts, five of whom were taken two or three miles west of Colonel VanVechten's residence in Saratoga, and one of them by the name of Loveless was hung at the barracks under the direction of General Starkes.

In the summer of 1781 & 1783 he was under the command of Colonel Christopher Yates and by his order taken out of the ranks of the Militia and had the command of eight or ten men and with them spent about six months each season gathering pine wood and knots to make tar and cole and burn line for the Government, during all of which time he and his men were employed as aforesaid were compelled to them themselves armed.

He has no documentary evidence of his services and knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to the same & has no recollection of ever receiving a discharge & the names of such officers as he recollects are mentioned in the above detail of his services.

That he is known to Noah Payne of Fort Edward in the said County of Washington and Ephraim Crocker resident in the same town who can testify to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution.

That 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) J. P. Becker

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